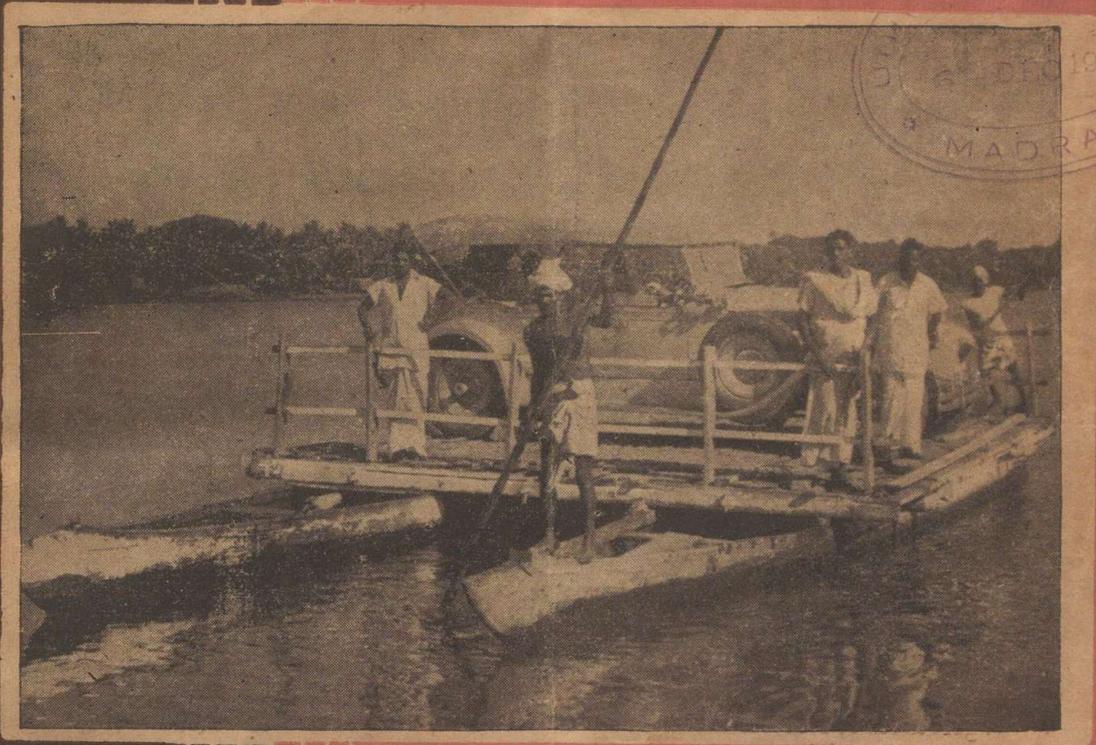




COCHIN

INFORMATION



How Cars go to Cranganur

VOL. V

SEPTEMBER

Nos. 9



Backwater Scenery

“COCHIN”

“COCHIN” is a profusely illustrated and superbly got up publication graphically describing Cochin’s varied and various war efforts, her distinctive culture and civilisation, her arts and crafts, her customs and manners, her notable advance in industries and agriculture, her striking progress in education and other fascinating features and interesting developments.

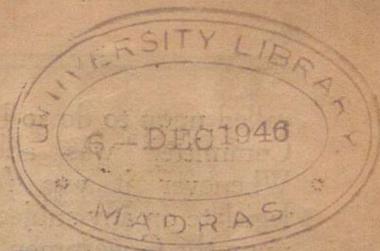
“COCHIN” describes in about 400 and odd pictures the full story of Cochin’s magnificent war achievements, the manner in which she placed her resources in men and material at the disposal of the Allied Nations to fight the forces of evil.

“COCHIN” is a publication which everybody should possess.

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**The Information Officer,
Government of Cochin,
ERNAKULAM.**



CONSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

(1900 to 1946)

THE constitutional progress in Cochin in the last fifty years has been quite phenomenal. The Government of Cochin in the early days of the present century has been thus succinctly described by the learned author of the Cochin State Manual.

“His Highness the Raja is the fountain of all authority in the State, legislative, judicial and executive, the powers exercised by his officers being but those delegated by him by legislative enactments or by special rules or orders. The Raja’s powers are limited only by the Regulations passed by himself and by treaty obligations with the British Government. By the last treaty with that Government, that of 1809, the Raja is bound to abstain from any interference in the affairs of any foreign state, whether in alliance with the British Government or not, and from holding communication with any such state without the previous knowledge and sanction of that Government; and also “to pay at all times the utmost attention to such advice as the British Government may offer with a view to the economy of his finances, the better collection of his revenue, the administration of justice, the extension of commerce, the encouragement of trade, agriculture and industry or any other subjects connected with the advancement of the interests of the Raja, the happiness of his people and the mutual welfare of both States”. His Highness’ State has, therefore, no foreign relations, but in all matters of internal administration His Highness exercises sovereign authority subject to such advice as may be offered by the Government of

Madras through their accredited representative, the British Resident in Travancore and Cochin. The treaty more or less determines the matters of administration on which the advice of the Paramount Power is generally offered. They may be summarised as follows:—1. any problem affecting seriously the finances of the State, such as the introduction of the railway and other undertakings which involve large outlay; 2. the adjustment of land revenue and other measures resulting in increased taxation; 3. measures which interfere with the existing constitution, independence and powers of the courts of justice and the civil and criminal rights of the people; 4. fiscal or other measures, such as the imposition of export and import duties which may seriously affect the extension and development of commerce and industry. In regard to details of internal administration, however, His Highness acts independently, consulting the Resident or not according to his discretion. The Diwan is the responsible Minister of the Raja and the Chief Executive Officer of the State. As he is primarily responsible for the efficient and progressive administration of the State and for the proper fulfilment of engagements with the suzerain power his appointment and removal are, according to custom, made in consultation with the Madras Government, but his nomination rests entirely with His Highness”.

There was no special machinery in the State for making laws and regulations. Between 1893 and 1903 there was a Law Committee, consisting of a President and seven members, to draft bills whenever

called upon to do so by the Diwan. The Committee was abolished in 1903. Whenever it was found necessary to legislate on any subject, the Diwan called upon the Government Advocate and Law Officer, or any other officer or officers he might choose, to prepare and submit a draft bill. It would be published for public criticism after revision by the Diwan and after the receipt of sanction of the Madras Government, it would be submitted for His Highness' assent. In special cases His Highness issued Proclamations after taking the advice of the Madras Government, and these also had the force of law. After the inauguration of the Legislative Council in 1925 the Council became the legislative machinery for passing laws.

With a view to associate the people in an increasing measure with the administration of the State the Cochin Legislative Council Act was brought into existence by a Proclamation in 1923 by His late Highness Sir Rama Varma. The newly constituted Council consisted of 45 members, of whom 30 were elected, with the Diwan as ex-officio President. The elected majority was proportionately much larger than in the sister states and the powers were also higher. The franchise was not high and there was no sex disqualification. Subject to certain reservations as to subjects the Council was allowed not only to introduce bills but was also allowed to elicit information from the Government on matters of public importance by means of interpellations, to move resolutions on such matters, to discuss and vote on the budget demand before the budget was finally passed by the Government. The Council had the power to move the adjournment of the House in order to call the attention of the Government to any serious matter with a view to immediate action or to avoid any similar occurrence in future. The inauguration of the Council marked an important era in the administration of the State.



His late Highness Sir Sri Rama Varma who inaugurated the Cochin Legislative Council

On the occasion of the installation on the musnad, in January 1932, of His Highness the late Sir Sri Rama Varma, His Highness announced his intention to extend the franchise for the Council by lowering the qualifications for the voters, to increase the privileges and responsibilities of the Council by conferring on it the right of electing its own Deputy President, and to extend to all the members of the Council the right to put supplementary questions. This intention was implemented by promulgating the necessary amendments to the Rules. The strength of the Council was also raised to 54 (36 elected members and 18 nominated members).



His late Highness Sir Sri Rama Varma who passed the Government of Cochin Act

With a view to closely associate the representatives of the people with the details of the administrative machinery and to bring about closer co-operation between the departments and the non-official representatives, four Standing Advisory Committees of the Legislative Council were constituted in 1935 to tender advice on the working of the nation building departments like Education, Medical and Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operation, Panchayats and Depressed Classes and Industries and Commerce including Forests and Fisheries.

In 1937 franchise qualifications were considerably lowered, two seats were reserved for women, two seats were reserved for Muslims in suitable general constituencies and the constituencies were redistributed.

The account of constitutional development given above would show how a process of evolution had been at work aided by the solicitude and sympathy of the Ruling House and availed of with a sense of responsibility and moderation by the people of the State. The problem of constitutional advance was further examined in 1938. An important incentive to this revaluation of the constitutional position was the new spirit of advance implicit in the movement which the British Government recognised to be so powerful that the Government of India Act of 1935 actually provided for the creation of such a constitution for all India with the assent and active co-operation of the States. So as to harmonise the conditions in the State with those in the rest of India and thus help to make constitutionalism itself a success in the country, the Government of Cochin Act was passed in 1938, an Act drawn up in conformity with the announcement made at the seventy-fourth Birthday Darbar of the late Ruler Sir Sri Rama Varma. That announcement stated that "the welfare of the vast masses of the rural population has been my constant care. On their contentment depends the prosperity

and the stability of the State, and in their happiness I seek my reward. It is my earnest desire that the representatives of my people in the Legislative Council will realise the magnitude of the responsibility that they are called upon to shoulder, and I pray that they may be given the courage and the wisdom to shoulder that responsibility in a worthy manner".

The first attempt at the establishment of responsible Government in an Indian State was undertaken in this small State of Cochin. By the Government of Cochin Act a Minister chosen from among the elected members of the Legislative Council was entrusted with the administration of the departments of Public Health, Panchayats, Co-operation, Agriculture, Ayurvedam, Uplift of the Depressed Classes and Development of Cottage Industries. Since then Fisheries, Rural Libraries, Land Mortgage Bank, Trade Schools, Village Courts and Vagrancy were also placed in the hands of the Minister for Rural Development. The franchise was widened, the number of members in the Legislative Council was raised to 58 (38 elected and 20 nominated), restrictions placed upon discussions in the Council were taken away with respect to railways and the harbour and the status of the Chief Court was raised to that of a High Court. The Diwan of Cochin in his budget speech in 1939 stated with pardonable pride that "Cochin can claim today that in the three great spheres of State activity she has reached a stage of development of which she can feel legitimately proud. Cochin today possesses a representative legislature with efficient powers, an efficient executive with real popular control over certain departments and an independent judiciary which enforces the rule of law".

According to Professor Keith "This constitution is wisely framed as a first contribution to the achievement of responsible Government in full". It embodies, in the words of *The London Times*

constitutional reforms in which, for the first time in an Indian State, the principle of ministerial responsibility to a Legislature with a majority of popularly elected members is applied, though not over the whole field of administration".

The year 1946 is a memorable year in the history of Cochin. On the Installation Day of His Highness Sri Kerala Varma Maharaja of Cochin, (21st March 1946) His Highness announced his intention to

appoint one more Minister and to transfer to one or the other of the two Ministers the following departments-Municipalities, Medical, Labour, Registration and Anchal. His Highness expressed the hope that ere long it would be possible to transfer the entire Education Department. His Highness also announced that "along with these changes it is also my desire to introduce a system of joint consultation between my Diwan and the two Ministers



H. H. Sri Kerala Varma, Maharaja of Cochin

on important topics. Regulations implementing this desire will be drawn up in due course. But it is my sincere wish that the system of joint consultation now to be introduced will in time develop to the status of regular cabinet meetings and thereby infuse into the deliberations of Government greater thoroughness". The announcement concluded with the observations that "given encouragement and guidance I feel sure that the people of my State will rise to the occasion and not be found wanting in the ability to shoulder the task of full responsible government in due course".

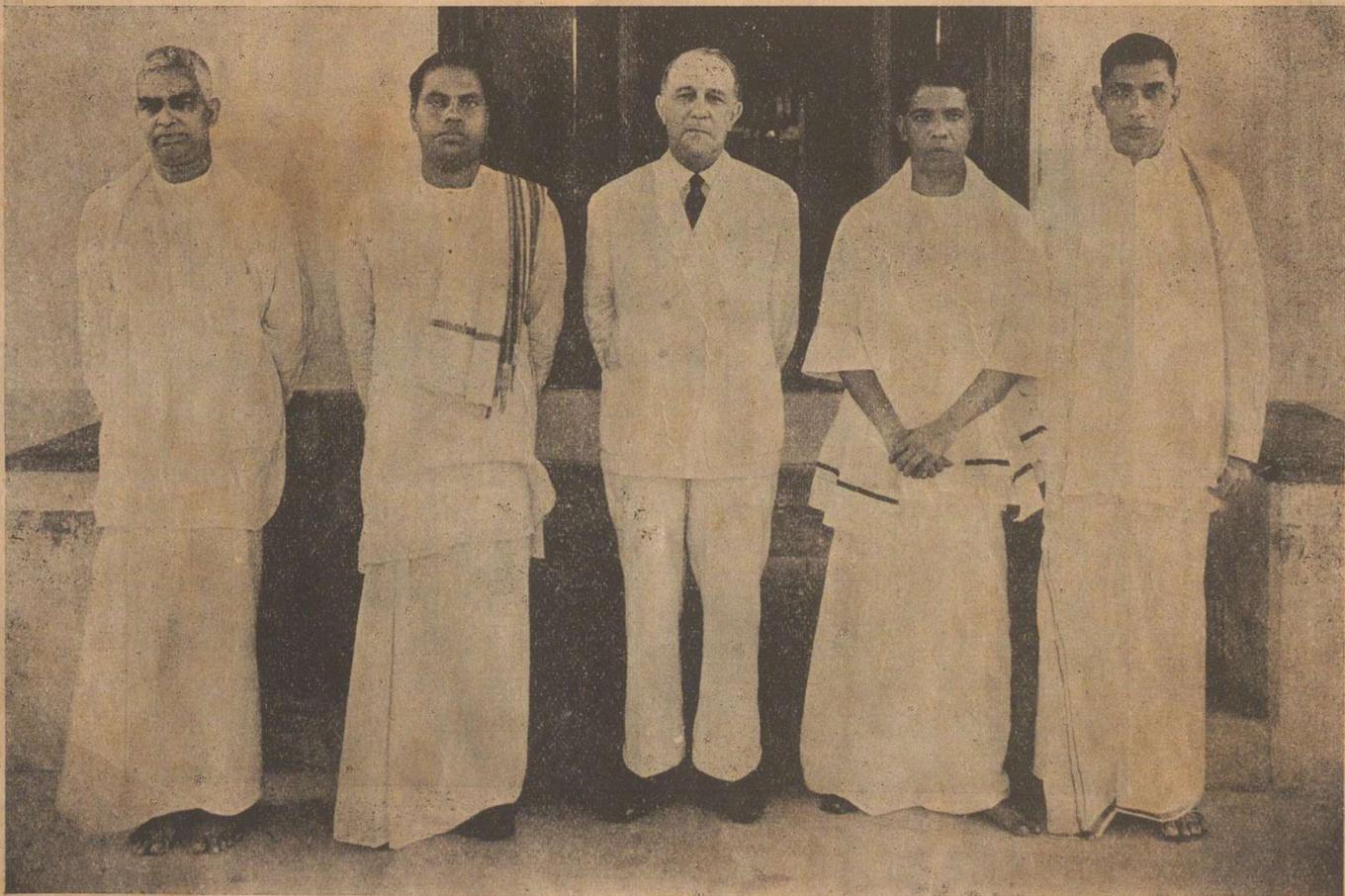
On the 29th July, in a thrilling message sent by H. H. The Maharaja to the Cochin Legislative Council, His Highness expressed his desire that this State should combine with Malabar and Travancore to form the Province of Kerala and added that he had asked his Diwan to initiate discussions with the Governments of Madras and Travancore to ascertain how far this desire would be shared or supported by them. His Highness also announced that the State representative or representatives to the Constituent Assembly would be elected by the Legislative Council. To implement these announcements Government have constituted a Constitutional Advisory Committee consisting of 7 members (four elected by the non-official members from among themselves and three nominated) to advise the Government in matters connected with any discussions which may take place with the Governments of Madras and Travancore regarding the formation of a Kerala Union, to advise regarding the measures to be adopted with a view to the establishment of responsible government and to study matters which will fall to be considered in connection with the State's relations with the new Union Government of India and to make recommendations regarding them. His Highness made it clear in his memorable message on the Unification of Kerala—a message

which has been welcomed by all the great leaders of India—that "I believe in pure Constitutional Rule and throughout my life I have sedulously cultivated an attitude towards life and institutions which is antipathetic to autocracy and personal rule".

Immediately before and also during the last Budget Session of the Cochin Legislative Council there have been representations both in and outside the Council by the people's representatives asking for the opportunity to shoulder the entire responsibility of the administration of the State. As His Highness became convinced that the leaders of the people were genuinely desirous of co-operating with His Highness in order to achieve the common goal of responsible Government and to carry on the Government in the meanwhile, His Highness transferred to Ministerial control the departments of Education, Public Works, Land Revenue, Excise, Industries (reserved portion), Publicity, Forests, Food and Textile Control and Income Tax and Sales Tax. All departments of Government except Finance, Law and Order and Devaswam have now come under Ministerial administration.

Four new Ministers assumed charge on the 9th of September. The practice of Cabinet discussion, as foreshadowed in His Highness' message at the time of the Installation, was brought into force on the same day.

The great good fortune which the small State of Cochin can lay claim to is that her people have not extorted this constitution from the Ruler. The futile policy of alternating repression and grant of reforms has not been pursued in this State. On the contrary, advantage has been taken, no doubt in response to the repeated requests of the people of the State, to set an example to other Indian States which they could well follow.



The First Cochin Cabinet (Left to right) Mr. C. R. Iyyunni, Mr. P. Govinda Menon, Sir George Boag, Mr. T. K. Nayar and Mr. K. Ayyappan

THE COCHIN CABINET

FOUR Ministers appointed by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin took charge on the 9th September 1946 and the first cabinet meeting over which

the Diwan Sir George Boag presided was held the same day. The subjects allocated to the Ministers are distributed as follows—



Mr. Panampilly Govinda Menon

Mr. Panampilly Govinda Menon, Minister for Food and Education will be in charge of.—

Education including Education Code Revision, Food Control, Textile Control,

Labour, Village Courts, Statistics, Museum and Zoo, Archaeology, Kerala Kalamandalom, Factories and Boilers, Rama Varma Research Institute, Village Libraries, Indian Historical Records Commission, and Publicity.

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar, Minister for Public Health, will be in charge of.—
Public Health, Medical, Ayurveda, Veterinary, Excise, Panchayats and Vagrancy.



Mr. T. K. Nayar

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni, Minister for Revenue will be in charge of.—

Land Revenue, Agriculture, Income-tax, Sales Tax, Food Production, Forest and

Tramway, Co-operation, Land Mortgage Bank, Industries and Commerce, Ferries, Weights and Measures, Fire Accidents, Floods and Fire Loans.



Mr. C. R. Iyyunni



Mr. K. Ayyappan

Rao Sahib Mr. K. Ayyappan, Minister for Public Works will be in charge of.— Communication, Irrigation, Water Works, Electricity and Telephones, Canals and Backwater Navigation, Electricity, Capital Scheme, Capital Issue, Municipi-

palities, Registration including Companies Act and Kuries' Act, Anchal, Uplift of the Depressed Classes, Fisheries, and Sirkar Buildings excluding Palaces, Guest Houses, Durbar Hall and Diwan's House.

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S MESSAGE TO HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN

"I wish to convey my greetings and congratulations on the declaration that you made recently about responsible government and other matters connected with your State. It was a brave declaration which, I am sure, will be a lead for many other States. I notice that it has been criticised by some people. That criticism is of no account and represents only the lack of foresight in them. I hope you will implement your declaration as soon as possible so that you and your people can march together co-operatively to freedom".



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

COCHIN'S NEW MINISTRY

THE MAIL (Madras) writes:

COCHIN'S enlarged Cabinet, which had its first meeting on Monday (9th September), fulfils the hope expressed by H. H. the Maharaja when he formally assumed ruling powers in March that his people would not be found wanting in the ability to shoulder the task of full responsible Government. For this they had indeed been prepared since the establishment of the Legislative Council in 1925, and more especially since the introduction of the Government of Cochin Act, 1938, under which certain departments were for the first time placed under the control of an elected member of the Council. Inaugurating the reforms in 1938 His late Highness Sir Sri Rama Varma referred to the spirit underlying the new constitution by mentioning the example of the British sovereign and the

great and ever growing strength of the bond between His Majesty and the people. The system initiated by him was steadily extended by his successors so that today, as the President of the Prajama-ndal remarks, 90 per cent of the departments are under popular control. The change is even more momentous than Mr. Ikkanda Warriar describes. The Diwan is the only official member of a Cabinet of five, and there can be no doubt that the Ministers' policies will influence the entire administration. This is recognised by the principal parties in the State, which have co-operated to form the Ministry. It augurs well for the success of the new experiment that a coalition Government, representing all sections of the people, have assumed office. These represent, too, a team of acknowledged ability and initiative.

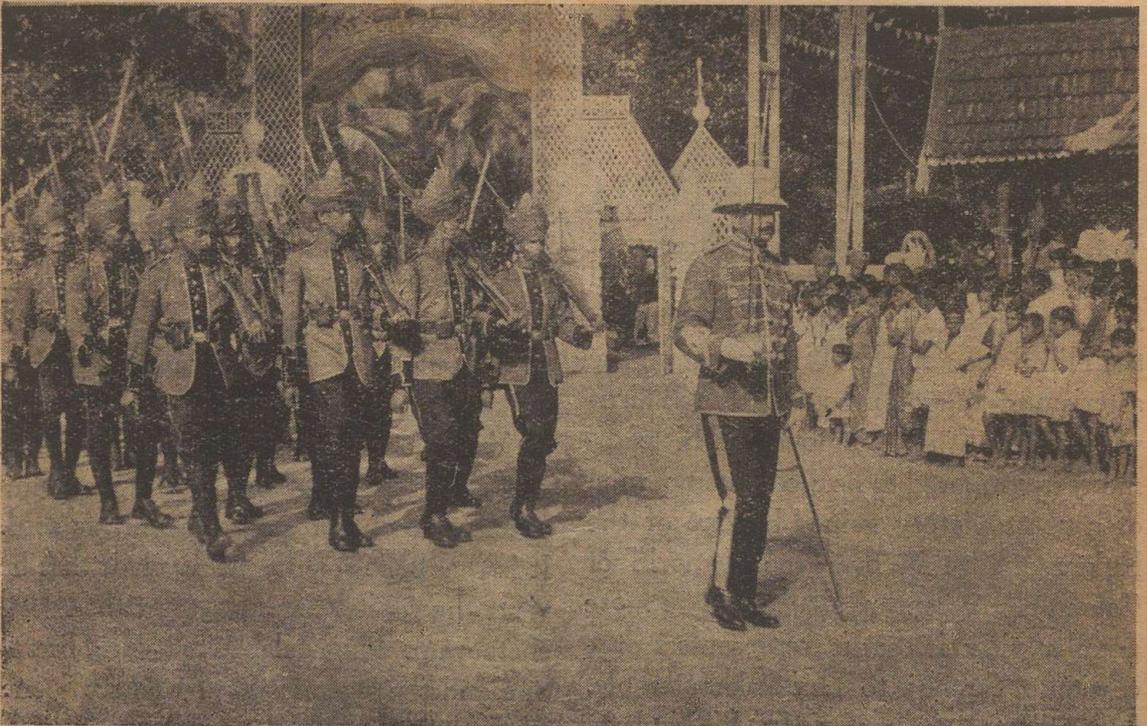
"CELEBRATION OF A VICTORY"

WITH all the paraphernalia of oriental pageantry the annual Athachamayam festival was conducted in the Hill Palace on the 30th August on the asterism of *atham* preceding the Thiruvonam day (8th September). This ceremony is supposed to be a commemoration of a great victory gained by one of the Rulers of Cochin over the Zamorin of Calicut a few centuries back. The more popular view is that it represents a procession of the Raja to Thrikkakara temple, four miles to the east of the Hill Palace, to participate in the Onam festival which

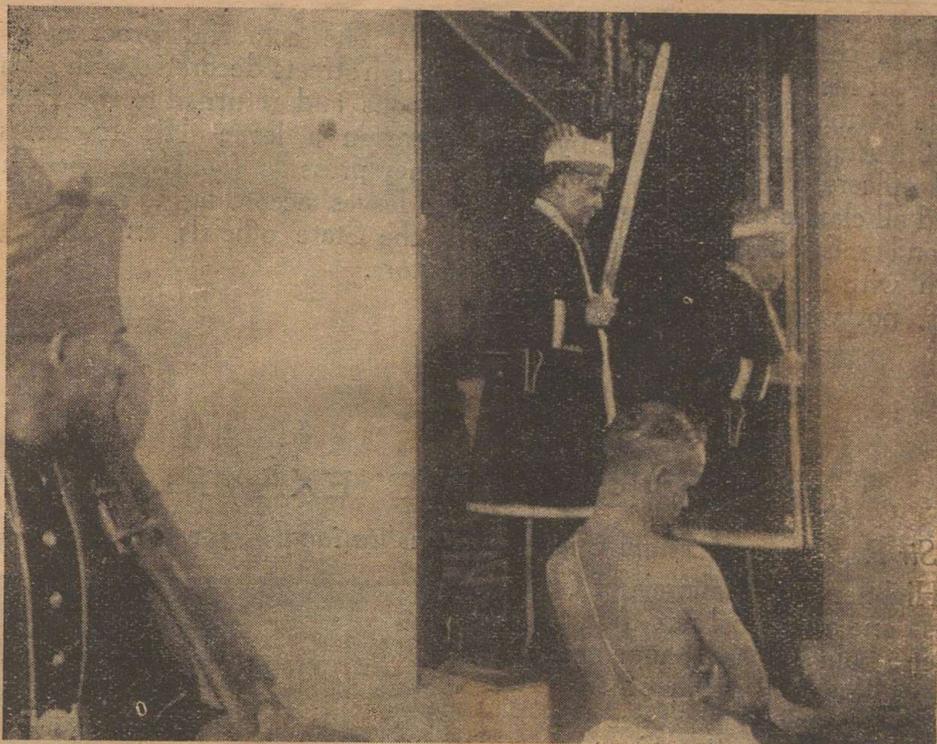
was then attended by all the Rajas of Kerala with their chieftains and followers. The Zamorin also celebrates the festival on a smaller scale. According to tradition Trikkakara was the capital of Mahabali, an ideal monarch who gave up his wealth and possessions, powers and splendours of office to obtain salvation for his soul. It is the belief of the Malayalees that he visits the capital ten days after the Athachamayam. The Malabar folk-lore, literature and the legends about Mahabali lend strength to this popular tradition.



H. H. The Maharaja going out in procession in a palanquin.



Cochin State Forces in the Athachamayam Procession



H. H. The Elaya Raja (right) and the Second Prince escorting H. H. the Maharaja



A view of the Athachamayam Procession

Dressed in coronation robes, carrying the regalia of his *sthanom* His Highness Sri Kerala Varma went out in procession on the 30th August accompanied by his principal officers, representatives of old chiefs and all classes of his subjects, both secular and religious, in the glittering palanquin with the ancient crown of the Perumals, not worn, but, placed on his

lap. The colourful procession passed through streets decorated with arches and festoons and returned to the Hill Palace where in a levee His Highness gave money presents (coins wrapped in plantain leaves according to ancient custom) to the State officials and distinguished visitors.

COCHIN'S NOBLE EXAMPLE

Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty on Constitutional Reforms in Cochin

HIS Highness the Maharaja of Cochin has done a national service in taking such a bold step and I hope his noble example will be followed in other Indian States. I am very glad to see that the policy of constitutional reforms inaugurated by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin in 1938, has been followed by his successor, by His Highness the present Maharaja of Cochin. The development that has now taken place is the logical outcome of the constitutional reforms inaugurated in 1938.

My own experience of the working of responsible Government in the Cochin State has convinced me that far from it being unsuited, conditions prevailing in Indian States are more propitious for the working of responsible Government. My own personal experience in Cochin was that co-operation from the people was forthcoming in an abundant measure when they felt that people's representatives were getting an effective share in the administration.

Fortunately, most of the Rulers of Indian States have kept aloof from communal strife and it would be correct to say that in most of the States, all subjects irrespective of communities, have got full confidence in their Rulers.



Sir Shanmukham Chetty, Diwan of Cochin from 1935 to 1941

The successful working of responsible Government in India would necessitate a reconciliation of communal conflicts and diversity of interests. Such a reconciliation of varying interests can be successfully brought about only if there is at the

head of the administration a person in whom all communities have got confidence. The Rulers of the Indian States should really be the cementing factors which should bind conflicting interests of different communities.

LINGUISTIC PROVINCES

SIR ALBION RAJKUMAR BANERJII, a former Diwan of Cochin who was responsible for the introduction of epoch making administrative changes, in a statement to the Associated Press of India welcomed His Highness the Maharaja's scheme for the unification of the Malayalee speaking areas into a United Kerala. He stated that the "solution of political India is the substitution of the Empire of India by a League of Dominions or Indian States on racial or linguistic basis. Much attention has been bestowed on the general question by the recent announcement of the Maharaja of Cochin about the Unification of Kerala in South India. The Princes, so far, do not seem to be very alert about this matter though the Deccan States have frequently met to discuss amalgamation or grouping. The "Merger Scheme" introduced by the Crown Representative in respect of some of the smaller States created a lot of agitation in Kathiawar at the time but one does not hear very much about it just now."

Reiterating the views Sir Banerji held four years ago on the formation of separate linguistic Provinces he added, "To my mind the religious cleavage in India is intensified by the constitution of India into a single State. If India were a group of States, the religious factor would be entirely eliminated from the whole area

with the exception of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and the Punjab."



Sir A. R. Banerji, Diwan of Cochin from 1907 to 1914

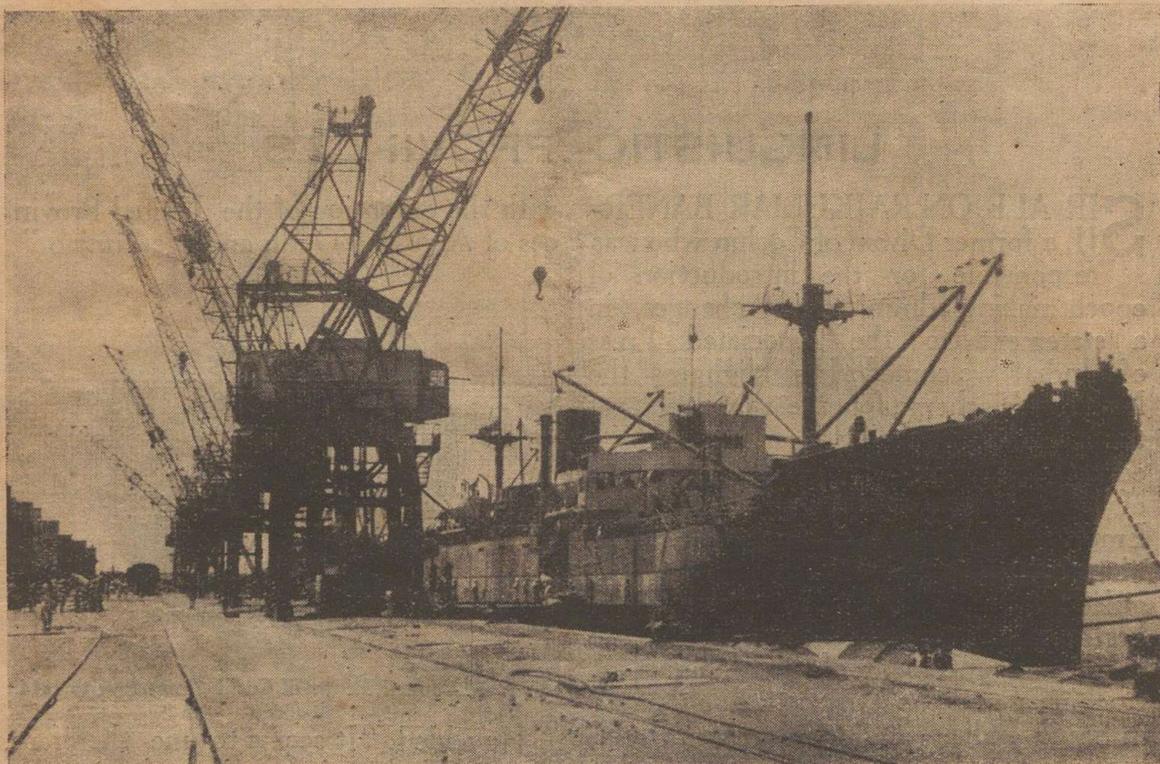
He added, "It seems to me therefore, that unless there is a union of States or Kingdoms with full political autonomy for the various tracts geographically distinct and racially and linguistically separate the Indian problem will not be solved. Under such a scheme of the Union of India all the so-called separatist demands, such as Pakistan, Dravidistan, etc., may be reconciled to the satisfaction of all parties."

Sir Banerji concluded with the observation that "Before the constitution is decided upon, it is absolutely necessary that the map of India should be rearranged according to the necessities of the present time and self governing units marked out as the constituent parts of the future Union of India."

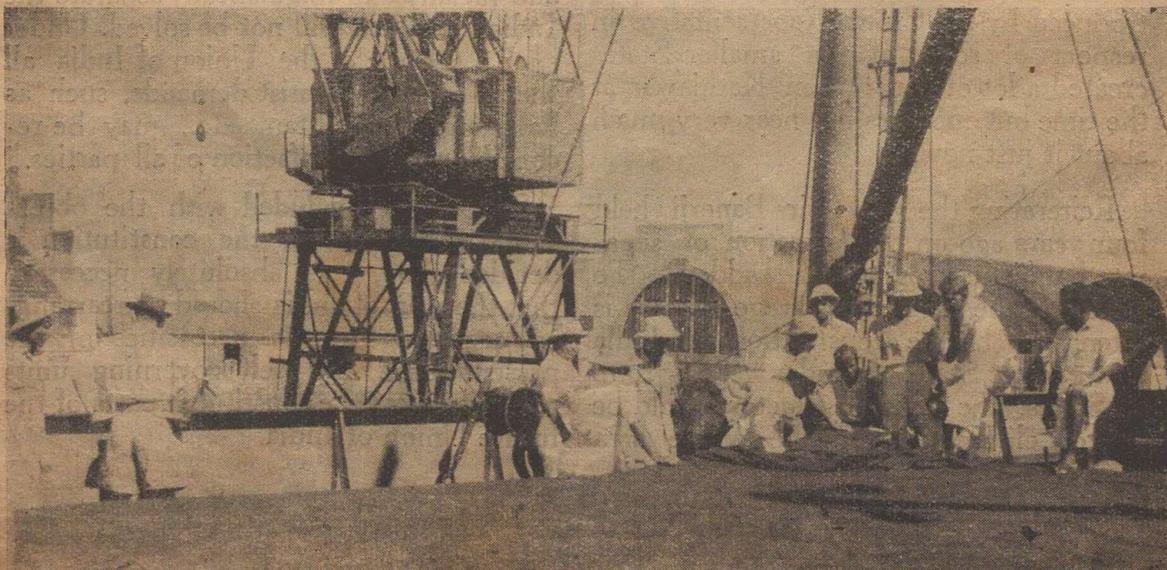
FROM INDONESIA TO COCHIN

“I think it is not more than natural that the Indonesian Republic should do what is possible to ease the food situation in India. We have much sympathy for the Indian people and we would welcome the establishment of

EMPIRE FAVOUR in the Cochin Harbour with the first consignment of Indonesian paddy



Below—Mr. C. P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner (2nd from right), Mr. M. M. Paul, Director of Food Supplies and other officials inspecting the paddy in the steamer



Paddy Bags being taken out of the steamer



Under the supervision of the officials paddy is being removed to the godowns in the Willingdon Island



economic and spiritual relations between the Republic and India as between free nations," stated Dr. Sulthan Shariar, Prime Minister of the Government of the Indonesian Republic in April last. He said, "Even if there were no surplus, Indonesians would be able to give 5,00,000 tons of rice in exchange for sorely needed textiles, tools and implements."

The magnificent Cochin Harbour opened out its arms to receive the first ship laden with Indonesian paddy to reach India. *Empire Favour* with 6,000 tons of unhusked Indonesian paddy sailed into Cochin Harbour in the third week of September and was welcomed by Diwan Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner and Rao Sahib M. M. Paul,

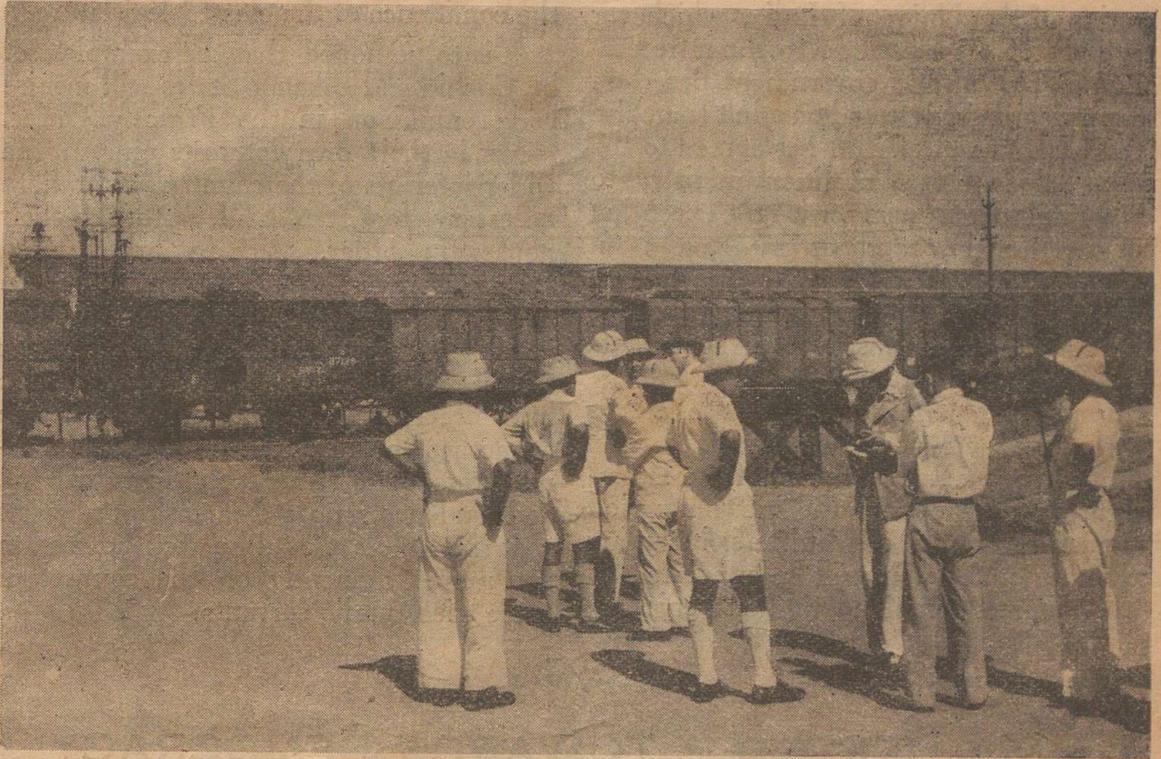


Bags—and bags of paddy from Indonesia

Director of Food Supplies, Cochin. The unhusked paddy, according to present arrangements will be exclusively for South India.

This picturesque haven has now begun

to receive the commerce of the world and steamers have regularly begun to discharge their cargoes. In September ships have arrived from Indonesia with paddy, from Argentine with maize, from Canada with wheat, from Burma with rice, etc.



The train is ready at the Cochin wharf to transport paddy to Malabar and other places

MOVING WITH THE TIMES

(The Times of India)

ADDRESSING a recent conference of Rulers and Ministers of the Central India States His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, impressed on the Princely Order the urgency of introducing internal reforms in the State. The aftermath of War has brought a quickening of democratic tempo the world over and in India its influence is seen in the new political order which is taking shape. If the Indian States are to preserve their place in the country's polity it is essential that they should display a greater sensitivity to the spirit of the times, and seek to rest their authority not so much on the Rulers' powers as on the goodwill of the people. Happily there are signs that the

more progressive among the Princely Order are keenly alive to the necessity of associating State subjects more closely with the administration. Within recent weeks the Rulers of Cochin and Bikaner States have announced reforms which both in form and spirit are indicative of an outlook at once refreshing and realistic.

The underlying principle which animates the proposed reforms in the two States is the establishment of responsible government. Both States provide for transitional arrangements, the interim period in Cochin State with its remarkable standard of literacy being restricted to six months, and in Bikaner State to a period not beyond three years or till the inaugu-

ration of the Union of India, whichever is earlier. As a prelude to the introduction of responsible government based on a new legislature elected on adult franchise the Maharaja of Cochin has agreed to the establishment of a coalition ministry to whom all departments, with the exception of finance, law and order, have been entrusted. The Ministers, it is understood, will work on the basis of joint responsibility. Under the transitional arrangements in the Bikaner State not less than half the number of members of the Maharaja's Executive Council will be appointed from among the elected members of the Legislature; at the end of the interim period the entire Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, will be appointed by His Highness from among those enjoying

the confidence of the elected legislature.

It is to be hoped that the examples set by Cochin and Bikaner States will inspire wide emulation in the Princely Order. Never in their own interests and in the wider interests of the country was it more necessary for State Rulers to set their houses in order. As we have urged before, far less difficulty will arise in negotiating for the State's participation in an Indian Union if the Rulers set about translating their progressive protestation into practice. The Indian States are attracting to their service Indian administrators of a remarkably high calibre, and prudence, if not statemanship, suggests that the Rulers would be well advised to act more frequently on the counsel of these tried public servants.

ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

(*"Janatha" of New Delhi*)

A Ministry wholly selected assumed office in Cochin on September 9.

This event is of great significance to States people throughout India since in no other Indian State has the Maharaja either dared or willing to transfer so much power to the people. The Cochin Maharaja has shown himself to be free of inhibiting fear of his people and has embarked on a brave adventure in democracy. He made his intention to trust his people clear at the time of his instal-

lation. In a Proclamation issued after the Installation Darbar, he said, ". . . . given encouragement and guidance, I feel sure that the people of my State will rise to the occasion and not be found wanting in the ability to shoulder the task of full responsible government in due course." The present Ministry is a Coalition representing the Prajamandal, the Socialists and the Progressives in the State Legislature.

CAST BELL METAL

COTTAGE Industries play an important part in the industrial economy of the Cochin State. One such industry which has been famous from time immemorial is the bell metal industry.

Bell Metal is an alloy containing a definite proportion of tin and copper. A proportion of about two and a half to three parts of tin and ten parts of copper gives good bell metal. Increase in tin makes the alloy brittle and difficult to



Mixing materials for making moulds

work. Genuine bell metal has properties peculiar to it. It has no acid reaction. The metallic sound which it is capable of producing has given the name to the metal. It takes extremely good polish which has made alloy useful for the manufacture of fine household utensils. A decrease in the proportion of tin loses to the metal the above qualities. The qualities, however, are not easy of detection. And many a spurious stuff passes off as good bell-metal. This has told upon the bell metal trade in general, as the lay public has come to look askance at the genuine material even. It would expand the market for bell-metal if articles made out of it sell with a recognised hall mark.

Bell-metal is worked by a set of hereditary artisans called *Moosaries*. They are following traditional methods in their work. But they are experts in their line. They can do castings both light and heavy. They have been casting cauldrons weighing half a ton and more. These heavy items used to give continuous employment to families of workers for months together.

In those good old days, as the saying goes, there was a large demand for these articles. The possession of them was considered to be a qualification of aristocracy. In the absence of banking facilities the purchase of heavy castings was a good investment. Changing social life has restricted the use of cauldrons. Growth of banking has deprived them of their investment value also. Trade in them cannot be expected to revive. With light castings the question is, however, different. They have been supplying every variety of articles to suit different tastes and purposes. Bell-metal utensils, some years back, were indispensable to the household economy of Malabar. Even now they play a good part; but competition from cheap imported enamel and other wares has lost to bell-metal its pristine importance. The articles are still in demand. The success of the trade in future would be in up-to-date design and cost. The market for bell-metal has to be surveyed and wares have to be made to suit changing taste. By introducing a system of division of labour and labour saving appliances cost has to be reduced.



Finishing touches are given to the moulds

It is happy to note that enterprising individuals have been organising the trade on the above lines and expanding the market for bell-metal.

Bell-metal articles have to be individually moulded and cast. The processes appear to be simple; but they require expert hands to get a successful casting.

Clay with a particular consistency is first prepared and is moulded to the shape of the intended article. The mould is well dried and thin layers of clay are added on until the mould attains the required size. It is well smoothed on simple lathes. This is the core. On the well dried finished core wax is applied. The success of the whole casting depends upon the evenness of the coat of wax on the mould. Experience guides the expert *Moosaries* in regard to the thickness of

wax necessary to get a required weight of article. After the application of wax is complete, the process has to be reversed by adding layers of clay on to the wax. When a strong outer wall is given, it is finished gripped tight to the core and leaving an opening to take out the wax and pour in the molten metal. The mould is well dried and it is ready for casting.

The *Moosaries* make their own Crucibles with local materials. Each one of these crucibles stands one melting only. The required proportion of copper and tin in chips are put into the crucibles and they are removed to the furnace. The furnaces are sufficiently efficient for melting the small quantities of metal in proper time. Local fuel is used and the fire is kept constant with bellows. The mould also is put in the furnace and heated.



Molten metal being poured into the heated moulds

With the first heat the wax in the centre of the mould melts and it is removed, through the opening in the mould. When the metal melts, the mould, which by this time has got red hot, is removed from the furnace and the molten metal is poured into it through the opening. The casting is complete. The mould is left over for a low cooling. After it is well cooled the finished model is separated from the clay.

The model is now ready for the final process of polishing. This is done by simple tools made locally. A rough finishing is given by files and the articles are

taken to the finishing lathes. The models are fixed in wax at one end of the lathe. The lathe is turned by a man by means of a rope coiled on the lathe. This arrangement turns the lathe both ways. The polisher puts his tool on the turning model scraping and smoothening as the lathe turns. This goes on for some time until the article takes the necessary polish. An idea of the polish which these articles are capable of taking can be had when it is stated that before the advent of glass mirrors Malabar was using mirrors made of bell metal. They are done so fine that it is difficult to distinguish them from a

glass mirror. One has to put one's finger to the bell-metal mirror and the glass mirror to say which is which. The glass mirror leaves a space between the finger and its reflection. The bell-metal puts the finger flat.



Giving the finishing touches



The finished bell-metal vessels

NOTES

Enquiry into corruption in Public Services—The resolution passed in the Cochin Legislative Council recommending the constitution of a committee of the House to enquire into and report on the bribery and corruption among servants of Government had been engaging the attention of the Government for some time. The Government explained in the Council that an adhoc Committee of the kind recommended in the resolution was not the proper body to enquire into cases of corruption. But in view of the discussions in the Council, Government have now constituted a Tribunal to examine the question and to make a report to the Government on the following questions—Is there any substance in the charge that corruption is rampant in the public service? If so, does the evil permeate all departments or only some and if so, in which Department is it prevalent? Is it so common that special measures are required to eradicate it, and if so, what should these measures be? Mr. K. S. Krishnaswami Iyengar, Chief Justice, High Court of Cochin has been appointed to examine these questions and to report to Government.

Referring to the appointment of the tribunal *The Mail* wrote thus under the caption "Combating Corruption."

"The tribunal set up by the Government of Cochin to hear complaints of corruption against public servants involves no departure from the principles and procedure of the ordinary law, the tribunal being placed on the same basis as any of the present courts. Although the Government are awaiting the result of an enquiry to decide whether any special measures are needed to prevent corruption, for the time being no changes similar to those introduced or proposed in Madras are indicated. Here the Government are

considering various amendments to the law which seek to place a much heavier burden on any of their employees called to answer a charge of corruption. It is proposed, for example, to lay down that if a public servant, or any of his dependants is "known to have become possessed of a sudden accretion of wealth" the public servant will be deemed guilty of corruption unless he proves that the wealth was innocently obtained. The Government have already ordered that action should be taken against any officer suspected in a number of cases, and generally believed to be corrupt, even if guilt cannot be established against him by proof as in a criminal case.

Complaints of corruption in Government departments have long been voiced in the Cochin Legislature, as in the legislatures elsewhere, and, generally, have been found baseless and the result of personal spite against some official or another. Government officials have been falsely accused so often that they seemed to need special protection. Although in recent years when, in the extraordinary situation created by the war, officials inexperienced in dealing with the public were placed in responsible positions, there was an increase in the country as a whole of proved cases of corruption, there should be fewer such cases with the return of the normal conditions. As the duties performed by many officials are such as tend to make them unpopular among folks indifferent to their responsibilities, it would be uncharitable to deprive officials of the safeguards that the law affords to others who are required to defend themselves against accusations. The best way of combating corruption is to promote that respect for law and authority which will prevent individuals from slighting, or interfering with, the duties of public servants."

Constitutional Advisory Committee—Government have constituted a Committee of seven members to advise the Government regarding the measures to be adopted with a view to the establishment of responsible Government in the State, and in matters connected with any discussions that may be necessary with the Governments of Travancore and Madras regarding the formation of a Kerala Union. The Committee will also study matters which will fall to be considered in connection with the State's relations with the new Union Government of India and to make recommendations regarding them. The following are the members of the Committee. Mr. P. Govinda Menon (Minister for Food and Education) Chairman, Mr. T. K. Nayar (Minister for Public Health), Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Minister for Revenue), Mr. K. Ayyappan (Minister for Public Works), Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar M.L.C., Mr. Muhammad Ashroff M.L.C. and Mr. M. Sivarama Menon, Advocate General. Rama Varmha Tampuran, Reforms Commissioner, will be the Advisor to the Committee.

Appointments in Private Schools.—Government had ordered that appointments of teachers in private schools would be made by the Staff Selection Board in accordance with the principles of

communal representation followed by the Board. As certain modifications in the procedure laid down were found necessary, Government have decided to follow the revised procedure given below and to try it for one year as an experimental measure.

(a) The Director of Public Instruction will maintain in his office a staff list for each school with details of the community to which each teacher belongs. Whenever any vacancy occurs on the staff of any school the Manager shall intimate forthwith to the Director of Public Instruction and take his instruction regarding the particular community from which the appointment should be made. The Manager will be empowered to make the appointment in accordance with instructions received from the Director of Public Instruction.

(b) The Director of Public Instruction shall see that communal equilibrium is maintained in all schools under private management.

(c) If, for unavoidable reasons, the claims of any community have to be waived in making any appointment in any school, compensation should be given to that community elsewhere, so that at the end of each year, the prescribed communal ratio is maintained in all the private schools taken collectively.

IRRIGATION—CHALAKUDI SCHEME

ONE of the outstanding objectives of post-war planning is the development of agriculture for which expansion of irrigation is a vital necessity. Owing to the abundance and regularity of rainfall in the State, the necessity for irrigation works on any large scale was not felt except in the Taluk of Chittur where rainfall being much less copious, it was found necessary several decades ago to construct irrigation works to supplement natural supply of water. In other parts all that was found necessary was to put up *chiras* or embankments for the storage of rain water or for the prevention of the ingress of

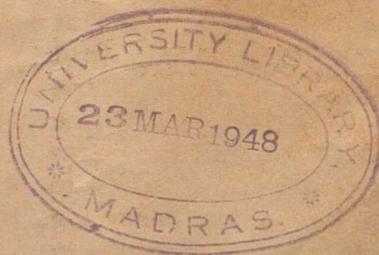
salt water. There is a general impression that the copious rainfall of this coast renders costly irrigation works unnecessary. This might have been true years back when the State was sparsely peopled, but now the pressure of population on the soil is becoming extremely hard, the aid of artificial irrigation for increased production is becoming increasingly imperative. The Chalakkudi, the Manali and the Kurumali and other rivers, especially the first, are both in water supply and land level appear to be excellent bases for important irrigation works.

Seven schemes have so far been prepared for inclusion in the post-war development programme of the Government relating to irrigation. Detailed investigation of two schemes—the Chalakkudi and the Naduthodu schemes—is over and estimates for their execution have been prepared.

The Chalakkudi scheme consists of constructing a low weir on the Chalakkudi river and diverting about 300 cusecs of water for irrigation purposes. The main canal will be 36 miles long, and there will be many important branch canals. The Chalakkudi river at the weir site forms an Inter-statal boundary between Travancore and Cochin and the question of apportioning the waters of the river has been the subject of correspondence between the two States for some time. The final agreement is nearing completion.

The scheme was investigated by an irrigation specialist in 1943 and according to his report the total area that will be benefited by the scheme will be about 23,000 acres. The first part of the scheme will be the diversion of water for irrigation requirements in the Mukundapuram Taluk. When the Poringalkuthu Hydro-electric scheme on the upper reaches of the Chalakkudi river materialises the excess water stored and released after the generation of energy could be diverted for irrigating kole lands of Trichur Taluk, comprising an area of about 16,000 acres. The scheme will bring in an additional 11,000 acres under double crop cultivation and 4,000 acres under a second crop besides benefiting about 8,000 acres of existing double crop lands. It is estimated that the total cost of the scheme would be about 28 lakhs of rupees and that about four years would be necessary to complete the work.

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