



PART I.—CIVIL (J)

# Administration Report of the Surveyor-General for 1947

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# CEYLON SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

## REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL FOR 1947.

1. *General.*—I proceeded on home leave on March 22, 1947, and returned on October 31, 1947. Mr. G. B. King, Deputy Surveyor-General, acted for me during the period. Mr. R. L. Brohier, Assistant Surveyor-General, acted for the Deputy Surveyor-General and Mr. N. S. Perera, Superintendent of Surveys, acted for the Assistant Surveyor-General.

I attended the British Commonwealth Survey Officers' Conference in London from August 18 to 29.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to appoint Mr. R. L. Brohier, Assistant Surveyor-General, an Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Three Junior Technical Assistants, 22 Surveyors, 13 Observers and 17 Clerks and Draughtsmen were appointed during the year.

Four Second Grade and 4 Third Grade Surveyors were promoted to Grade I., and 3 Third Grade Surveyors were promoted to Grade II. Two Clerks and Draughtsmen were also promoted from Grade I. to the Special Class and 5 Clerks and Draughtsmen from Grade II. to Grade I.

Three Assistant Superintendents acted for Superintendents for various periods during the year.

Mr. H. A. Stammers Smith, Superintendent of Surveys, was transferred to the post of Assistant Commissioner (Surveys) Kenya, on July 2, 1947, after 21 years meritorious service.

One Third Grade Surveyor and a Clerk and Draughtsman were transferred to the Town Planning Division, Department of Local Government. One Clerk and Draughtsman was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Industries as Investigating Officer. Two Clerks and Draughtsmen joined the Training School for Surveyors.

Mr. D. B. Ellepola, Superintendent of Surveys, and Mr. E. S. Wickremesinghe, Assistant Superintendent of Surveys, continued in their seconded appointments as Controller, Internal Purchase Scheme, and Assistant Food Controller, respectively. Mr. S. D. J. Arsacularatne, Clerk and Draughtsman, Grade I., continued to be attached to the Land Commissioner's Department as a temporary Assistant Accountant.

Four Second Grade Surveyors, 6 Third Grade Surveyors and 10 Clerks and Draughtsmen retired during the year. One Meteorological Observer and 7 Clerks and Draughtsmen resigned their appointments.

One Clerk and Draughtsman was dismissed from service, and the services of one Surveyor and one Observer were discontinued.

I regret to record the death of Messrs. K. W. J. de Costa and E. A. Sinniah, Surveyors.

The actual strength of the field and office staff on December 31 was 257 and 298, the sanctioned strength being 281 and 319 respectively.

Twenty-two Survey students passed out of the Training School at Diyatalawa and received appointments in the Department, 10 joined the class during the year and continue in training.

One Forest Ranger was given a short course of training in Surveying and reverted to his Department.

Reference to the services rendered by Mr. Karl Mendis, Clerk and Draughtsman, Grade II., as Senior Divisional Fire Officer in the Auxiliary Fire Service during the War was omitted from the summary of the War Years in my Administration Report for 1946, and I now place this on record.



2. *Welfare*.—Mr. N. S. Perera continued to be the Departmental Welfare Officer in addition to his own duties.

A canteen for the employees at the Observatory, Bullers road, Colombo, and a canteen for the labourers in the Survey Camp, Diyatalawa, were partially equipped. The canteen for the employees in Head Office—about 300 officers and 130 minor employees and labourers—continued to function as satisfactorily as is possible with the restricted accommodation available.

The structural alterations for the reorganization of the office, which are now receiving attention, will provide better accommodation for the canteen and, when this is ready, it will be possible to extend its amenities.

Apart from mere canteen facilities, there is much scope for welfare in a large Department like the Survey in respect of both its office and field staffs. Matters such as sports, recreation and holiday resorts are some of the more important items that are under consideration.

3. *Parliamentary Elections*.—The Department played its full part in the work connected with the general election for the first Parliament of Ceylon under the new constitution. In preparation for this important event a large number of maps were produced, showing the new electoral divisions, and election symbols were designed, blocks made, &c. During the elections all ranks of the Department contributed staff for the polling stations in all parts of the Island.

4. *Trigonometrical Branch: Triangulation*.—No field work was done directly under this branch during the year, but there was a fair amount of computing. Four resected points were added to the Conformal records which now contain 1,997 points.

*Traverses*.—A total of 222 miles of Primary Traverses were run during the year under Divisional supervision and several Primary Traverses were co-ordinated. This marks the beginning of a new policy of the systematic breaking down of Trigonometrical control by traversing, to provide a framework for the survey and plotting of all future work on the true meridian and in correct position on "Standard" plotting sheets,—a procedure which has hitherto been restricted to major tasks such as Block Surveys for the settlement of claims.

*Levelling*.—225 miles of secondary levelling, 48 miles of tertiary levelling and 141 miles of secondary benchmarking were done in addition to other secondary and tertiary benchmarking and levelling for engineering schemes carried out under Divisional supervision.

*Survey Camp*.—This camp continues to serve a very useful purpose for the "Recess" of the field staff. Buildings in the camp returned by the Royal Navy are still under repair, but 4 parties consisting of 4 Assistant Superintendents of Surveys and 34 Surveyors were in recess at various times during the year.

Arrangements are in progress to acquire several buildings erected by the Army on the Survey Camp premises, for extension of the camp.

5. *Engineering Surveys for Irrigation Purposes*.—The demand for large-scale contour surveys for irrigation projects still continues, and an extensive programme was carried out this year. 1,250 acres were surveyed in the Western Province, 400 acres in Central Province, 425 acres in Northern Province, 43,079 acres in Eastern Province, 40,790 acres and 17 miles of road trace in North-Central Province and 8,700 acres in Province of Uva—a total of 94,644 acres and 17 miles of road trace.

Plate I. illustrates the irrigation surveys that have been completed and those under survey, or to be surveyed in 1948.

6. *Block Survey & Settlement*.—5,120 acres were surveyed on the scale of 4 chains to one inch for the settlement of claims. 3,765 acres in the North-Western Province and 1,355 acres in Province of Uva.

25,690 acres were surveyed on the "skeleton" block survey system. 3,975 acres in Central Province, 17,000 acres in Province of Uva and 4,715 acres in Province of Sabaragamuwa.

Plate II. illustrates the surveys so far carried out for settlement and those under survey, or to be surveyed in 1948.



Twenty-seven Settlement and Demarcation requisitions and 37 requisitions for acquisitions, &c., were surveyed.

A mapping-out survey of 75 square miles of chena, patna and forest lands in Batticaloa District, Eastern Province, was carried out on topographical lines for the Government Agent to enable him to systematise the allocation of land for chena cultivation.

Fifty Settlement Orders and tenement lists were checked and 128 Settlement Plans were prepared for the Settlement Officer.

One hundred and thirty-nine Final Village Plans were issued to the Revenue Officers, making a total of 5,374 to date.

7. *Sporadic Surveys*.—The number of requests for these surveys during the year was 916 compared with an average of 840 in the four preceding years.

A total extent of 4,405 acres was surveyed by the sporadic surveyors in connection with major Irrigation Blocking Out Schemes, and plans were issued.

49,417 acres of Sporadic Surveys were completed. This included contour ridging, blocking out of State Farms, acquisitions of estates, definition of Crown Lands in Colombo, the cutting out of Middle Class Ceylonese & Colonization allotments, and other miscellaneous surveys. Major Forest Surveys undertaken during the year were, the Nikgaha-Yatagampitiya Proposed Forest Reserve in extent about 5,000 acres; Kikilimana, Nanuoya & Mipilimana Forest Reserve about 13,000 acres; Melkulam Fauna and Forest Reserve about 29,600 acres and Sawarangalawa Forest Reserve about 15,590 acres.

8. *Town Surveys*.—Surveys of Horana, Jaela and Hambantota were completed. In addition, 840 acres of Avissawella, 860 acres of Mabile-Wattala-Peliyagoda, 8,000 acres of Anuradhapura Preservation Scheme, 923 acres of Bandarawela Town Development area were surveyed and 1,397 acres of Colombo Town were revised during the year.

Schedules of boundaries for Proclamation for one Town Council, 6 schedules under the Housing Ordinance, 2 schedules of boundaries of Urban Council areas and 3 schedules of boundaries of Municipal Councils were supplied.

9. *Topographical Surveys*.—Topographical revision was continued during the year and 817 square miles were revised for the publication of 1-inch maps.

10. *Map Publication Branch*.—Drawing Office: The work of this branch included the drawing of originals for maps, the designing and drawing of symbols for Parliamentary Elections, Petrol Coupons, Rice Ration Books, Posters, and book cover and folder designs for the issue of Commemoration Postage Stamps, &c. The demand for these from other Government Departments continues to be heavy; but they have so far been met, and the high standard of artistic skill required for the work has been maintained.

Four drawings were prepared for the publication of one inch revised Topographical Sheets, 30 one-chain sheets of Colombo and 325 miscellaneous maps.

The original of a new  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map of Ceylon in four sections, an original for the new Agricultural Map of Ceylon based on it, and a new 8-mile map were prepared.

Town maps of Negombo, Anuradhapura and Matara were revised and printed. Two drawings were prepared of the historical map of Anuradhapura in Sinhalese and English. An air map of the world centred on Colombo was also compiled and drawn for printing.

11. *Process and Lithographic Branch*.—The two modern automatic feed printing machines purchased from the Army and installed in the Lithographic room have been found, as anticipated, to be a great asset owing to their high speed of printing. This branch reproduced and printed 1,954 Departmental Maps (409,168 copies) including 4 new one-inch sheets, 7 coloured reprints of one-inch sheets, 27 uncoloured reprints of one-inch sheets, a revised edition of the motor map, three sections of a layered  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch map of Ceylon, historical maps of Anuradhapura in Sinhalese and English, routine preliminary plans, engineering survey plans, &c.



Printing for other Government Departments included over 9½ million Rice Ration Books for the Food Controller, 17,000 certificates and posters for the National Savings Movement, 13,000 Booklets "Homes for Workers" for the Director of Public Works, 12,500 commemorative stamp folders for the Commissioner of Stamps and a descriptive leaflet in connection with the inauguration of the Jaffna Lagoon Scheme, &c.

446 Half tone, line, and three-colour blocks were prepared.

12. *Map Sales.*—6,537 maps were issued to Government Departments and 7,986 maps were sold to the Public during the year. More copies of the Motor Map were sold in the first half of 1947 than in the whole of the year 1946. This is due to the maps being on sale in some of the principal business houses in Colombo.

A list of maps with their prices, available for sale to the Public, at Headquarters, is given as an appendix.

Maps and relief models were displayed at two exhibitions in Colombo and Kandy. The exhibits evoked a keen interest among the visitors and a number of maps were sold.

The Assistant Superintendent of Surveys in charge of Map Publications visited the Map Publications Office of the Survey of India at Dehra Dun to acquaint himself with the latest methods of map production. He was followed by 2 Clerks and Draughtsmen and 2 skilled litho workmen for a short training.

13. *Plan Preparation Branch.*—1,535 tracings and true copies of title plans, &c., were supplied to the Public. 4,723 applications were disposed of.

14. *Title Plan Branch.*—The number of diagrams prepared in 1947 was 5,211 compared with 4,513 in 1946. In addition to the preparation of diagrams, situation and boundary descriptions for draft acquisition certificates, &c., were supplied in 478 cases.

15. *Field Book and Field Sheet Branch.*—During the year 2,952 requisitions for field sheets received from the field and 6,737 requisitions received from Branches in Head Office involving the issue of about 31,000 sheets were dealt with.

16. *Instrument Branch.*—During the year 200 instruments belonging to this Department and 45 instruments belonging to the Public Works Department and the Irrigation Department were repaired and overhauled. In addition, 15 miscellaneous items were disposed of for other Government Departments.

This branch continues to be responsible for the Department's litho machinery. Work in this connection reached its maximum this year.

The Town Clock has functioned very satisfactorily during the year.

17. *Licensed Surveyors.*—The Annual Examination was held in Colombo in October and November, 1947. Thirty three candidates sat, of whom one passed in Surveying and Levelling; 5 passed in Surveying only, and one in Levelling.

18. *Observatory: Time Service.*—Wireless time signals.—These continued to be sent out at 0600 and 1330 hours G.M.T. daily.

The massive foundation pillar for the Free Pendulum Pier was completed.

*Seismograph.*—The Milne-Shawe instrument was in continuous operation except for minor inadvertent stoppages. Altogether 104 shocks were recorded of which 81 showed definite phases.

*Meteo. Work.*—The publication of Meteorological information continued as in the previous year.

The number of stations which report rainfall daily was 43, inclusive of the Gauge at Colombo Fort. Rainfall figures were received either daily or monthly from over 500 stations.

The upper air work at Colombo and at Mannar continued without interruption.

769 special storm warning telegrams were sent to India during the year.

Meteorological information for the needs of Civil Aviation was supplied to the R.A.F. from 19 principal meteo. stations.

A sub-office was opened at the Colombo Jetty premises and an Observer detailed for taking comparisons of ships' barometers and extracts of ships' weather logs.



The scheme for the expansion of the Meteorological Services to suit the needs of Civil Aviation was partly implemented by the recruitment of some of the additional personnel required. Full-time Observers were appointed at Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

I refer those interested to the Observatory Report, which is issued as a separate publication, and to the Bulletins and Memoirs issued by the Observatory from time to time, on various points connected with the Meteorology of the Island.

19. *Head Office.*—Extensive structural alterations to the Head Office buildings were begun during the year with a view to rearranging the branches and relieving congestion—particularly in the Map-printing sections.

20. *Conclusion.*—In my last Administration Report I referred to the sense of duty that prevails throughout the Department. In this report I have pleasure in referring to it again, for, were it not for this sense of duty, the often excessive demands made could not be met. The uninitiated are, sometimes, unaware of the volume of work involved in their requests, and it has been noticed that the urgency of a problem rarely seems to be realized until it reaches the stage of requiring our services. The staff has dealt successfully with the many difficult situations that have arisen during the year, and will, I know, continue to do so. It would, however, help considerably if those requiring the services of the Department would always give due thought to what their requests are likely to involve.

P. O. Box No. 506,  
Surveyor-General's Office, (Branch C),  
Colombo, March 22, 1948.

I. F. WILSON,  
Surveyor-General.

#### APPENDIX

##### List of Maps on Sale to the Public.

Scale.	Description.	Coloured. Rs. c.	Uncoloured. Rs. c.
<i>Geographical Maps.</i>			
1 inch to 4 miles ..	Ceylon, Coloured and Layered ..	8 0	—
1 inch to 8 miles ..	do. Sinhalese ..	3 0	1 40
1/500,000 ..	do. Air Map ..	2 0	—
1 inch to 24 miles ..	do. General ..	—	0 30
1 inch to 24 miles ..	do. Cultivation ..	1 0	—
1 inch to 1 mile ..	do. Topographical map in 72 Sections, Each section ..	4 20	1 35
<i>Motor Maps.</i>			
1 inch to 6 miles ..	Ceylon Motor Map ..	5 0	—
1 inch to 8 miles ..	Ceylon Lorry Route Map..	1 60	—
<i>Town Maps.</i>			
1 inch to 16 chains ..	Colombo ..	3 40	1 50
1 inch to 1 chain ..	Colombo in sections ..	2 50	—
1 inch to 4 chains ..	do. ..	4 95	1 10
1 inch to 12 chains ..	Anuradhapura ..	3 30	1 0
1 inch to 12 chains ..	Galle ..	4 40	1 10
1 inch to 12 chains ..	Kandy ..	—	3 35
1 inch to 10 chains ..	Negombo ..	3 0	—
1 inch to 12 chains ..	Nuwara Eliya ..	4 30	—
1 inch to 8 chains ..	Trincomalee ..	—	7 40
<i>Historical Maps.</i>			
1 inch to 16 chains ..	Anuradhapura ..	1 0	—
1 inch to 16 chains ..	do. Sinhalese ..	1 0	—
1 inch to 4 chains ..	Galle Fort ..	1 70	—
<i>Miscellaneous Maps and Diagrams.</i>			
1 inch to 3 miles ..	Diagram of Planting Districts in Ceylon ..	14 25	—
— ..	Azimuthal Map of the World centred on Colombo ..	3 0	—



