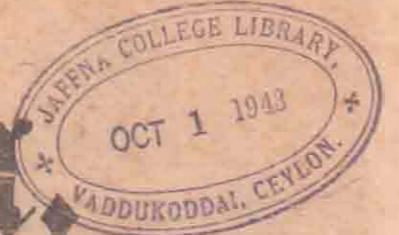


THE Hindu Organ



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A. V. Kulasingham, Advocate.

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NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

North Ceylon 'Muththamil Manram'

There will be a public meeting for the election of office bearers on Friday (1-10-43) at 6-30 p.m. at the Kala Nilayam Hall. The inaugural celebrations will take place on Sunday (3-10-43) at 9-30 a.m. at the Vaidisvara Vidyalayam Vannarponnai. There will be a public lecture by Swami Vipulananda on "Muththamil". Music items will follow.

Public Lecture

A public lecture, under the auspices of the Valikamam East Teachers' Association, will be delivered by Mr. V. K. Nathan, B. A., Dip. Ed., M. R. S. T., F. R. G. S., Divisional Inspector of Schools, N. D. on "The Negative Theory in Education", on Tuesday, October 5, 1943, at 6 p.m., at the W. M. S. English School, Punnalaikadduvan. Mr. G. S. Chelliah, President of the V. S. T. A. and Principal, C. M. S. College, Kopay, will preside. All teachers and the general public are welcome.

Ministers Discuss Reforms

The Political Correspondent of the "Times of Ceylon" writes in the issue of that paper on September 27:—Now that the Budget for the next financial year has been finally passed (although Hansard does not record that the first reading of the Appropriation Bill was seconded) the ministers have addressed themselves to the task of considering the question of constitutional reforms in the light of the Declaration of His Majesty's Government and the subsequent interpretation put to it by the Board of Ministers, with which the Secretary of State has agreed. I understand that this question engaged the greater part of the time of the meeting of the Board of Ministers on Monday, and that the Ministers had before them a memorandum on the subject by Dr. Ivor Jennings Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon. The discussion on last Monday was on broad lines, as far as one could gather, and there does not seem to be any unanimity of opinion in regard to the proposal made in several quarters for the introduction of a second chamber. The Leader of the State Council, in particular, has yet to be convinced of the advantages of an upper house. The one question on which there seems to be no difference of opinion is in regard to the enlargement of the State Council, but even here varying views are held by the Ministers as to the exact number of seats, ranging from a hundred to 150.

ACQUISITION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

ESSENTIALS OF A FOOD GRAINS POLICY

THE report has been published of the Food Grains Policy Committee in India presided over by Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India. We publish below a few extracts from a summary of the report which throw some light on the food position in Ceylon as well:—

The Report rejects altogether two alternatives, which might be invoked to solve the problem of procurement, that is, the acquisition of supplies. The first of these principles is that of unlimited free trading in foodgrains. The Report takes the view that even if free trade were allowed to work itself out without interference (which is more than doubtful in the light of experience of the Spring of 1943) it would result in a drastic rise in the level of prices in some areas and might not owing to purchases for hoarding or investment purpose, lower them elsewhere. In any case, rising prices do not always result in additional supplies being forthcoming, owing to the tendency of holders when a rise of prices is being experienced, to expect still higher prices in the future.

The other principle, which is rejected, is that of a Central Government foodgrains monopoly. This principle is rejected, not on the ground that it is inherently unworkable—on the contrary, it is the only perfectly logical solution of the difficulties—but on the ground that India finds herself in the middle of a crisis, and the creation of the vast organisation which would be involved would take time, and time is not available.

In the last resort, procurement involves getting the maximum quantity of foodgrains from the cultivator in every part of the country. It is not merely, or even mainly, getting supplies from surplus to deficit provinces because only very few Provinces have a surplus of all food grains and the majority are surplus in grains and deficit in others—the truly permanent deficit areas are limited in number. The question then arises: How can this maximum amount be secured? There are two alternatives: (1) Compulsory acquisition at a fixed

price, (i. e.) requisitioning, and (2) increasing the inducement to the cultivator to sell. The Report takes the view that it would be premature to resort to requisitioning in India generally (which would involve an official procurement machinery everywhere)—though in seriously deficit areas, it may be the only way out. Rising prices of foodgrains, as such, do not necessarily evoke an increased supply, so long as the higher money prices received by the cultivator cannot be translated into an effective supply of goods which the cultivator requires. The problem of procurement is thus intimately linked up with the problem of increasing the supply of the goods which the cultivator needs. Every effort must, therefore, be made to increase the supply of such goods, and the problem should rank next to the problem of munitions supply.

The most important practical aspect of the distributive problem at the present time is the rationing of the larger cities of India, (i. e.) those with a population of one lakh and over, which the Report recommends should be undertaken forthwith. The report urges the necessity for appointing within the Food Department itself, of an officer-in-Charge of Movement. Movement involves adequate railway facilities, but also the utmost possible use of alternative modes of transport and the due co-ordination of all of them. As regards these matters, the Report makes certain technical recommendations

Rationing

As regards rationing, the Report starts from the principle that the minimum ration should not normally be allowed to fall below 1 lb. for cereals per adult per day, in view of the fact that, unlike England and America, there is no great chance of the mass of the urban population being able to supplement the ration by intake of other foodstuffs on any significant scale. The Report emphasises that even in these abnormal days, food conditions in these countries cannot be compared with those in India, where there is very little room for tightening the belt so far as the mass of the population is concerned. The Report, however, stresses the need for

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THE CHICAGO PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The second of the series of meetings arranged under the auspices of the Ramakrishna Mission and the Vivekananda Society to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Parliament of Religions at Chicago was held at the Vivekananda Society Hall, Hill Street at 5-30 p. m. on Sunday the 19th September.

The proceedings began with puja after which Swami Siddhatmananda announced that the following telegram had been received from His Holiness Srimath Swami Virajanandaji Maharaj, General President of the Ramakrishna Mission at Almora in the Himalayas; "Befitting Colombo, which first welcomed Swamiji on return, celebrating semi-centenary of his advent at Chicago Parliament, Heartiest blessings."

Mr. N. Nadarajah, K. C., Vice-president of the Vivekananda Society, welcomed Mr. M. S. Aney, representative of the Government of India on behalf of the Ramakrishna Mission and the Vivekananda Society and invited him to preside over the proceedings.

Mr. Aney in occupying the chair expressed his thanks for the honour done him in inviting him to preside over such a large gathering to celebrate the 50th anniversary of an epoch-making event, the Parliament of Religions held in Chicago.

It was a landmark in the progressive march of humanity towards a goal which, though not clear to the man in the street, had most powerfully attracted the great teachers of mankind of all times and climes.

That goal was the realisation of the essential unity of substance pervading creation and the non-essential diversity in it due to a multiplicity of names and forms.

All the important systems of religion were so many paths chalked out by the great world teachers to lead mankind on gradually to that distant but desirable destination. Hinduism had accepted toleration as an essential feature of human culture. In the Parliament of Religions Swami Vivekananda in his first speech laid great emphasis on the importance of the principle of toleration. He maintained that the very idea of convening a Parliament of Religions was the vindication of the principle of toleration.

It was the Parliament of Religions that revealed to India and the whole world the spiritual teacher who in later years proved to be the harbinger of a mighty intellectual revolution in India, seeking for the emancipation of

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Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1943.

THE LESSON OF BENGAL

BENGAL IS ONE OF THE MOST fertile provinces of India with a teeming population. Today famine stalks the land; neither city nor village has escaped the destitution that is spreading. The number of deaths from starvation in Calcutta alone, though large enough to be alarming, does not give the correct measure of the dreadful state of things that prevails in the country as a whole. The Department of Anthropology in the Calcutta University has just taken a sample survey of destitutes in Calcutta and the following extract from the preliminary report makes pitiful reading: "Husbands have driven away wives, and wives have deserted ailing husbands, children have forsaken aged and disabled parents, and parents have also left home in despair. Brothers have turned deaf ears to the entreaties of hungry, and widowed sisters maintained for years together by their brothers have departed at the time of direst need. Tales of such woe blacken the face of our records and show where civilisation stands when faced with the primordial needs of man." Comment is needless on the picture drawn in the report. In Britain public opinion has become uneasy at the somewhat complacent attitude of Mr. Amery. The urgency of the problem is recognised and relief committees have been started to help the starving population with foodstuffs. As Professor George Catlin says in the "New Statesman", "there may be food in India and it will be the duty of the Government in the last resort to see to its proper distribution. But this will take time and the people of this country which has shown itself so generous to others has a quite singular obligation to discharge in a sense of aliveness to the sufferings of our fellow-citizens in India."

The sufferings of Bengal have a lesson for us in Ceylon. In the first place the public of this country must recognise its indebtedness to our Ministers for the prompt steps taken to control food prices and introduce rationing. But this is not enough. Ceylon must produce more food. Dependence on imported foodstuffs is dangerous. There is a moral obligation on the part of the landowner and cultivator to cooperate with the Government to the fullest possible extent in assuring to every citizen a

minimum supply of food. No man with any sense of decency would wish to see the scenes in Bengal repeated here. At the same time we should like the Ministers too take up a more helpful attitude in the matter. An attitude of hostility on the part of the Government towards landowners is not calculated to improve matters. The task of production and the acquisition of food for public use when it is produced is beset with many difficulties which cannot be solved in a mere fit of temper and by treating the producer with scant consideration. Our resources, slender though they are, must be carefully nursed, if they are to be maintained at their present level.

THOUGHTS ON MANNAR-MULLAITIVU

By T. Kathira Vellu

(Special to the "Hindu Organ")

II

I regret that my first article on the above topic was published without an acknowledgment to George Bernard Shaw. Before any of my energetic readers plunge in to complain about plagiarism to our liberal minded Editor, let me say that much of what I write comes from Shaw's wireless broadcast in October 1929 on "Democracy". And now permit me to continue from where we left off.

Dean Inge urges us to vote for the party which pledges itself to go farthest in enabling those of us who have great possessions to sell them and give the price to the poor. Am I then today enjoying a democratic control of the government? If Mannar-Mullaitivu was a sample of Democracy, who can blame ex-dictator Mussolini for describing it as a putrefying corpse?

Those two imaginary candidates for election may ask me what more they can do for me but present themselves and answer any questions I may put to them. I quite admit they can do nothing; but that does not mend matters. What I should like is a real test of their capacity. Shortly before the war a San Francisco doctor discovered that if a drop of a candidate's blood can be obtained on a piece of blotting paper it is possible to discover within half an hour what is wrong with him physically. What I am waiting for is the discovery of a process by which on delivery of a drop of his blood or a lock of his hair we can ascertain what is right with him mentally. We could then have a graded series of panels of capable persons for all employments, public or private, and not allow any person, however popular, to undertake the employment of governing unless he or she were on the appropriate panel.

At present not more than two per million of the Ceylonese population would be available for the highest panel—to act as Prime Ministers; as Ministers for Catholic Solidarity, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Justice; as Governors. I should then be in no danger of electing someone and finding that he could neither read nor write well. My choice of candidates would be perhaps more restricted than at present; but I do not desire liberty to choose windbags or nincompoops to represent me in the State Council; and my power to choose between one candidate and another would give

me as much control as is possible or desirable.

Pending such a completion of the American doctor's discovery, how are we to go on? Well, as best we can, with the sort of government that our present Donoughmore (do-no more) Constitution produces. Several reforms are possible without Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam's discoveries. Our present State Council is obsolete (so said ex-Mayor Dahanayake and Sir Baron Jayatilaka): it can no more do the work of a modern State than Vijaya's boat could do the work of a Pacific liner. We need in Ceylon, a Federal Upper House (meeting at Colombo); two federal legislative Lower Houses (meeting at Jaffna and Kandy), working on the parliamentary party system,—if any.

We need a central authority to co-ordinate the federal work. That authority need not be the Governor; a War Cabinet (under a Prime Minister elected from the Upper House) could take over the whole responsibility of Government. The Cabinet resigns if the opposition or the Catholic Solidarity (whichever is greater) successfully manipulates a vote of censure and the whole game begins delightfully again. One of the best things the country could do now is to return the State Councillors *in toto* to the Upper House. Then either Mr. D. S. Senanayake or Mr. S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike becomes Prime Minister; in the latter event Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam gets a minister-ship,—if we forget that dark horse, Professor Suntheralingam who might troop in by some mathematical method best known to him!

Our obsolete little Sinhalese and Tamil frontiers must be obliterated, and our units of local government (Municipalities, Urban Councils and Village Committees) enlarged to dimensions compatible with recent advances in communication and co operation. Commonwealth affairs and international affairs will have to be respectively provided for through a Commonwealth War Council (on which Ceylon is represented) and a rejuvenated League of Nations or United Nations' Council. All the pseudo-democratic obstructive functions of the Executive Committee System of Government should go west where Col. Oliver Stanley wishes to try it on the M. P.s. Mere archaic national sovereignty as distinguished from self-government will have no meaning.

Still when everything has been done that can be done, civilisation will still be dependent on the consciences of the governors and the governed. We have been badly brought up, and are full of anti-social personal ambitions and prejudices and snobberies. Had we not better teach our children to be better citizens than ourselves? We are not doing that at present. The Russians are. Think it over. And now I hope to teach better in the classroom.

G. A. TO REPORT ON DISTURBANCE AT VASAVILAN—PALALY

Mr. A. Mahadeva, Minister of Home Affairs, has asked the Government Agent, Northern Province, to submit to him a report on the disturbance on Friday evening in the village of Vasavilan where it is reported 35 houses and 5 boutiques were burnt, with a view to considering the question of compensation to those who have suffered loss.

Meanwhile the local police have

been reinforced by a sub inspector and 10 constables from Colombo who are patrolling the area.

The Minister has also instructed the Government Agent to render immediate relief to the victims of the outrage. Relief is being given at the rate of Rs. 10 per adult male, Rs. 7 50 per adult female and Rs. 5 per child. With a view to preventing the labourers coming into contact with the villagers, a special canteen and a store are being set up for them in the labour camp.

Mr. Mahadeva informed the Board of Ministers on last Monday of the causes that led to the disturbance and the steps that he had taken to grant relief to the victims and to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

About 140 labourers were present at the inquiry held at Mallakam.

On Monday, in the presence of the Magistrate and Assistant Superintendent the injured persons identified those who had taken part in the affray.

The American Mission Tamil School suffered some damage to its roof, and it has been closed for a few days.

TOBACCO SMOKING MADE COSTLIER

INCREASED IMPORT DUTY

A notification issued by His Excellency the Governor, under the Revenue Protection Ordinance, states that from midnight of September 27/28 the import duties of tobacco has been increased.

The immediate result of this is that the price of cigars, pipe tobacco and cigarettes has gone up. In the case of cigarettes there is an increase of fifty cents a tin.

Hooka and beedy tobacco and snuff are exempt from this order. The new rates are as follows:—

	Rate.	Rate.
	per lb.	per lb.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
(i) Manufactured in British Empire from Empire-grown tobacco—		
(a) sold wholesale at not more than Rs. 21 per lb. net	15 0	
(b) sold wholesale at more than Rs. 21 per lb. net	16 0	
(ii) Manufactured in British Empire from foreign tobacco—		
(a) sold wholesale at not more than Rs. 21 per lb. net	15 50	
(b) sold wholesale at more than Rs. 21 per lb. net	16 50	
(iii) Manufactured in the British Empire from Empire-grown & foreign tobacco at rates intermediate between (i) and (ii) above according to the certified proportion of Empire and foreign leaf content		
(iv) Manufactured in foreign countries	17 0	
Cigars	17 0	18 0
Tobacco		
Manufactured tobacco not elsewhere specified, other than hooka and beedy tobacco and snuff	14 0	14 75
Unmanufactured	11 0	14 0

THE CHICAGO PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS

Continued from page 1

her children from all bonds and fetters.

Mr. R. L. Pereira K. C., referred to the prevalence of rampant materialism in the West and the gradual submergence of spiritualism.

The Chicago exhibition to which Swami Vivekananda had gone was nothing more than a mere money-grabbing exhibition. Their own representative, Anagarika Dharmapala, had also caught the eye of America, though not in the same measure as Swami Vivekananda, and that visit had done much to advance the cause of Buddhism in America.

He remembered the reception given to Swami Vivekananda in Colombo on his return from America to India. He was taken to the reception by his father and what impressed him most was that the Swami was a militant Hindu churchman, who emphasised the contrasts between the materialism of the West and the spiritualism of the East.

They found materialism not only in the West but also in the East, and it was to stem that tendency that the Ramakrishna Mission was trying to revivify the spirit of the East of old. Toleration was really necessary in all religions.

Mr. J. A. Martensy, speaking as a Christian, paid a tribute to Swami Vivekananda. The materialists of Europe and America to whom Mr. Pereira had referred were not, he said, the band to which Christians 'belonged'. It had so happened that the West had gradually imbibed those ideas and that Christianity had become a religion of the West. But, Christianity had started in the East and it had a force which they should all recognize. The spirit of tolerance of which Swami Vivekananda was a great exponent, was felt by the Christians also.

Mr N. K. Choksy said that Swami Vivekananda had taken the message of the Eternal God to the land of the Almighty Dollar.

Dr. T. Nallainathan referred to the broad outlook brought about among the Hindus by Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission.

Swami Vipulananda described the scene in Colombo when Swami Vivekananda returned to the East after his triumphant tour of the West. He quoted extracts from the address presented to the Swamiji in Colombo and from his reply to the address.

It was announced that an anonymous benefactor was donating a sum of Rs. 1,000 to the Vivekananda Society in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Parliament of Religions.

Items of devotional music were contributed by Mr. K. Kumarakulasingam and Srimathi Janaki Ramaswamy Reddiar.

Swami Siddhatmananda thanked the speakers and all others who helped to make the celebrations a success. Prasadam was then distributed to all those who were present and the meeting came to a close with the singing of Thevaram.

FOOD SHORTAGE IN INDIA

The "Manchester Guardian" writing on the food situation in India says: "Mr. Amery's reply did not amount to much more than that the authorities would do what they could, but everything was very difficult. To make difficulties worse, we have the breach between the British Government and Indian public opinion. That means that the most active and intelligent Indians will be reluctant to co-operate with or support the Government in a crisis in which the administration, above all, needs the co-operation and support of leaders of public opinion in cities and in villages. Our Government needs to think again and to discover how to make a change in the feelings with which India watches our work."

UNDERSTAFFED PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS

The "Ceylon Daily News" writes:—

It is understood that the Executive Committee of Health has requested the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services to consider whether it would be possible as a temporary measure to reduce the staffs in some of the Colombo hospitals and employ personnel thus released from their posts in Colombo institutions to fill vacant posts at other centres.

The Executive Committee, it is learned, made this proposal at its last meeting in view of the fact

Vacancy—Fiscal's Office, Jaffna.

Applications are invited from retired officers of the General Clerical Service with experience of Fiscal's procedure, or other suitable persons, to fill a vacancy in the Jaffna Fiscal's Office.

Applicants must be prepared to serve in any capacity. Applications must be made on or before 6-10-43 in the prescribed form which may be seen on the notice board of the Jaffna Fiscal's Office.

Any attempt to influence the decision of the undersigned by personal interview by or on behalf of any applicant may disqualify such candidate from appointment. Applications addressed to the undersigned personally will be rejected.

Jaffna, R. M. DAVIES, Fiscal, N. P. 24-9-43. G. 26-39-9-43 and 4-10-43.

DENTAL SURGERY, JAFFNA

Mr. S. Chas. Pathirana, Licensed Dentist and Optician will be at the Dental Surgery, 43, Main Street, Jaffna, from the 3rd to the 15th of every month.

KURUNEGALA BRANCH

From the 20th to the 30th he will be at his branch Dental Surgery, opposite Courts, Kurunegala.

His Jaffna Patients are advised to make prior appointments, if possible, by writing to his Kurunegala address. (Mis 98. 5-8—31-12-43.)

that many hospitals in provincial centres are at present understaffed.

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ACQUISITION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Continued from page 1

austerity standards in the better-off classes of society. If the minimum standard of one lb. per adult per day cannot be guaranteed out of home-supplies, then imports must be arranged for.

The case for rationing is closely examined. The main point is that rationing is the only method of killing the queue which not only causes great hardship, but is a main cause of unrest. It is impossible, under rationing, to guarantee any section of the community its habitual foodgrains in the normal quantities in which these are consumed. This follows inevitably, for instance, from the prevailing rice-shortage.

The essence of rationing lies in good administration. The Report, therefore, calls for drastic enforcement of the law, specially in the early stages, when attempts at sabotage and evasion are likely to be most frequent. But the report also recognises that enforcement is made very difficult unless there is willing co-operation on the part of the public. It is considered essential, therefore, that Provinces and States should set up advisory bureaus to which the public can turn for detailed guidance and advice, and that the rationing authorities should seek the positive assistance of public-spirited citizens by setting up non-official advisory committees. The assistance of ladies of all communities is particularly called for.

Unless the public is to be put to very great inconvenience through delays, it is necessary to make use of the normal machinery of the retail trade, and the Report lends support to the view that the retail trade could be easily dispensed with. At the same time, attempts at sabotage must be put down with a stern hand by withdrawal of the retailers' licence and black-listing. Distribution of foodgrains through Employers' Associations and Consumers' Co-operative Societies should not be discouraged. In fact, the latter form of distribution should be positively encouraged, subject to the principle that everyone should be treated alike in all essential respects.

Apart from the rationing of foodgrains, the Report recognises that there are a variety of other problems which require to be dealt with. The Food Department is desired to consult the expert nutritional authorities on the implications of the policies it is proposed to implement. In view of the food crisis, the Department is asked to investigate the possibility of individual rationing of sugar and milk—the last food having, of course, a peculiar bearing upon the health of women and children.

As regards rural areas—where there may also be serious malnutrition and shortage—the Report recognises that general rationing is impossible, but it points out that in famine or semi-famine areas, distribution cannot be left to the normal channels of trade and Government action is absolutely imperative.

Statutory Price Control

Although unable to attain complete unanimity on the question,

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ACQUISITION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Continued from Page 3.

the overwhelming majority of the Committee came to the conclusion that statutory price-control of all the major foodgrains should be instituted in all Provinces and States.

The Report quite recognises that the growth of a "black market" is a serious danger, and consequently urges that statutory price-control is dependent, as minimum conditions of success, upon an effective procurement machinery, effective control over transport and drastic enforcement of the declaration of stocks through the Food Grains Control Order. The chances of success are maximised if there are, in addition, Central and Provincial and States Reserves.

The Report argues the case for Central control over statutory prices. It should have the right to suggest changes of prices, upwards and downwards. As far as possible, regional prices should be the aim, through co-operation between the Provinces and the States of a particular region. Disputes between the Provinces and the Centre as to price changes should be referred to a Standing Committee on Prices, representative of the Centre, the Provinces and the States, the producers and the trade. In considering the appropriate level of regional prices, the cultivator's costs should be taken into account.

Whilst not opposing the policy of selling foodgrains at reduced or preferential prices to certain sections of the population the Report insists that such a policy can never solve the general problem of food supply and should never be regarded as an effective substitute for an integrated foodgrains policy.

Sir P. Thakurdas's Minute

"A dispassionate review of the results of Government efforts to control foodgrains shows that the class of people which have benefited the least are the poorest section of the people for whom these controls were ostensibly instituted. The greatest beneficiaries, on the other hand, are the Defence Department, the agencies of the U. K. C. C. and the well-to-do class who could afford to get their requirements from the numerous and flourishing black markets where even the Government is reported to have frequently resorted, for procuring their own needs. These phenomena must be primarily ascribed to the extremely defective system of distribution operating in the various provinces", says Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, in his supplementary minute to the Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. Sir Purshotamdas adds, "With insufficient and unreliable statistical data available on the subject of production and consumption of foodgrains, and the inept and unsatisfactory machinery for distribution, it would be a blunder of the first magnitude for Government to continue to work on the same lines as hitherto. Until the distributive machinery is adequate and the Provincial Administrations are satisfied that their own requirements, regarding the interests of the growers, are properly considered, and not unduly sacri-

ficed, the only measure which would restore confidence is for the central Government to supplement the resources of the country by substantial and speedy imports of wheat from abroad.

"The introduction of systems which have been in vogue, in the U. K. though they might have worked successfully there, will lead to further confusion and deterioration of the situation, apart from the immense scope it is likely to afford for bribery and corruption which have been rampant at every stage in the existing distributive machinery."

Proceeding, he says, "The disposition to procure and distribute supplies of foodgrains, merely by the issue of Ordinances, notifications and decrees must be discouraged, not only because these have proved utterly ineffective, and certainly not enhanced the prestige of the Administration, but because they are not at present the proper approach for the solution of the enormous problem

which faces the Government and the people at present moment."

Referring to rationing schemes, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas says, "The success of rationing in Burma is no index of its suitability here. It is clear that in Britain the spade work for the system of rationing had been completed and the administrative machinery perfected nearly months before the outbreak of the present war. The U. K. Government had accumulated stocks of foodgrains and has been paying huge subsidies for the Food Department. All these desiderata are admittedly absent in India. My colleagues are able to recommend rationing only in respect of urban areas with a population of a lakh or more, which means that over 90 per cent of the people are excluded from what purports to be a scheme of fair, equitable and effective distribution. There is a serious danger that in a country, which has been economically lying on the

border lines of subsistence, rationing calculations may not only go astray but may actually have the effect of rendering the rural areas destitute and utterly helpless and driving the rural population to the towns, as had been recently happening in Calcutta. The problem is primarily and predominantly one of supplies, and then of effectively distributing them."

Dealing with "Grow More Food" suggestions in the Report, Sir Purshotamdas says: "All these recommendations of the Committee are really long-term suggestions and however urgent and desirable in themselves, will neither affect the existing situation nor yield any immediate result. I must, however, stress the fundamental importance of the transport machinery of the country such as it is, road, water or rail. Next to procurement, quick and efficient transport without "baksheesh" is of the greatest importance.



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THE COMMISSIONER WAR SAVINGS MOVEMENT
P. O. BOX 541

(Mis. 116. 9-9-43—)