

THE COOPERATOR

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COMMENTARY

THE JAFFNA EXHIBITION 1967

One of the writers in the *Souvenir* of the Jaffna Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, 1967 refers to the dual purpose of an exhibition of this nature—an educational value in spreading technical knowledge and a psychological value in making people development conscious. With its wide range of exhibits, the well prepared leaflets that were distributed to the viewers, and the *Souvenir* itself with articles of permanent value, the Exhibition has served its purpose in considerable measure. A few reflections on the Exhibition may, however, be useful in planning future exhibitions.

In passing, it was such a pity that the Jaffna Exhibition was taken little notice of in the national newspapers, even the opening day's proceedings not being reported. Not that sections of the Colombo Press do not devote space to 'news from the North', but much of it consists of distortions which appear to stem from a strategy of selection-cum-suppression. We congratulate the *Eelanadu* on publishing a special supplement to mark the opening of the Exhibition.

The organizers of the Exhibition owe it to the ordinary man to explain the absence of the Tamil language at the opening function of such an Exhibition in the Northern Capital. Minister M. D. H. Jayawardene's inspiring exhortation to the 'farming population of Jaffna' would not have reached his intended audience because no arrangement was made to interpret his English speech into Tamil. Even some of the exhibits did not carry their titles in Tamil, while in many others the Tamil sub-titles seemed to be an after-thought. It is not merely that citizens are entitled to have their language used; the message of an agricultural exhibition must reach the farmers.

Every exhibition in Ceylon serves as a reminder to us of the country's industrial underdevelopment. Sometimes the organizers do not even make the effort to assemble what little there is to show of local industrial products; they would rather provide a shop window for the more impressive imported articles and collect a tidy rent for the stall space. In contrast to this lack of patriotic urge, we remember walking through miles of exhibits all marked 'made in India' in the 'India 1958' exposition in New Delhi. In the present Exhibition, while the Cement Corporation proudly displayed their wares, and locally produced shoes and textiles made an impressive show, most rural industries and home-and-kitchen gadgets tended to look poor relations in the manner of their showing. Even the editors of the *Souvenir* have overlooked the fact that this was, and appropriately too, an Agriculture-cum-Industry show.

A weakness of much of our civic life (and the orientation of the national radio and the press too) is that it is state-centred and not people-centred. An agricultural exhibition is no exception to this pattern set in colonial times. It is time that an exhibition of farming was looked upon as one by farmers, for farmers. It would indeed be a contribution to the art of government if the planning of an exhibition, the manning of the stalls and the participation in connected seminars were efforts in which outstanding farmers had the major share; it would be an inspiring thing to see a successful farmer declare the show open before an assembly which included members of parliament and public officers. It is by this change in our ways of doing things that we can hope to create a development-conscious and democracy-conscious people in our dear motherland.

Shot in the Arm For Credit Societies

Cooperative Credit Societies are to be given a much-needed shot in the arm.

Credit Societies which were once the backbone of the Movement had become almost defunct with the advent of the CAP&S Societies and later the Multipurpose Cooperative Societies. Following representations made by the Northern Division Cooperative Federation, Mr. Palitha Weeraman former CCD&RCS, has drawn up a scheme to inject new life into Credit Societies, so that the 'Credit Movement can come back into its own as a self-reliant movement and be a beacon-light to the rest of the cooperative fold in Ceylon, working slowly but surely within the pure cooperative framework.' Under this scheme, the by-laws will be amended to ensure that "borrowing is done only from Credit Societies and thereafter meeting all the credit requirements of a member so that he may buy all the fertilizer etc. required by him from the local MPCS and engage in full-scale cultivation without

any limit to his borrowing power except what is fixed for him by his society in general meeting."

Mr. Weeraman is confident that there will be no difficulty in recovering the loans given, (the societies being of unlimited liability) provided there is supervision of the use of the credit. To carry out this supervision, the NDCF and the Gampaha District Union

(the two areas which will experiment with this scheme) have been empowered to employ Supervisors. The Jaffna District (covered by the ND CF) and the Gampaha Division (covered by the Negombo—Gampaha District Union) have been chosen to experiment with this scheme because both have "a good coterie of active Credit Societies and Cooperative leaders."

Message from Miss Margaret Digby

We are glad to reproduce this message from the internationally-renowned Cooperator, Miss Margaret Digby addressed to the Hon. Secretary, N.D.C.F. Jaffna

Dear Cooperator,

I am very pleased to send you this message of Cooperative fellowship and goodwill from distant Canada.

I had the pleasure of meeting Messrs. P. Govindaswamy and M. W. B. de Fonseka at the Training Course of which I was in charge at the Memorial University. They contributed immensely to make the course a success. I was happy to meet these officers from Ceylon—a country with which I have been closely associated on my visits in the past.

I am happy that you have expanded the activities of the Federation. The Itinerant Book-keepers Service is a splendid idea. I am glad that this has been introduced Island-wide by the District Unions with the help of the Dept. of Cooperative Development.

I am also glad that you have brought out the *Cooperator* in addition to your *Ikkia Theepam*, the Tamil journal;

this is very vital for the progress of the movement. I hope all the cooperative organisations will help you to keep it in circulation. I learnt that you have introduced additional courses into the training at the Jaffna Coop. Training School. I wish that your contribution to the cause of member-education and the training of employees would make the Movement both a virile and independent one.

I send you my blessings on the inauguration of a new Cooperative Secretariat, which I am told would see the light of day before the end of the year.

I wish you and the co-operators of the North, whose hospitality I have had occasion to enjoy in the not too distant past, many years of progress. May the Ceylon Movement grow from strength to strength and take its fair share in the national development of the Island.

Yours in Coop. Service,
(Sgd.) Margaret Digby.

Memorial University,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Our Man in Newfoundland

Historic Newfoundland is the cradle of white civilization in North America, writes Mr. P. Govindaswamy, Actg. Principal Cooperative Training School, Jaffna, now in Canada on a C-Plan Scholarship. Recalling its history, he says "It was the first of Britain's overseas colonies. John Cabot planted the flag of England here in the name of King Henry VII. It was at Cabot Tower on Signal Hill, St. John's, that Guglielmo Marconi received the first wireless signals across the Atlantic on December 12th 1901. In recent times, it was in the placid harbour of Argentina that Roosevelt and Churchill drafted the terms of the Atlantic Charter. Many of the severest battles of France and England were fought for supremacy over Newfoundland. The Seven Years War finally decided the fate of Newfoundland."

Pointing out that the sea enters intimately into the life of the Newfoundlanders, Mr. Govindaswamy describes it as calling out to the people over a 1000 miles of surf-washed coastline. He continues "Further North is Labrador—wild, ruthless, bare and strong. It is as the Great Ice Era left it thousands and thousands of years ago. In such a setting Memorial University has opened its portals to the 29 students from 17 countries. We have finished the first phase of our training here under the tutorship of Miss M. Digby, the world-famous cooperator. Memorial University is the only one of its kind that gives free educa-

tion and a stipend of £100 per student who enters its halls of education. The city of St. John's is the capital of Newfoundland. It is a thriving city. You would be glad to know that our overseas group has elected a Students Council here to function during the 12 weeks we are to be at St. John's. The office-bearers are: Messrs. P. Govindaswamy (Ceylon) President, Justo Montemayer (Philippines) Vice-President, Henry Link (British Honduras) Secretary, Miss Felicia Chinery (Ghana) Treasurer. The Committee members are: Messrs. Deji Faghenro (Nigeria), Gowi Sampson (Kenya) and Even Bradley (British Honduras). Our group has been complimented as being one of the best groups that has passed through here, by Mr. Donald Snowdon—Director of Extension Services at Memorial University. Miss Edna Baird, our Coordinator, is working untiringly to make our course and stay here eventful and useful. We have been

entertained to parties by some families, true to Canadian tradition. We have visited two fishing plants. We were entertained to a dance by a community at St. Shotts—pioneer Irish Settlers. Lord Taylor gave us an invitation to the Centennial Musical at the Holy Heart of Mary Auditorium." Mr. Govindaswamy will be sending us more reports later.

The Only Salvation

Mr. J. F. Sigmaringam, President Jaffna Harbour Services Union Ltd. dwelt on the need to celebrate Cooperative Day, at the Coop Day celebrations of the Jaffna Harbour Services Union. He stressed that Cooperation was their only salvation. Mr. T. Shanmugarajah HQI and Mr. A. I. Aloysius, Cooperative Inspector, also spoke.

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A Browser's Diary

Angels and Devils

One of the attitudes that was insinuated into our minds in our school days was that the white race—particularly the Anglo-Saxons—were angels and that the rest of humanity were devils. All virtue dwelt in the former, while corruption, deceit, sexual incontinence and every other sin in the calendar had their habitation in the bosoms of those outside the pale. Our text books were written by Anglo-Saxons and sang their glories and in passing denigrated us and others like us. By and large our teachers also had grown up under the same assumptions and but for an occasional dissentient, took little trouble to disabuse our minds. Apart from overt efforts to exalt the moral and spiritual superiority of the white man, this incorruptible virtue of the white races was the presupposition that permeated the thought and belief of the times. Younger people—say of thirty and below—may regard this as incredible, except for the fact that the hangover from this state of affairs can be sensed even today in the speech and actions of many who have not yet unlearned the lessons they learned at their mothers' knees and in their schools. Even today it is standard practice to compare the actual shortcomings of our institutions and the peccadilloes of our politicians with an idealized picture of what is said to obtain in Britain.

Recently I have been dipping into two books which have only confirmed my belief that English public men are not such paragons of civic virtue and English institutions are not such models of integrity. Even in England merit does not seem able to achieve its goals without lobbying and wire-pulling. The picture that Randolph Churchill paints of his father as a young man ambitious to lay the foundations of a career does not differ in essentials from that of other go-getters that we know. His mother, his aristocratic kin and connexions were assiduously exploited by Winston Churchill in his early efforts to rise to eminence. If he wanted to get an appointment in the North West Frontier, a trantic letter would be sent to his mother to see so and so or get some other V.I.P. to do the needful. When he wanted to take part in the fighting in the Sudan and Kitchener who was in command showed no enthusiasm, Churchill's friends and relatives managed to get him there, Kitchener or no Kitchener. When he wanted to get his articles from the various war fronts to be published, Lady Randolph would see influential editors and proprietors and open the pages of leading newspapers to young Winston's juvenilia. Prime Ministers and other Ministers, Army Commanders, ecclesiastical dignitaries and newspaper tycoons were all there to help forward young Churchill's march to pomp and power. Family connexions, influence peddling, lobbying all form part of the picture. To say

this does not mean that they alone sufficed to produce the Titan who saved England in her hour of mortal peril. But one may be permitted to wonder whether without these adventitious advantages how far Churchill would have climbed. It is said that you cannot keep down a good man. Probably it is truer to say "You cannot keep down an influential man".

A.J.P. Taylor's *English History: 1914—1945* is among other things a mine of information about shady deals and crooked practices of some well-known British politicians. One refreshing element in this book is that neither the biographer nor the subject of the biography makes any effort to conceal or play down these facets of the Churchill saga. Citations from diaries, letters etc. are all there and it is quite a contrast to biographies and histories that appear in Ceylon and India. I have read quite a few of both kinds of books in English and Tamil. The biographies are hagiographies—lives of saints. The histories are exercises in chauvinism.

When Bonar Law resigned, he made no recommendation to the king about who should be asked to form the next government. The general expectation was that Lord Curzon would be the next premier. But Stanley Baldwin became premier. Taylor adduces evidence to show that a friend of Baldwin with or without Baldwin's prompting probably misled the king into believing that Baldwin was Bonar Law's choice. Anyway, Baldwin did not forget his friend when he formed his government.

Lloyd George, architect of Britain's triumph in World War I was utterly devoid of scruples. He amassed a personal fortune by selling honours. It was, and probably is, accepted practice for British political parties to receive generous gifts to party funds by conferring honours on rich people. Whether Labour—one time pledged to the abolition of the House of Lords—does so I do not know. But in Lloyd George's day, both the Liberals and the Conservative parties did use this device for raising money for the party. But in Lloyd George's case the money went into a fund known as the Lloyd George Fund which was under Lloyd George's personal control. There is a story—not found in Taylor—of a South African millionaire who had made his millions during the war through notorious and sharp practice. He had paid a fat cheque for an honour. But his evil reputation was so well-known that the king—theoretically the fountain of honour—demurred to Lloyd George's urgings and Lloyd George had regretfully to return the cheque. When the cheque was returned the would-be buyer of honour pulled out his cheque book and was going to write out a cheque for a larger amount under the impression that the price he had paid was not enough. Lloyd George is believed to have made six million pounds in this manner. Since this happened when he was premier



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The Backbone of the Movement

Credit Societies were the backbone of the Cooperative movement, declared Mr. R. Rajaratnam, President NDCF speaking at a Conference of Credit Societies, summoned to discuss the reorganisation of Credit Societies. He went on to say that unfortunately with the advent of Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Credit Societies began to languish. All this time circumstances did not favour the revival of credit Societies. Now the hour had come to inject new life into these societies. He was certain that with the revival of Credit Societies, the Cooperative Movement would get a new lease of life.

Mr. M. Mathibalasingham ACCD Jaffna East explained how the by-laws should be amended to make Credit Societies fit into the new scheme of Agricultural Credit.

of the Conservative—Liberal coalition, he very honourably gave half the takings to the Conservatives.

Of course I have selected from the books the bits that reinforce my thesis. The road to power is everywhere the same. Bribery of various sorts, pressures, wire pulling, intrigue, betrayal of friends, abandonment of principles are all occupational diseases of politicians everywhere.

— S. H. P.

Encouraging Sign

It is encouraging to see young girls in conservative Jaffna coming forward to settle down in Colonisation Schemes, said Mr. Vernon Abeysekera, Government Agent Jaffna, when he declared open the Mirusuvi Colonisation Scheme for girls. Explaining the benefits of such Schemes, Mr. Abeysekera said that they were two-fold: one, it would help to reduce the shortage of subsidiary foodstuffs and conserve foreign exchange; secondly, some fami-

lies would be able to raise their living standards.

Mr. J. M. Sabaratnam, Additional Govt. Agent, said that Jaffna could be proud that the Mirusuvi Colonisation Scheme for Girls was the first of its kind in Ceylon. He added that more Colonisation Schemes for Educated Youth would be opened in the course of the year: this would help to ease the unemployment problem. Mr. T. Murugesampillai, A. G. A. Jaffna, Mr. S. Sithamparapillai, D.R.O. and Mr. K. N. Jayaseelan, D. A. E.O. also spoke.

The first batch of colonists consists of fifty girls.

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As I See It — by Jay

THE PERILS OF BEING UBIQUITOUS

Like the Jew, the Jaffna man has somehow become universally hated. From Tirukovil to Trincomalee, from Mullaitivu to Mannar, there is a ground-swell of resentment against the Jaffna man. The 'national' press has not been slow to cash in on the situation: it keeps on stoking the fires, hoping to keep the Tamil community split apart for ever. This same press of course never mentions the frictions between the up-country Sinhalese and the low-country Sinhalese. They would like us to believe that it is only the Tamil community which is divided and that the Jaffna man is ruthlessly exploiting his Tamil brethren. While doubtless the press is responsible for this distorted image, there's no denying that it does reflect, to some extent, popular feeling on the subject.

When the wave of anti-Jaffna feeling first hit me, my blood boiled. But now that anger is spent, I shall try to look at the problem detachedly. We must remember that this is a problem not peculiar only to the Tamils or to Ceylon: it is one which we encounter in different forms everywhere. I suppose it goes back to the time when the villager regarded every outsider with suspicion, if not hostility. We may have become more sophisticated but deep down in every one of us the seeds of parochialism lie buried, waiting to sprout.

Like the Jew, the Jaffna man is hated both for his ubiquitousness and his success. The normal human tendency to be envious of other people's wealth is reinforced in this case by the fact that the successful people are those with no local roots.

Having served for a while in the Eastern Province, I feel that this problem is largely a middle-class one, though the hostility and resentment have seeped downwards and infected

the ordinary folk. The middle classes understandably resent the fact that the top jobs are held by Jaffna men while the ordinary man is naturally bitter that even a peon's job is held by an outsider. There may be some truth in the charge that this is due to a little judicious manipulation but, by and large, it is untrue. Tired of wresting a living from an arid land, the Jaffna man turned to Government employment, almost making that his chief industry. Served well by a chain of efficiently-run denominational schools, he had a flying start, leaving all his competitors far behind. Thus it came about that the Jaffna man was able to secure the plums of office. This imbalance is the result of history, not of a conspiracy.

There's another interesting aspect to this problem. One finds that those who most violently denounce the Jaffna man are either those Jaffna men who have got 'stuck to the mat' (as the saying goes) or the descendants of such men: it is only to be expected that half-breeds will try to live down their ancestry. When one realises that almost every home in the Eastern Province and other areas has a Jaffna skeleton in its cupboard, one can understand how the problem has become so widespread.

I should not like to suggest that the Jaffna man is entirely blameless in the matter. We must regretfully admit that some of our representatives have been tactless in their dealings with the local people, have been more concerned with feathering their own nests than with carrying out their duties and have been stand-offish and superior in their attitudes. It is these things coupled with economic factors and cultural differences that have brought down on the Jaffna man all this odium. It seems that the only way he can live down his reputation is to become less ubiquitous and less successful.

Challenges to Cooperative Sector

With the growing recognition of cooperation as "an instrument of democratic planning, combining initiative, mutual benefit and social purpose," its responsibilities have also increased in an equal measure and the movement is confronted with obstacles from within and without. If the movement is to discharge the onerous duties assigned to it and strive to achieve the twin goals of economic development and social solidarity, it has to deal with the hurdles in a determined manner. Therefore, it will be appropriate to examine the challenges, faced by the movement in independent India.

I

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

(i) Weak Structure

The structure of cooperative movement is uniform in almost all the States as it was initiated by Government agency. Its growth has been uneven since its inception. As early as 1915, the MacLagan Committee had observed: Local conditions varied so widely that progress was by no means uniform and in different regions very different types of societies began to make their appearance." Even now the conditions are not very different. The qualitative aspect has been sacrificed for the quantitative growth. Societies with small working capital, having lofty ideals of catering to all the needs of the members met with failure at the rock of

weeding out those societies from the garden of the cooperative movement so that healthy ones might grow and prosper well.

(ii) Lack of Internal Resources

Even though "thrift must precede credit" is the watchword of all cooperative institutions, the cooperatives, have not been able to tap deposits from members and non-members. The poverty and widespread indebtedness of members compelled them to be borrowers of the society and not depositors. Failure of the society to create confidence among non-members has resulted in the well-to-do people seldom depositing their surplus money in the societies. The competition in the field of attracting deposits by the commercial banks by offering higher rates of interest on the one hand and by Government to get deposits under the Small Savings Scheme and floating of loans on the other, has kept the societies off the field. Consequently, they have become parasites on Government and the Reserve Bank of India for meeting their credit needs. This phenomenon is a sad feature for the Indian cooperative movement. Even the present policy of extending the "Deposit Insurance Scheme" to the cooperative banking institutions is not likely to improve the position in the near future, unless there is an overall reorganisation in the

to overcome them.

(v) Absence of Economic and Operational Viability

The primary credit societies converted into service cooperative societies are the bed-rock of the edifice of all cooperative institutions. But they are weak structurally, operationally and financially. Paucity of resources, inefficient management coupled with the apathy of the members in the affairs of societies, make their existence only theoretical. They function only till the managerial subsidy provided by Government lasts. Afterwards they revert to moribund stage. The meagre financial position impedes them to appoint trained personnel. Therefore, the existing policy of Government to give the subsidy for a period of 3 years needs modification. It should be given on a tapering basis for a period of 5 years as recommended by Mehta Committee.

(vi) Impediments of Rules and Regulations

The cooperative societies are caught up in the neck of the rules and regulations imposed from above i.e. by the Department of Cooperation. They are allowed to function only within the realm earmarked by the Registrar. Even though in theory they are autonomous units, their operations are bridled by the executive instructions and guidance emanating from the cooperative department. Therefore, they have no discretion in meeting the needs of the members even when they are in a position to do so. This is an unhealthy state of affairs in the Indian cooperative movement. The opinions of the Rural Credit Survey Committee that co-operation is "over administered and underfinanced" still holds good.

The Cooperative Act passed over half a century ago still governs the cooperative societies which have now more enormous functions in the changed circumstances and even assigned increasing responsibilities in the economic reconstruction and social changes in our country. This has resulted in placing impediments in the way of cooperative societies in performing their functions in consonance with the aspirations of the people to achieve the accepted goal of Cooperative Commonwealth.

Even though in some of the States, new cooperative societies acts have been enacted in accordance with the model act framed by the Cooperative Law Committee of 1956, they have only strengthened the hands of the Registrar of cooperative societies and fettered the cooperative societies further. The National Development Council, in its policy Resolution of 1958, suggested "simplification of the existing laws, rules and procedures relating to cooperative societies so that they could function freely and organise their work and activities without excessive official interferences and red tape." This remains on paper in most of the States. It is for the Government and the cooperators to come to an understanding as to whether

(Continued on page 6)

U. B. PANIKKER

realities. Despite the Governmental aid in the form of participation in the share capital and in the form of working capital, the financial position of the societies, especially at the primary level, has not shown any appreciable strength.

Rural Credit Survey Committee: Another structural weakness as especially reported by the Rural Credit Survey Committee is "its impracticability in attempting to combine the very weak in competition with the very strong and expect them by themselves to create conditions firstly for their emancipation from the interests which oppose them and secondly from their social and economic development in the context of severe disadvantages historically imposed on them by the structure of the movement.

Mirdha Committee: The attempts made to revitalize the weak societies by amalgamating them with neighbouring ones or to regenerate them by enrolling fresh members have not made much headway. Spurious societies availing of all technical and financial aids supplied by Government are not uncommon. The prestige of cooperative movement as a whole has been lowered in the eyes of the public by the unchecked and undesirable activities of these societies. It is heartening to note that the Government of India is actively considering ways and means of implementing the recommendations of the Mirdha Committee which has recently made various suggestions for

structure and policy of the cooperative movement.

(iii) Credit Dominated

Started as a credit movement it remains so despite the pronounced policy about enlargement and ramifications of its functions. Even though a shift in emphasis from credit to service is apparently noticeable in the working of societies and even though there has been a rapid quantitative expansion of cooperative societies in our country during the period from 1951 to 1964, they are largely credit dominated.

(iv) Penetration into Other Fields

Only in recent times, the movement has penetrated into other fields of economic activity, viz., in marketing, processing and other allied fields. In the processing of sugarcane, the achievement of cooperative societies is marvellous and astonishing within the short span of 10 years. 48 cooperative sugar factories (in production) were able to produce more than 25 per cent of the total sugar output of our country. With the existing policy of Government to give licenses only for sugar crushing to cooperatives, the cooperative sugar factories would do a better job in course of time. In other fields, there is no appreciable progress despite technical and financial aid rendered by the Government. It is worthwhile for the Planning Commission and the non-official cooperative bodies to investigate the reasons for this pathological state of affairs and suggest measures

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WHY I AM A COOPERATOR

The First Cooperative Credit Society in my area was formed in 1918 for the Korale, with the Korale Mudaliyar as the President and his trustworthy members were the Village Headman, some Teachers and a few others of the area. (I was 17 yrs. of age at the time).

Credit taken was used by members, mostly for re-lending at a higher rate of interest or for leasing out coconut trees from credit-needy people. This society did more damage than good and was liquidated in 1928.

At this time there were Pawn Brokers, big money lenders, and traders whose aim was to make money charging a high rate of interest ranging from 18% to 60% depending on the individuals' desperate needs.



By

G. E. DE Z. SIRIWARDENA
President, Negombo-Gampaha C. D. Union

movement was a way of life—Pooling their resources to avoid being exploited as well as not exploiting others on getting easy credit.

Credit Societies alone had not solved the problem of saving the small coconut land owner from being exploited. He picks three good crops and three lean crops per year. Fresh nuts sold immediately after the pick fetches a low price. He has to keep the pick for 3 weeks for seasoning to get a better price. Here again the trader is ready to advance money or buy over the fresh crop. The Credit Societies Union in late 1940 invited the small-holder members of credit societies for a lecture on the benefits of a Coconut Producers' Coop Society. The Dunagaha Coconut Producers' Coop Society was organised on this day with 18 members owning 360 acres. This society was registered on 20-12-40, the same day that the Sandalankawa CPCS was registered. Our Reg. No. is 1033 and theirs 1034. Both societies are doing equally well.

The Coop Credit Societies in this area are over 25 yrs. old now. They had been neglected since the C. Consumer movement was started in 1942. There is no problem of Share defaults in these societies. The IMCL of three societies is

Satutory Reserve—Rs. 222,492/-.

Other Reserves—Rs. 90,355/-
Profits carried over—Rs. 129,296/-.

Rebate paid to Share Holders—Rs. 498,796/-.

Crop Advance to Members—Rs. 219,572/-.

Land Redemption Loans (outstanding)—Rs. 18,302/-.

Out of the Profits the Society has put up a new D.C. Factory costing Rs. 2 lakhs. Value of land and buildings is over Rs. 10 lakhs.

We have three Tractors with Trailers to collect estate nuts. Depreciated value of 2 is Rs. 2-00.

We have two 3 Ton Lorries to do the Colombo Transport.

The first D.C. Factory needs 40,000 'nuts a day. We work 5 days a week.

The second new D.C. Factory will need 30,000 'nuts a day.

Our monthly paid staff is 20. Manager and two others are provided with quarters.

The Staff is given an yearly bonus of one month's salary.

The Labour strength is 225. 95% of the work is on piece-rate basis.

They are paid an yearly bonus of -/10 to -/15 cts. additional wage per working

day, according to the profits made.

Labour Quarters are provided for 8 families of Skilled Labour.

The Office Staff with the Office Staff of the Coop. Textile Societies Union and MP CS Union have formed a Coop Credit Society. The IMCL is 5 times the salary of a member with a Ceiling of Rs. 1,500/-. Loans repayable in 2 years taken from the Colombo Coop Provincial Bank.

The labourer can get an advance from the society up to Rs. 25/- to be repaid out of wages. A Labour Benevolent Fund is built up by yearly contributions from the profits. A labourer who is in service for one year and over is entitled to a contribution up to a limit of Rs. 50/- in case the labourer or a member of his household fall ill or if there is a bereavement in the family.

Transformed

With a small beginning in 1931 in a backward village, I find that the whole place is transformed into a prosperous place. The whole place is economically developed through Cooperative Movement. The Coop Credit Societies, Coconut Society, Coop Textile Societies and Union, MP CS Union and societies, a large

CAP & S Society with over 800 members, the Carpentry society etc. All these are round about my residence. Three Textile Power Loom Factories have been built by the CTSS Union and two more by the Siyane Korale CTS Union, all within my District Union Area will come into production soon. This District Coop Union is the largest in the Country with 9 MP CS Unions, 3 C Textile S Unions, one Coir Societies Union, a Cooperative Society and in all 1051 Coop Societies with two Coop Training Centres.

I have been a Director of the Colombo Coop Provincial Bank since 1936 with a break of one year. I have known the Coop leaders of the country from the early thirties when we all meet in Kandy for the annual Coop Conference during the August Perehara Season. I have met the leading Cooperators of the ICA and some of the ILO at International Conferences in Europe and in India. This is the most Democratic movement embracing the whole world without Political, Religious, Colour, Caste or Creed barriers.

I and my associates of this area need the Coop Movement and I feel the Coop Movement needs me. AS SUCH I AM A COOPERATOR.

A NEW METHOD FOR SUPPRESSING PAIN

Surgeons have come by a new method of anaesthesia. It has been developed at the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences' Vishnevsky Institute of Surgery. Its originators have named it neuroleptoanalgesia.

This is what Professor Tigran Darbinian, D.M., who has supervised the work on the new method in the Institute's anaesthesiology laboratory, has told this correspondent.

"At present the surgeon cannot possibly do without anaesthesia. This is why anaesthesiologists never stop looking for better and safer anaesthetics. The progress in this field has been especially rapid during the past decade in the wake of advances in surgery in general and in chest surgery in

pheltonil, a powerful pain-suppressor, is 80 times as efficient as morphine, one of the strongest narcotics. When used alone, it produces a side-effect, handicapped breathing, which can be eliminated by the artificial ventilation of the lungs.

"When put together, however, the two produce striking effects. With them, we no longer have to use narcotics toxic for the human organism. This is why anaesthetists have eagerly turned to the new method. After a dose of thalmonal (a mixture of dehydrosopyridol and pheltonil) is administered intravenously, use is made of drugs causing the muscles to relax, and artificial respiration is applied. As the operation progresses, repeated doses of thalmonal are introduced every 30 to 40 minutes, so as to keep the patient sufficiently 'under'.

"Using the new method, the surgeon can undertake any operation, however involved

it may be, including operations on the heart, lungs and acesophagus.

"Another advantage of the new method is that the patient is free from the suffering when narcosis is letting him off, so common with other methods. Simply, the patient keeps feeling no pain for five or six hours more, and additional administration of analgetics is made redundant."

"Neuroleptoanalgesia has already been used in 120 operations at the Vishnevsky Institute", concluded Darbinian. "The results are favourable. We have noted some special effects that it has on external breathing. To prevent an increase in bronchial resistance, use is made of euphilline and labyrine which dilate the coronary blood vessels of the heart and cause the muscles of the bronchi to relax."

It may be added that the new method does not affect the liver, kidneys, lungs or heart. (APN)

By
Friedrich Sabitov

particular. Much of the equipment in any surgical clinic is used for anaesthesia in operations. Unfortunately anaesthetic facilities are rather involved and it usually takes several persons to run them.

"The new method is both simple and effective. It will, I think, find wide use in surgery and reanimation alike.

"A few words about the chemicals used in the new method. The new anaesthetic is a combination of neuroplegic and analgetic substances which are diametrically opposite in their effect on the human organism and would therefore seem to be incompatible. For example, dehydrosopyridol is a sedative causing the patient to be indifferent to what surrounds him. It produces no side-effects so common with other neuroplegic substances. In contrast to it, the analgetic

Biggest exploitation was from the small-holders who were given credit, and in lieu of interest the entire crop was collected till the loan was settled. A more liberal money lender would pay half market rate for the coconuts. At the time of the settlement of the loan, there was litigation, serious quarrels and much displeasure among parties.

In my village at Kelapitimala, such a quarrel ended in a young man getting 10 yrs. jail for attempted murder. People saw the danger in borrowing from the land hungry Money Lender.

At this time I had come to reside in the village and I was invited to help the people in their difficulties. I organised the first Coop Credit Society in my village, in August 1931, restricting the area of operation to a single village. This was a success from the start and was registered in 8 months after the 20 members had understood the By-laws and the Rules. Adjoining villages sought my help to open Coop Credit Societies of unlimited liability. By 1934 I was appointed the Hony. Supervisor of Credit Societies. In 1936 the Coop Credit Societies Union was formed with the 20 societies so organised. The Pawn Brokers who were charging an interest of 3 to 5 cts. per rupee per month were unable to compete with these Coop Credit Societies that charge only one cent per rupee per month and this also on the amount due only. By 1936 most of the Pawn Brokers had closed shop in this area.

A Way of Life

The members had understood that the Coop Credit

Rs. 5,000/- for medium term loans repayable in 5 years. Of another the IMCL is Rs. 2,500/- repayable in 3 yrs. The IMCL of this society 25 yrs. ago was only Rs. 10/-. Medium loans are given on the mortgage of property. Other CC Societies in the area have IMCLs ranging from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1,000/- repayable in 12 months. The rate of interest is 9%.

The area of operation of the coconut society covers all the areas of operation of Credit societies. Its activities include lending other than manufacture and sale of coconut products. It helped many small-holders to redeem unfair agreements to supply nuts to traders by joining as members of this society. Redemption of Mortgage Loans were also undertaken. Loans for replanting, manuring and improvement of land were also given.

Though the Dunagaha CP CS Ltd. was formed in 1940, it became a big success with the opening of the Desiccated Coconut and Oil Milling Factories in early 1948. Marawila, Dunagaha, Sandalankawa, Kurunegale and Mutugala were the first five Coconut Producers' Coop Societies to put up these factories in 1948. The last two failed and the first three are a big success. Dunagaha was the first society to settle the Govt. Loan of Rs. 133,000/- within the 3rd year. Its present position can be seen from the following figures:—

Membership—1,012 with an acreage of 8,447.

Nearly 90% are small holders owning less than 5 acres.

Paid up Shares—(Rs. 20/- per acre)—Rs. 177,724/-.

The First Cooperative Hospital in the East

I recently visited the Moolai Cooperative Hospital which has been described as the first of its kind in the East (a member of the Soulbury Commission said, on his visit in 1945, that it was probably the only one of its kind in the world: this was later confirmed by the Expert on Cooperative Adult Education attached to the ILO, who visited the Hospital in 1952 and made an entry in the Visitors' Book that to him, it was a great inspiration to see a Hospital organised on the basis of a cooperative so-

made a Net Profit of Rs. 32,143-37 cts. and the Balance Profits had swelled to Rs. 69,585-80 cts. Today it operates on its own funds. All this, despite the fact that the Hospital had given free treatment to the needy and the staff (amounting to Rs. 12,112-70 cts.) and granted concessions to poor patients (amounting to Rs. 8,528-40 cts.) It receives an annual government grant of Rs. 15,000/- for maintenance and free treatment.

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ciety and that it is one of the most interesting cooperative experiments he had ever seen). Going round the hospital I was struck by a sense of cosiness, of quiet intimacy which the hospital seemed to exude. It had none of that frightening, clinical impersonality so characteristic of modern hospitals. I don't mean that Moolai has thrown all the rules of hygiene overboard. Far from it. The hospital is as scrupulously clean as one would wish it to be but it yet retains the appearance of a home from home.

The Moolai Cooperative Hospital Society Ltd. was formed in 1935: the idea of a Cooperative Society to provide medical facilities originated with some pensioners who had returned from Malaya, and some local men. In February 1935, a handful of these men met together to discuss the idea and resolved provisionally to start first a dispensary and run it with the services of a doctor who had just then retired from the Malayan Medical Service and was willing to give his services free for some time. Two retired Malayan Apothecaries also volunteered to give their services free. In June 1935, a General Meeting was held which confirmed the original decision provisionally made at the informal meeting of February 1935. The Dispensary was opened on October 24th, 1935 at Tholpuram, and the society was registered on April 4th 1936. Perhaps the pioneers little dreamt that they were making history, but so it has turned out to be.

At the first meeting held in 1935, the number of members enrolled was 32. The number had increased to 119 at the time of registration in 1936. Today, there are 3175 members (it is noteworthy that half the members of the staff are also members of the society). Membership is open to persons resident in Vaddukoddai Parish, Chankanai Parish, Pandaterruppu and Karainagar.

A dispensary which was started with a loan of Rs. 750/- has now blossomed into a full-fledged modern hospital, with a modern Operating Theatre, a modern Labour Room and a Laboratory. There are also quarters for 3 Medical Officers, nurses and for the conservancy labourers. A building to house the X-ray plant has already been put up and an X-ray plant will be purchased soon. There is also a new Administrative Block. In 1965, the Moolai Hospital

Homely Touch

On an average, about 150 patients receive OPD treatment daily. The day I visited the hospital there were 117 indoor patients. I was told that for the year ending 30-4-66, there had been 5,606 indoor patients and 48,984 patients had received treatment at the OPD. Altogether there are 150 beds and there is no question of putting patients on the floor. There are 9 Cottage Wards and 6 Open Wards. The charges are very modest and vary from 50 cts. a day (for the Open Wards) to Rs. 5/- for rooms. Till 9 p.m. people can visit the patients. The Hospital does not provide

meals to the patients but there are kitchens for their use and that of the relatives who attend on them. There is also a Canteen which caters both to the patients and the staff—they are able to purchase their requirements at reasonable rates. This 'homely' touch is a striking feature. Modern hospitals have a very forbidding air about them. But Moolai Hospital, by adapting itself to traditional ways, customs and habits, not only retains an air of cosiness but also, psychologically speaking, helps the patients to recover

faster. Since the late Dr. Albert Schweitzer followed the same methods at his famous hospital at Lambarene, it seems that Moolai is in good company despite what the purists say.

Like almost all hospitals today, Moolai too has the problem of over-crowding on its hands. More wards have to be put up but the snag is that it's difficult to get land for extensions, as land values have shot up. Funds are now being collected to build a ward in memory of Dr. M. O. Chacko

who was Chief Medical Officer from 1943-63.

Another problem facing the Hospital is the Customs duties it has to pay on commodore, urinals, bed pans etc. The authorities feel that this should be waived, as it's proving an unnecessary burden.

Imitation, they say, is the best form of flattery. Moolai can take pride in the fact that it has had many imitators: today there are Cooperative Hospitals in several parts of the island but Moolai yet retains its pre-eminence.



DEVELOPING ISRAEL

Through 1948, the population of Israel averaged about 650,000, at present it is over 2½ million. Within 17 years, over 1 million immigrants were absorbed. The majority of inhabitants consist not of those who established the State, but of newcomers and of those born after the establishment. An increase of this magnitude is bound to have a sweeping effect on the entire economic fabric and on current economic processes of the country. Demographic growth of Israel, is a distinctive and decisive feature of the country's economics, mainly because the people arriving in Israel become consumers before they can be integrated economically and take part actively in the

adopted languages, sometimes very apart in their cultural level into a single ethnic and national entity.

Yet, the process of integration of sociological and psychological adjustment was unparalleled.

Spectacular

The rise in the educational levels within the relatively short period was most spectacular. The development of University education was still more spectacular, as expressed particularly through the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the University was inaugurated on the 24th of July 1918 by Dr. Chaim Weizmann. The event was one of deep significance for the Jewish people.

provide a centre from which the Jewish people could make its own specific contributions to universal knowledge.

The idea steadily gained ground with the spread of anti-Semitism in many parts of the world. By the beginning of the 20th century Jewish students were barred by law, from some of the European Universities, and in some, their admission was being severely curtailed. Normal University careers were becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible for Jewish scholars. Such restrictions on educational opportunity by political measures strengthened the conviction that the establishment of a Jewish University should not be delayed.

The Zionist Congress, as an organisation propounded a plan for the University; a number of distinguished Jewish scholars like Dr. Herman Schopira, Dr. Martin Buber, Dr. Weizmann, Professor Albert Einstein, to mention a few were at the spearhead of the movement.

The Fore-runner

The University which was founded in 1918, became a full fledged institution on April 1925. Progress has been most rapid as from 1948. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations adopted the resolution favouring a Jewish State in Palestine and it is rightly claimed that the inauguration of the Hebrew University was a forerunner to the inauguration of the State of Israel.

Although the Hebrew University was established primarily with a view to supplying a vital Jewish need, it performs the broad functions of every University of standing. It

serves Israel by training its professional manpower, by scientifically hastening the process of its development, helping to shape its national culture, to serve the Jewish people by providing it with a Jewish intellectual centre and to serve humanity by extending knowledge in every field.

Throughout the 49 years of its existence, the University though it was nominal up to 1925 has been a major factor in the development of the Jewish homeland and of the State of Israel.

From the very beginning its research programmes were rightly concerned with local problems of the country; in respect to these there was considerable achievement even as early as 1948. Medical research in the University's laboratories has contributed substantially towards raising the country's health standards. Economic progress has been greatly furthered by the work of University geologists, chemists and others in finding sources of ground-water and in exploiting available natural resources for industrial and commercial purposes. Agriculture particularly owed much to the University's scientists who came to the aid of settlers endowed with limitless enthusiasm but little scientific knowledge or experience. Their studies which encompassed a wide range of subjects led to a steadily rising standard of agriculture and a persistent improvement in the economy of the agricultural sector. The University scientists' researches has relieved food shortage and has countered sharp reduction of imports; their contribution towards the task of keeping

(Continued on page 7)

BY P. CHANDRASEGARAM

process of production. The pattern formed by the bulk of immigrants corresponded neither to the needs nor to conditions of the country. Israel, had to venture an occupational reshuffle. For the moment, hundreds of thousands of members of the liberal profession, clerks and merchants had to be converted into farmers, factory workers, soldiers and sailors. The nation had to be imbued with the civic spirit and tradition, the social, economic, and political values, already created and crystallised in the new nation. Geographic transplantation was almost an immediate process, but social and economic integration was protracted. The former is a logistic task and the latter represents the core of Israel's reconstruction. Israel also had to weld people coming from over a hundred countries with nearly as many

ple. Dr. Weizmann that day drew attention to the fact that 'a centre for the development of Jewish consciousness would help the coincidental fulfilment of material needs'. The laying of the foundation stones of the University was a dramatic act of faith in the imminence of a revival of Hebrew culture and civilisation. A long evolutionary process, spanning an entire generation preceded the ceremony at which the foundation stones of the University was laid. It went back as far as the eighties of the last century, with the rise of the Jewish national movement, the need was realised for a Jewish University in which a true synthesis between general learning and Jewish studies might be achieved. Such an institution, it was felt, would serve as a focus for the scientific and cultural aspirations of the Jews and at the same time

Challenges to...

(Continued from page 3)

the time is not ripe for the transfer of some of the powers of the Registrar to the co-operative organisations.

(vii) Inimical Private Sector

In our mixed economy, the public, private and the co-operative sectors have been allowed to have a significant role in the development of national economy. Cooperation has been accepted as an "essential feature of the programme for the implementation of the Five Year Plan at all levels of administration." The utterances of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry at its Annual Session in March 1964, expressing dissatisfaction and rancour against the extension of co-operative form of organisation in the field of agriculture, small scale and processing industries, wholesale and retail trade, are an indication of the growing importance of the movement and its increasing role in the economic life of the country. As Mr. Otto Roth-field, a former Registrar of Co-operative Societies, prophesied, "the business world has begun to take notice of cooperation when it touched the whole economic life of the country."

As a result of the multi-dimensional activities of the movement it has created a large number of enemies. The private sector is all out to stifle and annihilate the co-operatives. They penetrate into it under the guise of cooperators and work to wreck it from within. They resort to dubious and heinous practices to outlaw the cooperatives from the economic field. Therefore the cooperatives have to face a keen competition from this sector. It is still a question, how in a desert of dishonesty, an oasis of integrity can function. It is for the cooperators and the Government to ponder over this matter to create a climate of honesty for the proper functioning of co-operative societies.

(viii) Competition Within Co-operatives

It is a sad phenomenon of the Indian co-operative movement that the apex institutions are apathetic to the lower institutions, even though the principal object of the higher organisation is to cater to the needs of the lower organisations and promote their growth and prosperity. For instance, the State Co-operative Banks do not show fraternal attitude to the District Coop. Banks when the latter seek financial accommodation from the former. Similarly, the District Co-operative Banks' attitude to their primary member societies when they apply for loans is not wholesome and commendable. Similar are the cases of other types of higher organisations with their primaries. Apart from lack of co-operative spirit amongst them, one sad-denying feature is that these higher institutions thrive at the expense of their primaries, without doing any real service to them. This is the case with State Co-operative Banks, State Co-operative Marketing Federations, etc. Not only is there lack of co-operative spirit amongst the co-operative institutions, but also there is competition amongst them. The higher co-operative institutions at the State level fight amongst themselves to get as much

Never Such Spectacular Scenes

Most people in Mannar are agreed that they never witnessed such spectacular scenes before as they saw during Co-operative Day celebrations this year.

On July 5th, all co-operative institutions proudly flew the rainbow-coloured Co-operative Flag and were decorated with streamers and palm leaves. Cooperators' homes too were gaily decorated. At night flickering oil lamps and coloured electric bulbs lit up the darkness, giving the whole place a Wesak night or Deepavalli atmosphere. Several societies held meetings on this day, bringing home to the public the importance of the occasion and the part cooperatives have played in improving the social and economic conditions of the common man.

The district-level celebrations were held on July 21st at St. Xavier's Primary School which had been specially decorated for the occasion with streamers and banners bearing co-operative slogans. The cycle race was the star attraction of the morning's celebrations. Proceedings began with the hoisting of the Co-operative Flag by Mr. D. Nesiiah, Govt. Agent, Mannar and the lighting of the oil lamp by the A.C.C.D., Mr. K. S. Ponnuthurai. School children and cooperators carrying banners and flags marched in procession to the venue of the rally, bringing special messages to be read out there. Oratorical contests, music competitions, a fancy dress parade and variety entertainment highlighted the programme: all the items dealt with co-operative themes. Fourteen schools took part in the competitions. Plays depicting various aspects of the co-operative movement were staged.

Mrs. D. Nesiiah, wife of the Govt. Agent, distributed the prizes and the certificates.

Mr. O. K. Sainulabdeen, President Mannar District Co-operative Union, thanked the Chief Guests and the public who had turned up in such large numbers. This, he said, was a good indication of the interest the people were taking in the Co-operative Movement.

help from the Central Government as possible. Similarly, the State Co-operative Banks or Central Land Mortgage Banks of one State encroach upon the domain of another State Co-operative Bank or Central Land Mortgage Bank for getting deposits and debentures and thus they become inimical. It is perhaps this unhealthy competitive spirit amongst them that stands in the way of federating themselves at the national level. At present, we have only a few federations apart from the National Co-operative Union of India at the All-India level. The absence of federations for all types of co-operative societies at the State and national level has led to questionable leadership among non-officials and this, in turn, has made them disunited in formulating a uniform and unified co-operative policy to exercise pressure on Government for its acceptance.

(To be concluded)

Twelve Years of Co-operative Pawnshop

"A Scene"

One gloomy winter morning, a weary looking housewife rushed into our office with a baby on her back, and demanded a loan. She placed on the counter a few kimonos (Japanese dresses) as a pawn.

"I want 6,000 yen. My baby must be hospitalised at once. The hospital requests that amount in advance."

I was quite at a loss, because the estimated value of the kimonos was far beyond the amount which she needed.

by Tadao Ishiguro,
Director, Hyogo Labourers' Coop Society, Kobe, Japan

She continued to plead with tears in her eyes, saying, "I am sure I will pay back the money in four months. At this moment, I must have that amount. Please lend me for heaven's sake."

By her strenuous plea, I was compelled to comply with her request.

On a fine spring day in the same year, I received a visit at our office from a bright looking woman in full dress with a cheerful little boy in her arms. She said: "We were saved. Our boy recovered quickly as you see now. We are very much obliged for your kindness. This is the money to be paid back. Please accept it."

I scarcely remembered the earlier scene. But it did not take long before I recalled that this was the woman who had pawned the kimonos that gloomy morning.

Eventually, I congratulated them on her boy's complete recovery with all my heart, and also praised her for her firmness in keeping the promise. At the same time, I reflected to myself that this was a good example of the contribution of our business to our fellow man.

Brief History

Just twelve years have passed since the first co-operative pawnshop was established in Japan in 1955 by the Hyogo Labourers' Co-operative Society. Around the time Japan had not yet completely recovered economically from war-time devastation, so that most of the labourers were suffering from low earnings and naturally, they felt much difficulty in keeping even a minimum standard of living.

The establishment of our pawnshop was well-timed to meet the demand of the labourers, and needless to say, it was welcomed by them to a great extent.

Thus, our first pawnshop was opened in Kobe City on the 10th February 1955. We believe this was the first pawnshop which was managed in a co-operative system not only in Japan but also in all the world. The appearance of this new type of pawnshop was a public sensation, and was the occasion of much comment in the newspapers and on the radio.

With this success, we established two other pawnshop successively in the cities of Himeji and Aioi in the same year. After this, we also opened two more pawnshops in the cities of Kobe and To-

yooka in 1960 and 1964, so that now we have five pawnshops all in Hyogo Prefecture.

From the outset, the Hyogo Labour Bank showed a special interest in our business. By the decision of their board of Directors, they encouraged us not only spiritually, but also by giving us a special allowance on loans. Every pawnshop of our society is now situated adjacent to a branch office of the Hyogo Labour Bank. Thus we nourish the strong tie between us.

they are well acquainted with our business, and this gives them a good knowledge when they try to introduce our pawnshops to their fellow-members.

We started our business with a membership of 638 and a share capital of Yen 417,200 (£417), but now we have a membership of about 14,000 and a capital of about Yen 65,000,000 (£65,000) including loans.

Needless to say, our pawnshops are managed entirely under a co-operative system. Anybody who wishes to take advantage of its pawnshops is first requested to become a member of the Society. Then he can have the loan from the pawnshop on the security of his property with the interest rate less than half of that of a private-owned pawnshop. Each member has the right to vote at the meeting. We also allow them a joint membership. Thus, all our business is conducted democratically.

(To be continued)

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59, MAIN STREET, JAFFNA.

DEVELOPING ISRAEL

(Continued from page 5)

the country with sufficient quantities of tested and chlorinated water is of vital importance.

These services valuable as they were, were not the only ones in the scientific sphere which the University rendered the country. It was the University through its early pioneering efforts which prepared the ground for all future research in Israel and which paved the way for the various scientific institutions and subsequently came into being. Moreover the high academic standards which it set itself from the beginning and which it unwaveringly maintained became standards for all these institutions to emulate with the result that Israel today enjoys a considerable reputation in the world of science.

The Apex

The University is the acknowledged apex of the country's educational system, training teachers for the rapidly growing school population and offering opportunities for higher studies for the boys and girls emerging from the secondary schools. Its extra-mural, adult education programme had gone a long way towards meeting the general cultural needs of the community as well as the demand for specialised studies while its teachers and graduates had extended the influence of the University still further by serving on numerous academic and scientific bodies.

The University scholars' service in helping to adapt the ancient Hebrew language for modern usage and laying the foundations of the specific Israel culture, that today symbolises the Jewish State is too well known. The University's School of education has been unsparing in its efforts to increase the number of qualified teachers in the country, to raise the level of teaching and at the same time to develop a system of education that will take into account the special needs of the country with its school population drawn from divergent backgrounds. In the years since 1948, the University has greatly expanded its adult education programme, some of which are consciously concerned towards cultural and national integration in Israel.

The influence of research, conducted by the University is felt in many spheres of national life, members of the University Departments of the University are often called upon by Government to head special commissions set up to deal with matters of national importance.

The University has in a number of ways attempted to carry out its aim of serving the Jewish people. This, it has done primarily through its Institute of Jewish Studies which today is recognised as the central seat of Jewish learning in the world. Judaism is studied on a very scientific and comprehensive scale at this Institute, and the graduates of the institution are perceptibly helping to develop the small band of Jewish scholars left after the Nazi destruction, both

qualitatively and quantitatively. The Institute maintains contact with Jewish scholars everywhere and to date has held four World Congresses of Jewish Studies, the impact of these Congresses on world thought has been tremendous.

A keener interest in Jewish values and greater appreciation of the cultural heritage of the Jewish people are stimulated by the writings of University scholars an increasing number of which are now being translated into many languages, so as to reach a wider circle of readers; the University archaeologists are effectively throwing new light on Israel's past.

A Haven

These cultural services apart the University throughout the years has absorbed both in its staff and student body men and women from many countries who have gone to Israel from anti-Jewish persecution. It has given a haven to a number of Jewish scientists and scholars providing them with suitable facilities for their work and also has offered hundreds of students the possibility of completing their studies which they had been compelled through force of circumstances to interrupt. Jewish students from abroad are also encouraged to study at the University for limited periods with a view to fostering cultural identification between them and Israel.

The University scientists and scholars have made intensive studies in many of those diseases by which mankind is afflicted today, in agricultural problems common to numerous countries and in branches of the natural and physical sciences which are by no means related directly to Israel's development. The University on the whole is adding in greater or lesser degree to the sum total of human knowledge. The University's academic standing has attracted to itself men and women from abroad, it must also be noted that a steadily growing number of its teachers are often invited to participate and head committees in international conferences held in different countries; quite a number of them serve in United Nations advisory panels; this is a consequence and thereby a recognition of the brilliant contribution of the teachers of the University to human knowledge.

Higher education in Israel on the whole has developed on three lines. Firstly, there has been a rapid development of the three national University institutions, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem which has been described in detail, the Technion in Haifa, which is also known as the Israel Institute of Technology and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot; at the same time there has been a marked growth in the local academic institutions, among them the Bar Ilan University, the University of Tel Aviv and the Haifa Institute for Higher Learning. Secondly, there has been an increase in the number of post-secondary schools for special subjects, such as art, music, nursing and the like and thou-

sands of students also attend rabbinical colleges. Thirdly, the Teacher education institutions have a network of institutions in various parts of the country. The Teacher education institutions have contributed their very best to build the nation.

The economic growth of Israel was facilitated by the quick, yet efficient training of a nucleus of highly skilled labour, technicians, experts, scientists, manufacturers, designers, engineers, agronomists, horticulturists and the like which established the essential precondition of rising productivity. The knowledge of industrial and agricultural techniques accelerated economic growth. The establishment and rapid growth of seats of higher learning and spread of scientific knowledge combined to increase Israel's know-how potentiality. The determined qualities of the population and its sense of achievement motivation were also adequate to the task; rapid economic progress in Israel was facilitated by the process of co-migration, immigration with a concurrent increase in labour force combined with the necessary investment of capital and rise in productivity.

Imponderables involved in the historical, national and social background of economic activity is no less important for economic growth, more so for new and developing nations. These factors and the enthusiastic dedication to the cause resulting from aspirations deeply rooted in the soul of the nation are of vital importance although they do not lend themselves to a quantitative evaluation.

Israel believes that a population depends for its subsistence on what it can acquire by its own efforts applied to the natural resources of its own country and that human intelligence should be related to material resources in such a way that increasing production of subsistence for the population can keep pace with the growth of the population itself.

In agriculture Israel's growth is very pronounced. Agriculture falls into two sections, each characterised by its own distinctive features. Citriculture is based on modern technical methods and high capital investment, employing vast labour, producing for export is the first; modern mixed farming based on intensive cultivation and irrigation and directed towards the supply of mainly the urban population is the other. Here, production concentrates on dairy farming, poultry breeding and fruit and vegetable growing with some admixture of mechanised cereal growing. This type of farming allows the cultivator a relatively high standard of living. Most of the land is publicly owned and the farms have been financed in the main by public and semi-public funds with a view to give positive agricultural bias to the new economy. Greater agricultural output which is among the most valuable components of economic growth, gave the rising population very adequate supply of foodstuffs.

At the same time there was also an expansion in agricultural exports from for example \$6.5 million in 1949, to \$67 million in 1964. The exports are in largest part, oranges and all varieties of citrus. The economic significance of the extension of citrus groves is in the high capital investment per earner and a tendency to substitute capital for space; this matters a great deal for a small country with a high population density. The quick expansion of mixed farming is attributable to the large capital sums invested in irrigation and farm intensification.

The development of intensive farming in Israel has added to its natural wealth of the soil by raising its productivity.

Accelerated Process

Israel is undergoing an accelerated process of industrialisation. In Israel the nexus between immigration and industrialisation is easily traced. The capital supply is imported directly by the immigrants themselves or as public capital through the Development Budget.

Industrial investment in Israel enjoys the advantage of the availability of experts and skilled labour. Industrial experts induce capital both private and capital.

As the economy of Israel grows, standards of living rise; welfare services naturally expand.

The operative task of economic policy and development of Israel is to telescope into twenty years a development that should take some decades. Israel's gross national product is increasing tremendously. There is at the same time un-

usual demographic expansion. The acceleration of economic growth is not only due to an ambition to speed up development but also due to the stark exigencies of the country.

Israel is a country strikingly unendowed with natural resources, but it has offset this dearth by skill, know-how and initiative and by imponderables demonstrating the interchangeability of all the compensating factors among themselves and of all of them together with natural resources which they can replace in the process of dynamic reconstruction.

High literacy, a highly educated elite, the sense and reality of social justice and a sense of purpose are all present in Israel; so there is rapid progress.

Israel is an unfolding drama with its roots in the distant past and reaching out towards a new way of life in a rapidly developing world; it is essentially a country of immigrants who in a short span of time have had to live through this development. It is necessary to recognise this motion in relation to Israel.

Of approximately two million Jews in Israel, more than one half are immigrants coming from all countries of the world, East and West, rich and poor, intellectuals and illiterates. To integrate so mixed a population, to break down class barriers and create a united people is a stupendous task. No less a task has been the revival of Hebrew language and culture.

Israel is still geopolitically isolated. Its economic and cultural processes are reaching a state of normalization; politically it has not yet.

Progress Through Coop Movement

Only through Cooperation can the people progress said Mr. T. Sivasithamparam, M.P. for Vavuniya speaking at the Public Meeting organised by the Vavuniya Cooperative District Union to celebrate Cooperative Day. Mr. R. V. Vilvarajah presided. Mr. Sivasithamparam went on to say that a sound economy was indispensable for progress: only through the Cooperative Movement could they lay the foundations for such an economy. He added that on that day they should ask themselves whether the Movement was functioning well, whether it was really benefiting the people. Mr. B. C. Perera, Govt. Agent, Vavuniya, Mr.

M. S. Bastiampillai President Mullaitivu MPCU Union, Mr. F. V. Michaelpillai and Mr. V. Ponnambalam also spoke. The meeting ended with variety entertainment and a play staged by students of Vidyananda College. Mr. K. Kanesalingam, Administrative Secretary Vavuniya Coop. District Union proposed the vote of thanks.

Promoted

Mr. K.S. Ponnuthurai has assumed duties as Senior Asst. Commissioner for Cooperative Development, Northern Region. He was formerly ACCD Mannar.

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Colombo Newsletter

From: ALPHA

Coop. Movement will Deliver the Goods, Says Premier

The Colombo District Co-operative Union celebrated International Cooperative Day on August 4th with a meeting at St. John's College, Nugegoda.

The Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies of Nugegoda, Moratuwa, Kaduwela, Piliyandala-Polgosa-wita and Hewagawa Korale took part in the celebrations.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, who was the chief guest, said that the Government had given priority to agricultural development and in this matter the Cooperative Movement could render useful assistance.

During the Second World War, he said, it was the Co-operative Movement that came to the rescue of the country when it was faced with a serious rice shortage.

He declared that even now—and, in the future, too—the Cooperative Movement could be depended on to deliver the goods.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. M. D. Banda, said it was universally acknowledged that the Cooperative Movement was the only medium through which a country's economic problems could be solved.

The Government was, therefore, fully aware of its importance and was prepared to give it the maximum possible assistance.

It was the Government's aim, he said, to work for the uplift of the rural masses. That could be achieved only through the Cooperative Movement.

He stressed that the Cooperative Movement played a significant role in the national economy and it was, therefore, the duty of the people to safeguard the movement.

As Minister of Agriculture and Food, he said, he was aware that the Cooperative Movement could contribute more than seventy-five per cent towards the efforts of the nation to achieve self-sufficiency.

IN THE FOREFRONT

This part of the country is in the forefront of the Cooperative Movement said Mr. V. Kandapillai, DRO Vali East, addressing the seminar held at Atchuvily under the auspices of the Vali East MPCs Union. He went on to say that the people owe their economic prosperity to the Cooperative Movement. He stressed that education was essential for members of cooperative societies. Through seminars doubts could be cleared and new ideas could circulate widely: he wished that all societies held many such seminars. He suggested that every member be given a handbook on the management of Cooperative Societies.

Mr. V. S. Ponniah, NDCF representative said that a

He added that the Cooperative Movement had gained popularity and the country had complete faith in it.

Among those who addressed the meeting were Mr. L. M. V. de Silva, President of the Colombo District Co-operative Union, and Mr. Edmund Wijesuriya, President of the Co-operative Federation of Ceylon.

Educating the Public

CTB buses, I see, are carrying tri-lingual posters with these slogans—'Join your Coop. today' 'You are the Coop.' and 'Progress the Coop. way'. This is quite a boost for the Cooperative Movement and undoubtedly, a step in the right direction to create in the public mind an awareness of the Cooperative Way of Life.

It is heartening to find that at last things are happening, so to say, to give the Cooperative Movement the much needed fillip it sorely needs. For, what is most important in this regard is the inculcation in the minds of the public of an awareness of the singularly distinctive nature and significant role of Cooperatives not only in the context of the national economy but in the day-to-day existence of the people.

In short, propaganda—or to use a better and more acceptable term, Education i.e. educating the public along the right channels in order to impress on them the scope, nature, content and the impact, from the economic point of view, both on the individual and society, of the Cooperative System—is a vital prerequisite if any real and tangible progress is to be made in this direction.

A programme of this nature can be said to be successful only if it results in TOTAL COMMITMENT by the people to the Cooperative Way of Life. This is the ideal worth achieving if the community is ultimately to emerge as one large COOPERATIVE SOCIETY—a Society in which the cooperative spirit will run like a vertebral column giving it strength and vigour, and providing the necessary vital force for its sustenance.

sound foundation is essential for progress. If cooperative knowledge was well assimilated, then surely the Movement would progress. That is why seminars were so important. The Jaffna man could no longer rest on past glories: Jaffna is no longer the citadel of co-operation. He advised them to see that there were no splits or differences in cooperative societies: if they had a sound grasp of the principles of Cooperation they could overcome all kinds of factionalism. He appealed to them to increase production: production should be the first concern rather than marketing. He suggested that the MPCs collect statistics about their area, as this was necessary for formulating development plans.

On Grander Scale This Time

Trincomalee celebrated Co-operative Day on a much grander scale this time. The Cycle Races signalled the start of the proceedings, the men having to battle it out for ten miles and the girls for five. Eighteen cyclists took part and the race was run round the Big Maidan, with the spectators vociferously cheering the competitors. The next item was the Motorcade: nine vehicles, all gaily decorated, flying the Cooperative Flag and bearing posters on their sides, went round the town and through some of the villages for nearly four hours, rousing popular interest: the vehicles which took part in the motorcade belonged to the Trincomalee M. P. C. S. Union and the Trincomalee Port Workers Harbour Services Co-operative Union. When the Cycle Races were over, the Oratorical Contests began: the Tamil, Sinhalese and English contests were held simultaneously in the MPCs Union's new building: more than sixty boys and girls from various schools in the District took part; the Essay competition had been held earlier. In the afternoon, a Sports Meet was held in the Esplanade adjoining McHeyzer Stadium: unfortunately heavy showers interrupted the meet. Owing to the heavy rain, the public Meeting and the Variety Entertainment scheduled for the evening had to be postponed: the meeting was held on July 28th, presided over by the D. R. O. Town and Gravets. The speakers stressed the importance of Industrial, Educational and Agricultural programmes. It was pointed out that loans would be given to farmers for agricultural purposes: it was their duty to see to it that they made careful use of these loans. Speaker after speaker emphasised that members should realise that the Cooperative Movement was *theirs*: unless they did the Movement could not progress.

A noteworthy feature of the celebrations was the competition held to select the three best Cooperative Societies on the basis of display of goods, maintenance of books etc. and service to the consumer. The first prize was awarded to Ward II MPCs, the second to Sampalthivu MPCs and the third to Ward 1, 2, & 3 MPCs.

On the night of July 5th, Cooperative buildings throughout the District were brilliantly lit up. The Trinco MPCs Union's new upstairs block was illuminated for three consecutive days, attracting large crowds.

Cooperative Day was also celebrated throughout the District by MPCs Unions in Kottiyar Pattu, Tambalagamam and Kinniya.

OFF TO COLOMBO

The leader of the French team prospecting for oil in the North has been summoned to Colombo by the Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Mr. K. Alvapillai, for a Conference.

It is understood that this Conference has been summoned at the suggestion of the ECAFE Consultant.

The Local Scene

Surveyed by RAJ

NO TIME TO STAND AND STARE

What a pity that one had no time to stand and stare, at the All-Jaffna Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. Less than half a second was all the time available to look at the exhibits: no wonder when more than three lakhs of people visited the exhibition, during the five days it was on. The general lament was that one couldn't view the embarrassing variety of riches leisurely. I suppose this is true of most exhibitions held here but it could have been mitigated if the Exhibition opened in the mornings every day.

The yams, fruits and vegetables on display were almost all larger than life, and this despite its being the off season for some vegetables and fruits. There was a variety of jams, chutneys and pickles all made out of local stuff. The general feeling was that the livestock on show was not very impressive: many people felt the same about the wood and metal work on display. The textiles, especially the Batiks, were noteworthy as were the glazed pottery, the brassware and silverware. I'm told that the filigree work impressed a former Director of Rural Development very much: he thought it as good as Kandyan craftsmanship. Other noteworthy exhibits were the National Grid and the model of the Mahaweli and Rajangane schemes: in the model, the Mahaweli was diverted only up to Vavuniya. I hope it doesn't stop there in real life too!

The Cooperative Dept. stall caught the eye. The showpiece was the large Cooperative map which showed at a glance the various types of societies and their concentration. Other noteworthy items were the model of the NDCF building, the Harbour Services Union model, the graph depicting the growth of the Jaffna Cooperative Bank, the exhibits of the Fisheries Union, the Vathiry Cooperative Shoe Manufacturing Society, Pandaterruppu MPCs Union and the Puloly MPCs Union. The NDCF and the Coop. Bank also distributed brochures. So much for a bird's-eye view of the exhibition.

One thing struck me. One saw so many things which one never dreamt were produced in Jaffna: it is a pity that these things should be on display only at Exhibitions and disappear from the limelight thereafter. I think the authorities should make some kind of a permanent arrangement whereby these items are freely available to the public. Perhaps the branch of Laksala which is to be opened in Jaffna shortly could help in this, thus benefiting both the producer and the consumer.

PAVEMENTS CLEARED

The Police have got down to the task of clearing the pavements in Grand Bazaar, especially the portion in front of the Hospital. Recently, after due warning, they bundled the pavement hawkers and their goods into their trucks and drove them to the Police

Station. I understand action will be filed against them shortly. While everyone is happy that the pavements have been cleared, one would wish that some arrangements are made to help those who wish to buy oranges for patients or empty bottles for their medicines.

THE DUCK'S BACK

Police warnings to taxi-drivers at the Railway Station have had as much effect as pouring water on a duck's back. The taximen yet continue to ignore the short-distance passenger. Recently when the Yaldevi came in a little later than scheduled, a group of passengers including some ladies had to trudge nearly a mile home because no taxi driver was prepared to drive them this distance. It's high time that the Police did something about their resolutions and declarations.

EXPLOSION INEVITABLE

There's something in us that always makes us hunt for scapegoats whenever some trouble crops up. This is exactly what is happening now that caste feuds have flared up in Kodikamam, Atchuvily and even Jaffna Town. It's easy to blame a particular political party and a particular individual. But could these people have succeeded in setting the place ablaze unless there was inflammable material lying around? When irresistible forces meet immovable objects, there's bound to be an explosion: witness what Black Power is doing in America.

Couldn't we have learnt the lessons of history? Did we have to leave our problems unsolved till the local Stokely Carmichaels came along?

GIRL-FARMERS

When Mr. Vernon Abeysekera, Govt. Agent, Jaffna, formally inaugurated the Mirusuvil Colonisation Scheme for Girls, he created history. This is the first time girls have been settled in colonisation schemes. The 50 young girls at Mirusuvil will grow subsidiary food crops. Being a pioneering scheme, all eyes are focussed on it. If it succeeds, more such schemes will spring up all over the island.

VALE

Newshounds particularly will miss the tall, genial figure of Mr. Wesley Chelvaretnam, the Public Relations Officer at the Jaffna Kachcheri. He was the ideal Public Relations man, ever ready to help the journalist, with a soft corner for the harassed newsmen. Apart from his Public Relations work, Jaffna will remember him as the energetic Organising Secretary of the Committee responsible for running the recently concluded All-Jaffna Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, and as the Editor of the valuable Souvenir published to mark the occasion. He moves on now to the Colombo Kachcheri, where he will function as Addl. A. G. A.