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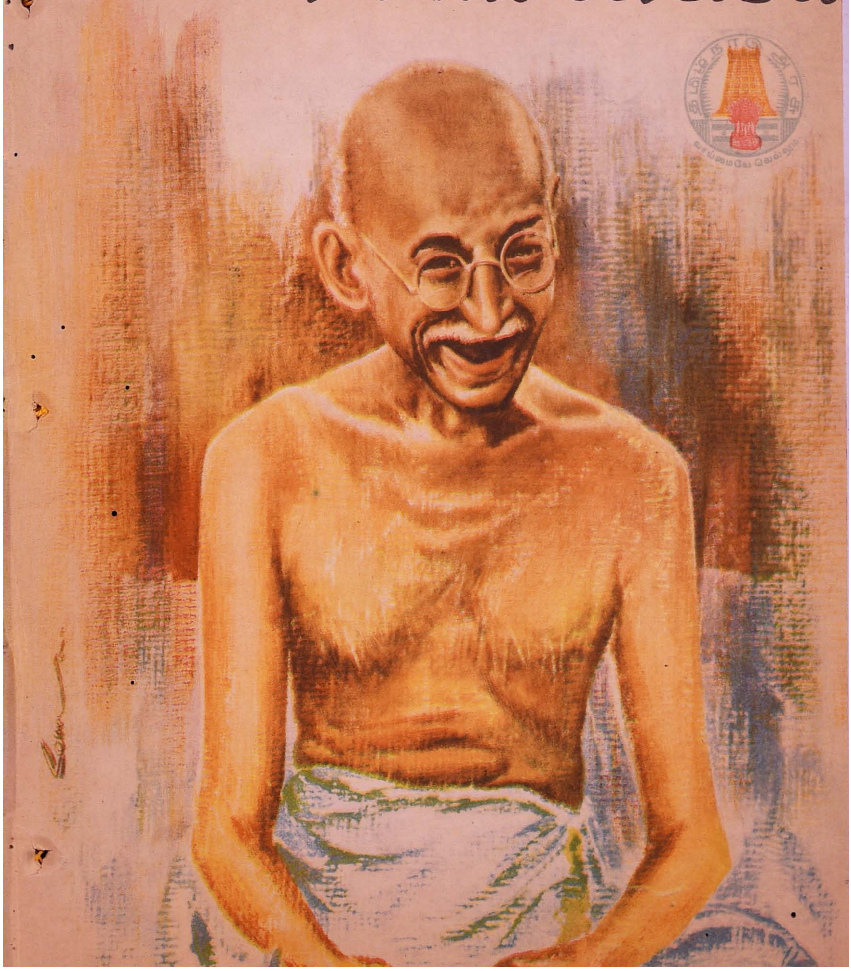

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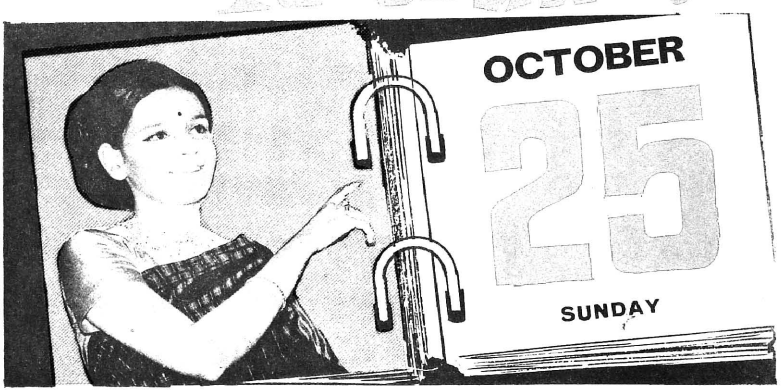

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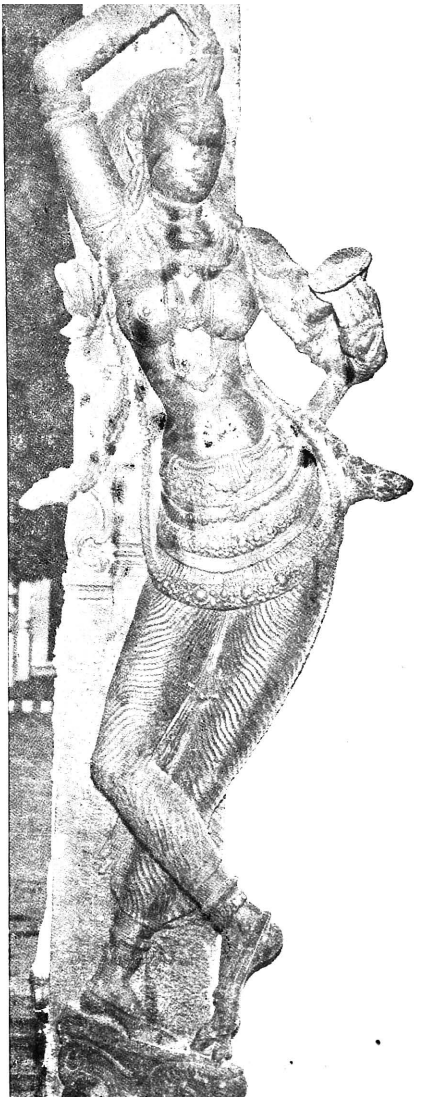


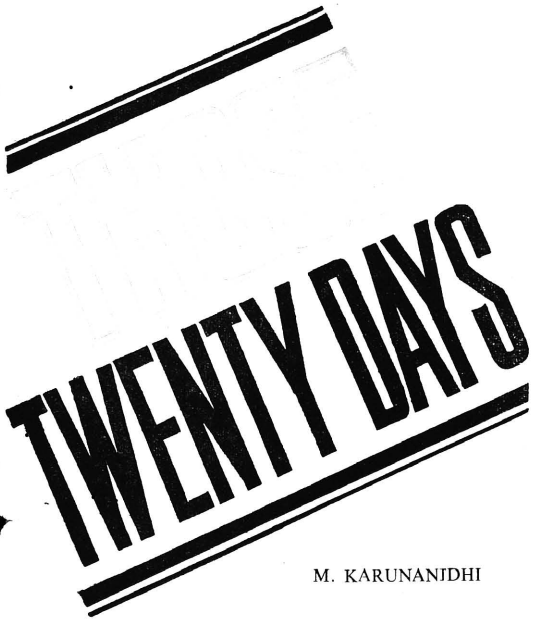
A Pen-Picture of Mahatma Gandhi

By LOUIS FISCHER

Gandhi was well built, with fine muscular bulging chest, thin waist, and long thin firm legs, bare from sandals to short, tight loin cloth. His knees were pronounced bulges and his bones wide and strong ; his hands were big and the fingers big and firm. His chocolate-coloured skin was soft, smooth, and healthy. His fingernails, hands, feet and body were immaculate ; the loin cloth, the cheese cloth cape he occasionally wore in the sun, and the folded, moistened kerchief on his head were bright white.

His body did not look old (written when Gandhiji was 73). He did not give one a feeling that he was old. His head showed his age. His head was large, wide at the top and tapering down to a small face; big ears extended away from it abruptly. His upper lip, covered with a black-and-white stubble mustache was so narrow that it almost met the fat, down pointed nose. The expression of his face came from his soft and gentle eyes, the sensitive lower lip which combined self-control with strength and showed a suffering, and the ever-present smile revealing naked gums.

His facial features, with his quiet, confident eyes, whether he was speaking or listening, was always alive and registering activity. He spoke with a low, singsong, undistinguished voice (many Indians have the same singsong when they speak English), and he gestured eloquently but not always, with the fingers of one hand. His hands were beautiful.



M. KARUNANIDHI

5. Italy of Today

Before I proceed to refer to the Chapters of Italian history wherein the undaunted braves of that land wrought political changes as varied in magnitude as the rise and fall of the waves of the sea, would it not be better if I were to describe in some detail the political and economic conditions of the present-day Italy ?

The Italian Republic to-day contains within its territory the sovereign, independent Republic of San Marino and the sovereign, independent State of Vatican City.

The beauteous natural seaports Naples, Leghorn, Laspezia, Genoa and Savona adorn the mountainous west coast of Italy. Dotted on the low-lying Adriatic coast are the natural seaports, Venice, Bari, Brindsi and Taranto.

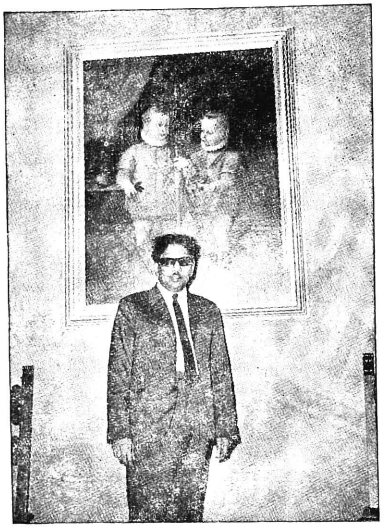
The official language for the whole of Italy is only Italian and it is the language spoken by the vast majority of the people. Different languages are spoken in different parts of the country, but Tuscan of the Tuscany region is said to be only a version of Italian, distinct on account of quality. French is spoken in the Piedmont regions and actually it is the second official language in the valley of D'Aosta. German is widespread in the Upper Adige regions and Latin holds sway in the northern and north-eastern areas.

The dailies available at newsstands and the books sold at the stalls are all in the Italian language. The use of English is limited to those fields of activity that have to be in contact with the outside world; and the feeling is deep-rooted in Italy that for all other purposes, the mother-tongue is eminently adequate.

Roman Catholicism is the State Religion in Italy and 99 per cent of the people happen to be Roman Catholics.

Constitutional monarchy had been functioning in Italy from 1861 onwards but it was put an end to on 2nd June 1946 when, through a referendum, the people of the country ushered in a Republic. A Constituent Assembly was also elected at the same time and the new Constitution became effective from 2nd January 1948.

The Italian Republic is headed by a President who is elected on the basis of two-thirds majority of the Parliament comprising the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The term of the President is 7 years. In the electoral college for choosing the President, three representatives from each of the regions of Italy are also allowed to participate, apart from the members of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.



The political parties that came into being in the wake of Benito Mussolini's fall in 1946 were national liberation groups forming part of a broad alliance of those parties that had been in existence before the emergence of Fascism. However, after 1946 when Elections were conducted for the Constituent Assembly, the political parties were grouped in three separate categories, namely, the Leftists, the Neutrals and the Rightists. Amidst this, the Christian Democrats' Party enjoying the support of the Roman Catholics has shaped itself into a separate influence of substantial strength, under the leadership of Gasperi. The results of the parliamentary elections held in 1948, 1953 and 1958 favoured the Christian Democrats and placed them in power ; but ideological squabbles from time to time led to the attenuation of the party's strength. The Italian Communist party takes the second place there, in terms of political quantity ; it has also the distinction of being the largest of the Communist parties in West Europe.

There are two rival parties, both subscribing to the creed of Socialism. The bigger of the two is the Socialist party and the other is the Social Democrats Party. Apart from these, the other parties in the political arena are the Republicans the Liberals and the Radicals.

When I visited Italy, it was the Christian Democrat Party that was in the seat of Government were, to provide employment opportunity for all, to eradicate the economic disparities between the North and the South, between the Industrial and the Agricultural sectors and to create equal opportunities for all sections of the community. The foreign policy of Italy has been committed to the task of striving for peace, ensuring defence and preserving liberty. At the time of my visit, the stability of the Government was very much in the balance.

Parity Economy.

By way of securing parity with its agricultural economy, Italy has attained widespread Industrial productivity in the several sectors. Of the total labour-force of the country, 38·20 per cent is engaged in Agriculture and 33·10 per cent in Industry. Farming is concentrated in the Central and Southern regions whereas industrial potential is located to a large extent in the north.

Fifty per cent of the farmers in Italy have an average holding of 1·20 acres of land each. Of the industrial workers 76 per cent are engaged in small industries and that too, small industries of

the scale employing not more than two. Heavy industries have also been developed to impressive dimensions.

Industry has registered spectacular growth after World War II, and this is all the more noteworthy when we learn that Italy has to import the bulk of its requirement of raw materials. Coal is imported to the extent of 90 per cent and other items like petroleum, cotton, copper, phosphates, wool and iron have also to be obtained from other countries in large proportion. Natural resources of minerals like sulphur, mercury, lead and zinc are very limited indeed.

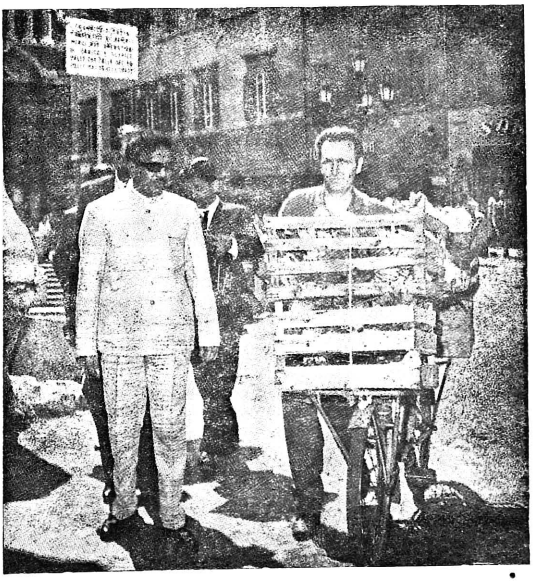
The labour-force in Italy is made up of 20 million and 15 lakhs workers. Of this 10 million and 90 lakhs are engaged in factories and the rest in Agriculture and other fields of work. There are 4 major trade Unions in the country and it has been estimated that their total membership is of the order of 60 lakhs of workers. The factories are on a 6 day schedule during a week and work is for 8 hours in a day. The holidays are 16 for the year and of these, four are paid holidays. The minimum age for employment is 14 years. Women and children are not allowed to work in the factories on night-shifts.

The Red Hall

Such is the political, economic, industrial and agricultural background of Italy and it was in Rome, the capital of the country that the corporation accorded a reception and presented a medallion to me. The function was arranged in the ' Red Hall ' where the dazzling paintings and the sculptures relating the history of the ages held our sustained attention. Not a single marble has been wasted there. Every slab, every piece has been rendered eloquent.

It is literally impossible to describe the magnificence of the paintings there in the ' Red Hall ', depicting the battlefields where the warriors of Rome performed their deeds of valour and collected the trophies of war in the form of wounds on their chest. A battle-scene has been painted on an entire wall of the Hall and looking at it, I came to feel that I was actually standing in a sector of the battle itself. Impressed beyond words, I captured the painting in the Camera but my desire to reproduce the print, for all to see and admire, could not be fulfilled. I don't know what exactly happened to the picture-whether it was lost amidst the hundreds of snapshots or whether those who accompanied me left it behind, through forgetfulness !

I tasted the pleasures of walking freely. . . .



Walk Free

After viewing the grandeur of the 'Red Hall', we decided to take a walk for a brief while, on the streets of Rome. To walk freely on the streets of Tamil Nadu has been an impossible task for me, since identification leads to hundreds of kind people surrounding me and deluging me with their affection. I was confident that such would not be the position in distant Rome and for the first few minutes of the stroll, I could experience the exhilaration of the bird set at liberty. But after that, strange to say, I noticed quite a few citizens men and women, almost closing in on us and walking in our footsteps. It was of course an agreeable surprise to me that there were people, even in far away Rome, who knew me by sight ; but the pleasure, alas, was short-lived. For, what had attracted the attention of the followers was the 'Tilak' and the saree of my wife, I told my wife : "Well, back in Tamil Nadu I am the object of the people's attention when I step outside, but here you seem to have taken my place!"

After walking along a few more streets, we got into the car again and drove to the office of the F.A.O. The Organisation is meant for the advancement of Agriculture. The Officers there not only accorded us a warm welcome but availed of the occasion to put questions to me by way of seeking information and clarifications ; and it almost became a regular seminar. Dr. Poduval who was formerly working in the Annamalai University is now a senior officer at the F.A.O. and he explained that, although the Organisation is not in a position to render direct financial aid for many projects, it does come forward to provide financial assistance through the World Bank, for agricultural development and progress.

When in the course of the discussions, an officer happened to mention that North Italy was way ahead in economic development whereas South Italy had lagged somewhat behind, I could not help commenting ; "Perhaps, everywhere North and South would be found only in such circumstances!" The interjection was received with broad smiles by those present.

Reply to Critics

Another officer pointed out that it is being stated that democracy in India is in danger and that disunity and poverty are proving intractable problems. When he desired to know my views in the matter, I answered : "The task of eradicating poverty is rendered rather difficult, as a result of the Leftists and the Rightists being extremely tenacious in clinging to their respective policies. But there are definite possibilities of evolving unity amidst diversity in India." Towards the close of the engagement, I told the gathering : "Although stability of Government is not a strong point in Italy, the economic development here has been substantial and impressive. But as far as India is concerned, I cannot say that economic development has been up to the mark. When I return, I would communicate my opinion to the Government of India that India would do well to adopt such ways and means for development as have been evolved in Italy."

After the reception at the F.A.O., we once again set out to see the sights of Rome. The Republic Square is one of the places in Rome where a festive atmosphere prevails in the evening in such abundant measure that it cheers the heart and kindles the enthusiasm of the visitors. Thus a trip to the spot is a must for tourists and it was at this Republic Square that a youth engaged in painting became an instant friend of mine.

(to be continued.)

GANDHIJI ON TAMILS AND TAMIL LANGUAGE

No other Indian can equal the performance of the Tamils in this fight (Sathyagraha in South Africa). It therefore occurred to me that I should read Tamil with close attention, if for no other reason than to tender sincere thanks to them at least mentally. Accordingly the last one month was devoted mostly to the study of Tamil. The more I learn it, the better I appreciate the beauties of this language. It is a very fine and sweet language, and from its structure and from what I have read in it, I find that the Tamils have produced, and still produce, a large number of intelligent, thoughtful and wise men. Moreover, since India is going to be one country, some Indians outside Madras should also learn Tamil.

—from Indian Opinion, dated 5-6-1909.

GANDHI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HARIJAN PUPILS

A special scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students was announced by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Thiru M. Karunanidhi on 2nd October 1970 in connection with the observance of the 101st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Known as the " Gandhi Memorial Scholarship Scheme " it will be available to two students belonging to Scheduled Castes in each district— a boy and a girl— who secure the highest marks in the P.U.C. examination.

Each student will get Rs. 100 per mensem besides a cash grant of Rs. 500 to meet the immediate expenses for continuing the study in degree classes. The assistance under the scheme will be available to a student for a maximum period of six years.

Thiru Karunanidhi announced the scheme at the all-party public meeting at Seerani Arangam, organised by the Tamil Nadu Government to celebrate Gandhiji's Birthday and said the winners of the Gandhi Scholarships would be eligible for the usual concessions available to Scheduled Caste students.

He said the Tamil Nadu Government had decided to institute the above scheme in memory of Gandhiji who had dedicated his life in the cause of Harijans and the down trodden.

The Chief Minister also said the Tamil Nadu Government wanted to continue the various concessions enjoyed by Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes in the matter of education and appointments until the " social inequalities " were completely removed.

THE HUMAN TOUCH IN SALEM IRON

The Government have reassessed the land requirements for the Salem Steel Project and have decided to restrict the requirements to 16,964 acres, as against 24,446 acres originally notified for acquisition. The areas released from acquisition comprise heavily built-up areas, developed agricultural lands, areas having semi-industrial complex like powerloom, weaving, etc. This puts an end to the 10-year misery of the people of Kanjamalai who could not raise money on their property, as a result of acquisition notice.

Anticipating the need for encouraging several small industries, an intensive campaign was organised in Salem for the registration of small industries, supply of machinery from National Small Industries Corporation, etc. In one sitting lasting six days 489 small-scale units were registered!

TAMIL NADU SCHEME TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

The Tamil Nadu Government has drawn up an ambitious programme to relieve educated unemployment in Tamil Nadu. The scheme will cost Rs. 1 crore per annum.

Under this scheme, 6,000 teachers (graduates and others) and 2,400 technically-trained men including engineering graduates are to be given job opportunities immediately.

Under the scheme 6,000 teachers will be taken in immediately. This would be in addition to the 7,000 already recruited.

These newly recruited teachers would serve an apprentice period for two years and would have first preference in the appointment of teachers in the regular cadre.

The graduate-teachers would receive Rs. 175 a month, secondary trained teachers Rs. 125 and higher elementary teachers Rs. 100.

The Government has already a two-year stipendiary training scheme for graduate engineers, diploma-holders, and I.T.I. Craftsmen. Under the scheme 2,000 of them would be given job opportunities before the end of the year. The Government is also examining ways to find them more employment in public and private sector undertakings.

Under the scheme, the graduate engineers will receive Rs. 250 per month, the diploma-holders Rs. 150 and the Craftsmen Rs. 70, up-wards.

Gandhi is for all

The Gandhiji Birthday celebrations in Tamil Nadu this year, though it followed the pattern set in the previous two years, was memorable in that it was elevated to the stature of an event of national significance, transcending party and ideological loyalties. In fact, this spirit of supra-party consciousness for paying our homage to Mahatma Gandhi was initiated by Anna, when he issued the clarion call of 'Unite for Gandhi', to mobilise the entire State towards the Gandhi centenary celebrations.

The Tamil Nadu Government went to a lot of expense this year to instill the fact that Gandhi is for all, through newspaper advertisements, posters and other means of publicity. These advertisements stressed the fact that the Government had been convening all-party public meetings in connection with Republic Day and Independence Day to enable all to identify themselves as belonging to one nation and one country. On top of all this, the invitations to the function went out in the warm facsimile of the Chief Minister's hand writing and signature. Thanks to all the publicity and persuasion, virtually all sections of the population turned out to the public meeting on 2-10-1970 held in honour of the Father of the Nation. All the leaders of political parties who were invited to participate in the function, responded and spoke on the occasion. The Chief Minister also announced that the Birth Day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru would also be celebrated in similar 'common-for-all' function.

The Salem Steel Plant which was inaugurated on 16th September 1970 will produce special steels of high value as against structurals and merchant sections originally envisaged. The product mix and the capacity of the plant are still under study. The capital outlay on the plant will be in the region of Rs. 100 crores.

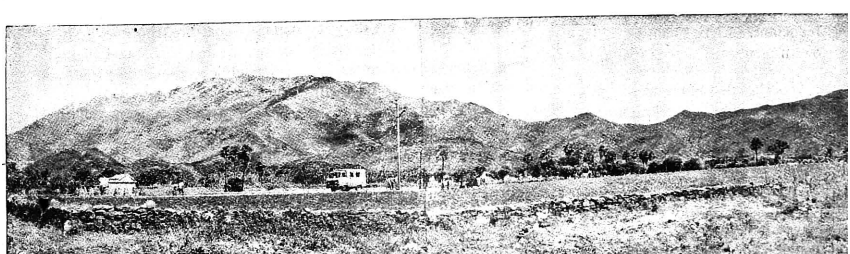
The Kanjamalai Iron Ore, on which the present Project is based, has been known for more than a hundred years. With it is associated the name of an enterprising resident of Salem, Arunachalam Achari, who as far ago as the beginning of 19th century, produced steel from these iron ore deposits and fashioned it into articles of every-day use. Subsequently, the deposit of iron ore attracted the attention of a number of foreigners, one of whom in 1830 erected an iron works at Porto Novo, and demonstrated that pig iron could be successfully manufactured from the Salem Iron Ore with the help of charcoal. A company was started in 1833 under the style " Porto Novo Iron and Steel Company " but this company was wound up in 1866. Even subsequently, sporadic attempts were made to prove the iron ore deposits and exploit them.

The proposal for a steel work based on these ores could not take shape on account of the non-availability of an important element for steel manufacture, namely metallurgical coking coal in the region. The discovery of extensive reserves of lignite, estimated at about 2,000 million tonnes in Neyveli provided this basic input.

In view of the fact that the iron ore deposit in this area, has very low phosphorous and sulphur content, it is ideally suitable for the manufacture of special steel.

Pending Central approval of a steel plant, the State Government decided to set up a plant for the concentration of the magnetite iron ore at Kanjamalai and for pelletisation for export in the form of pellets.

Seven possible sites were studied for locating the steel works. Out of them, the Kanjamalai site was considered the best in view of its potential advantage such as lower assembly cost of raw materials, access for both Broad Gauge and Meter Gauge lines without need for transhipment, adequate supply of power and water and ready access to the main market centres



in South India. The Kanjamalai site has also the lowest ton kilometre of movement for raw materials assembly.

The availability of raw materials water and power have been proved beyond doubt. The ore reserves at Kanjamalai have been proved as 144 million tonnes. Other reserves in Godumalai Theerthamalai, etc., all situated within a radius of 50 miles, are estimated as 170 million tonnes. The other probable reserves in Perumamalai, Rasipuram, Namakkal, etc., would account for another 190 million tonnes. Thus, there are estimated reserves of 500 million tonnes of iron ore deposits in Tamil Nadu.

Lignite.—For the Salem Steel Plant, lignite char will be used as reductant. Lignite char is available in plenty in Neyveli region.

Limestone.—Limestone of flux grade suitable for steel making is available in Salem district itself and also in the neighbouring States of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh.

The other requirements such as magnesite, bauxite, etc., are available in Salem district itself. Manganese could be obtained from Tumukur in Mysore State and Bentonite from Rajasthan.

Water.—Mettur reservoir will be the source of supply for water for the steel plant. Water will be pumped to a reservoir to be located at Nangavalli/Sitamalai region from where it will be gravitated to the receiving tank in the plant site. The total distance of the conveying main is 27 k.m.

The maximum power demand for the Steel Plant is of the order of 97 MW which could be obtained from the Madras Grid.

The plant may take about 6 years to go into production and is likely to provide employment opportunities for about 5,000 people in all categories put together.

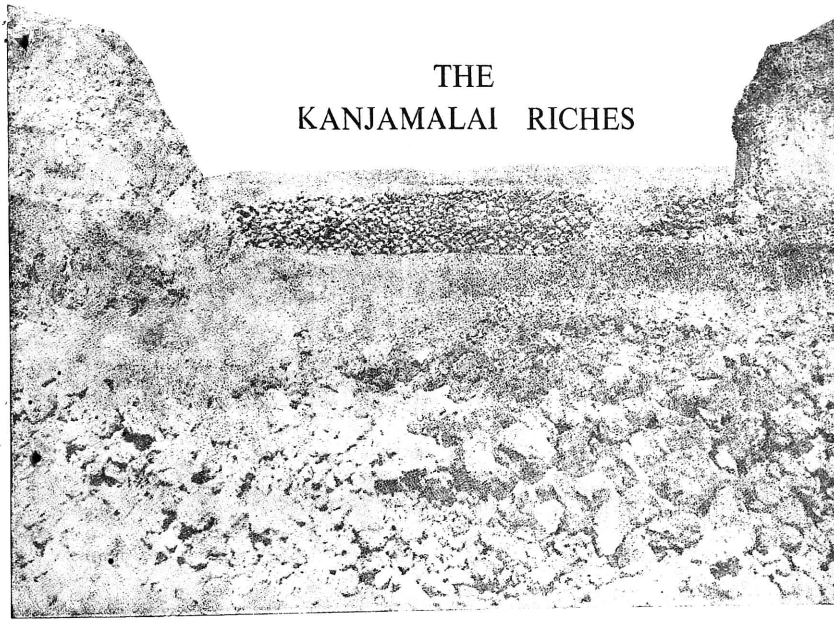
The capital cost of this Project is likely to exceed Rs. 100 crores. An investment of this order is important not only for its own sake but as a big step towards further industrialisation of this area. This investment in a commodity like steel will not only have multiplier effect but perhaps, what is more important develop technology and skill in various spheres which will help diverse ways to develop other industries.

Inauguration of a project of this nature is always a landmark in the industrial development of the country. It is, however, more so in the present case because the technology proposed to be used in this plant will be new to the country. Instead of the conventional method of reducing iron ore with the help of coke in the blast furnaces, it is proposed to use lignite char for pre-reduction of the magnetite ore which will then be smelted in electric furnaces.

Latest Technology :

Another new feature of this plant along with the two plants to be set up at Hospet and Vishakapattinam is that it will be designed, engineered and later managed by indigenous talent. This will mark a departure from the past because the first three Steel Plants in the public sector were set up by foreign agencies more or less as turn-key jobs. Even the first stage of Bokaro depended to a large extent on the Soviet Union. The sense of discipline and also the skills for which the people of Tamil Nadu are noted will be harnessed in this mammoth venture, to earn for Salem Steel a world renown.

THE KANJAMALAI RICHES



The Salem Steel works will have several distinctive advantages even when compared to the existing steel works in the country. The proposed location of the plant at the iron ore mines coupled with the availability of large deposits of metallurgical grade of limestone, bauxite, etc., at close proximity secures for this plant the advantage of the lowest raw material assembly cost in the entire country.

Plant.	*Transport requirements Ton-km. per ton of steel ingot.*
(*a*) Existing :	
TISCO ...	592
IISCO	724
Rourkela ...	880
Durgapur ...	881
Bhilai	1,617
Bokaro	842
(*b*) Proposed :	
Salem ...	161
Vizag	3,090
Hospet ...	3,293
Goa ...	4,216

Inestimable are the riches of Kanjamalai in the form of Magnesite Iron ore. In addition there are vast quantities of limestone in the Tiruchengode-Sankari area only about 30 kms. from Kanjamalai. There is also the advantage of the neighbouring magnesite deposits which are used for the manufacture of fire bricks necessary for steel plants. Large quantities of magnesite ore are already being used by refractory manufacturers in different parts of the country and it has been estimated that about 20,000 tonnes of

fire bricks will be required for medium-sized steel plants. Lignite char will have to be transported to the Kanjamalai area over a distance of only 170 kms and it has been estimated that 320,000 tonnes of lignite char will have to be used for smelting purposes.

There will be no shortage of iron ore for smelting purposes over a long period as there are already proved reserves to the extent of 370 million tonnes. It is estimated that nearly 100 million tonnes of iron ore will be available in the first band of Kanjamalai hill. There are two other bands which together may yield about 40 million tonnes of ore. Similarly, the reserves in Godumalai and Thirthamalai hills are estimated at 60 million tonnes in each place. These ores occur in the form of magnetite quartz containing 35 to 40 per cent of iron. Since then additional deposits have been located in the form of underground reefs in the neighbouring areas over long distances up to Tiruvannamalai. Thus even a plant of 1½ million tonnes can be easily fed.

Not of Low Grade

It is incorrect to say that Salem ore is of low grade and is not economical for smelting purposes. Even without the Salem Steel Plant being erected, the Japanese were interested in buying this ore because of its special quality and the scope for exporting beneficiated ore through Madras and Cuddalore Ports.

The Salem Steel Plant will be inducing a chain reaction which will have far-reaching consequences for the regional economy.

A pilot mine has been cut open in the Southern flank of the Kanjamalai hills to determine the behaviour of the mineral while blasting, the most suitable method of winning the iron ore and the equipment required for the purpose. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited has been entrusted with the work of executing the pilot mine. Photo on top shows dynamite being put into the mine. Bottom photo shows the mine after the blast.

AFTER SALEM WHAT?

The Salem Steel works presents the opportunity of opening up new industrial horizons in the rapidly developing Southern region of the country. Compared to other Indian Steel works, Salem has the advantage of lowest raw material, assembly and product distribution costs. The available raw materials can be utilised with advantage through the application of new technology to produce quality products at competitive costs.

The richness of an ore is only with reference to what use we make of it. It is as rich as we make of it depending on the method of extraction and smelting. What may be a poor ore with reference to one method of extraction and smelting may be quite rich by a different method. In America it appears many low grade ores are being worked to produce iron. In addition to the small scale industries, engineering industries which provide the most essential foundation for any organised or planned scheme for industrialisation may be started. They comprise generally of castings and forgings of components and parts required for making or assembling machines required for manufacture. The following items of heavy engineering industries were generally recommended by the Techno-Economic Survey in 1961:

(*a*) Malleable iron castings.
(*b*) Alloy tool and special steel.
(*c*) Steel Pross work.
(*d*) Grey iron castings.
(*e*) Steel castings.
(*f*) Steel forgings.

(*a*) **Malleable iron castings**:

The Malleable iron castings is in great demand in India. They are very useful in the manufactures for railways, automobiles, agriculture, Posts and Telegraphs, Electric High Tension fittings, Transmission fittings and hard fittings. We are importing nearly 7,000 to 8,000 tons of malleable iron castings every year. It is estimated that 10 tons of malleable iron castings per day may meet the needs of the whole State. An industry can be started for this purpose in Salem-Neyveli industrial belt.

(*b*) **Alloy Tool and Special Steel** :

In regard to Alloy tool and special steel the country's requirements are of the order of 9,000 tons of finished products. At present most of the requirements are met by imports from abroad at high cost. Tamil Nadu alone imports annually about 280 tons of these special steels at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs. In fact an Alloy industry for tool and special steel can be started in the Salem-Neyveli belt which can supply to the whole of India and can even export. It is well-known that Salem has supplied such excellent steel to the Greeks, the Romans and Egyptians from times immemorial. A new plant for such tools of the capacity of 2,000 tons can be started at a cost of Rs. 3 crores.

(*c*) **Steel Pross Work** :

It has got a demand of 4,000 to 5,000 tons per annum. This is an allied industry to engineering industry. An additional capacity for 2,000 tons per annum at a cost of Rs. 3 crores could be started.

(*d*) **Grey Iron Castings** :

Grey Iron Castings can be divided into three divisions ; heavy, medium and small. The heavy unit can be located in Madras. The medium and the small scale industries can be started in Coimbatore. An additional capacity for 10,000 tons per annum may be found necessary which can be started at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores.

(e) Steel Castings and Steel forgings.

The Railways and the Automobiles concerns consume large quantities of steel castings and forgings which are now imported from abroad. The Railway equipment committee constituted by the Government of India has stressed the need for self-sufficiency with regard to steel castings and steel forgings. The Railway has estimated that its demand would be of the order of 42,000 tons per annum, while the indigenous capacity was only 31,000. Hence it was thought the licenced total additional capacity of 13,000 tons per annum may be provided for a new steel castings industry in the Salem Engineering Belt.

However, the National Council of Applied Economic Research have recommended a capacity of 6,000 tons per annum of steel castings at a cost of Rs. 6 crores which can be increased in course of time. In addition, Automobile and Accessories, Motor Vehicle bodies, Scooters, Cycles, etc., may be thought of in this area.

Manufacture of Machine-tools, Cotton Textile, Power Drill, Carbide Tips Plant, Aluminium Industry, Heavy Electrical Project, Electrical Motors and Pumps, Switch Boards and Gears, Transformers and Switch Gears, Electrical Steel Sheets, PVC Cables and Materials, Insulators, Fertilisers and a few chemical industries can also be thought of in this area.

After technical appraisal, the Council has recommended the creation of additional capacity in Tamil Nadu for the following engineering goods industries:—

Ball and Roller Bearing (one million units); Bolts, Nuts and Rivets (6,000 tons); Shot and Chilled Iron (1,000 tons); Tea Processing Machinery; Power Station Equipment; Industrial Gas Cylinders; Industrial Blowers; Air Compressors; Machine tools; Diesel Engines; Power Transformers (1 million KVA); Electric fans (1 lakh units) and ACSR conductors (5,000 tons).

In addition to the above mentioned new units, the Council has suggested substantial expansion of capacity in the following engineering industries:—

Bicycles; Machine Screws; Railway Wagons; Steel Pipes and Tubes; Structural Fabrication; Metal Containers; Sugar Mill Machinery; Automobiles and Accessories; Pistons and Piston Rings; Power driven pumps; Dry batteries; Storage batteries; Galvanized and Barbed Wires; Textile Machinery; Agricultural tractors and Enamel wares. It has recommended doubling the installed capacity in respect of the following engineering industries:—

Automobiles and trucks, Motor Cycles; Vehicular type of diesel engines; Electric Motors; Abrasives; Small tools and Distribution transformers.

According to the National Council, one of the weaknesses of the engineering industry in the State is inadequacy of intermediate processing facilities such as foundries and forges. To overcome these obstacles to the growth of the engineering industries, the Council has suggested the manufacture of Grey Iron Castings; Malleable Iron Castings; Steel Castings; Steel Forgings; Steel Pross Work; Aluminium Castings; Electrical Steel Sheets. Re-rolled Steel and Alloy; Tool and Special Steel. **The Council considers Salem to be the best location for rolling and re-rolling, Madurai for malleable iron castings, Coimbatore for grey iron castings and Madras for the rest of the above items.**

The National Council of Applied Economic Research has recommended in addition to the Salem Steel Plant, a pig iron plant of 30,000 tons capacity at Salem and Coimbatore. According to them the pattern of regional distribution of Industries would radically alter the face of Salem and South Arcot Districts. Of course, no one can neglect Coimbatore which has become the Manchester of India. With the adjoining district developing its natural resources, many basic engineering industries can be further developed in Coimbatore. It is said that among the districts of Tamil Nadu, Salem offers the maximum industrial potentialities. With immense possibilities of industrial development, Salem-Neyveli Belt would very easily become the Ruhr of Tamil Nadu. Many steel mills may be commissioned for the production of different types of steels for different industries. Industries based on Beryl, Calcite, Columbite, Felspar, Silica, Steatite may be started in Salem.

CALCIUM FOR CARBIDE INDUSTRY

Steps to locate new Sources

The State Geology department, in view of the importance of coral limestone of high purity for the calcium carbide industry, has been devoting special efforts in this behalf. The occurrence of shell lime-stone in Tisiyanvilai area, Tirunelveli District was taken up for detailed study. The deposit is estimated to occur over an area of 1,200 m. by 800 metres. The limestone has an average thickness of 4.5 metres. The quality is good in the central portions and coarse-grained, but tends to deteriorate in the northern and eastern portions. About 2 million tonnes of limestone has been estimated to occur here, but a final picture would emerge only after sampling and drilling which is proposed to be taken up shortly.

Sources of lime

Considering the fact that the backwater lagoons are potential areas for collection of dead shells, which constitute source of high grade lime, the backwater region in Kaliveli and Kandadu areas of Marakkanam, South Arcot District was taken up for assessment. It is estimated that limeshell layer of about 1 metre thickness on an average is obtained here. However, a certain portion of the area has already been won away. It is proposed to extend the survey further into the other backwater region. The area covered so far is about 5 sq. kms. The percentage of limeshell bearing layers has been fixed preliminarily at 25 per cent.

High Grade Limestone is being utilised in the State for the manufacture of chemicals such as bleaching powder and calcium carbide. Incidentally one of the mineral deposits exotic to this State are the massive corals which grow around the small islands in the Gulf of Mannar. These along with the sea-shells which are found in the lagoonal waters of Pulicat and Marakkanam carry negligible impurity.

At present in the State there is one factory manufacturing Calcium Carbide in the South which has its problems in the procurement of essential raw materials viz., coking coal and coral limestone (of very high purity calcium carbonate with negligible phosphorus content).

The electrical process for the manufacture of this vital industry was first introduced about 70 years ago and in India in a small way from 1943.

SMALL CEMENT MAKING PLANTS

Foreign Interest in Tamil Nadu Technique

The pilot Cement Plant of Tamil Nadu Government at Kallakurichi is continuing its research activities to promote the sale of 75/150 tonnes-capacity-per-day plants. The Government of Indonesia have evinced interest in setting up such plants in their country and have approached, the Government of India for placing the services of an expert at their disposal. The proposal is under consideration.

Patented Plant

Being the first shaft-kiln Plant on a new fuel mix process in India the Pilot Cement Plant, patent rights are being sought for it.

The production capacity of the plant is 25 to 30 tonnes of cement a day. The present production is 10 tonnes a day. The targetted capacity will be achieved on studying the operation and further improvements.

The purpose of designing such smaller capacity plants is to encourage industrialists to set up small cement plants in areas where small deposits of limestone are available and which cannot sustain the establishment of the conventional large scale cement factories.

COIR SCHEMES

Tamil Nadu stands third in the area of coconut cultivation and second in the yield of coconuts in the country. Coconut husks which are mostly used as fuel in Thanjavur and other districts, could otherwise be profitably used in the extraction of fibre. There is also demand for coir fibre in foreign countries.

The Government Coir School at Eathamozhi in Kanyakumari district imparts training to students in coir yarn spinning and manufacture of coir products like mats and mattings in a two-year course.

A pilot plant has been set up at Tenkasi in Tirunelveli district with a view to demonstrate the possibilities of introducing mattress and bristle fibre in the State. All the machineries imported from the United Kingdom and Austria have been erected. The Unit started functioning on 13th June 1968. Partial production is being carried on in this Unit. The Unit can go into full production only after 4 more soaking pits are constructed and regular water-supply is arranged. Action has been taken to acquire the adjoining land with the well and to take pipe lines from the well for regular water-supply. The mixed fibre produced by the Unit is being supplied to the Hospitals.

In order to develop the Coir Industry in this State and to provide an additional income to the coconut growers by profitable use of coconut husks in the mechanical extraction of coir fibre from unretted husks, a revised comprehensive scheme has been formulated. This scheme contemplates.

(1) Organisation of 6 demonstration units to be located in Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli districts in stretches where there is concentration of coconut trees, to educate the entrepreneurs on the feasibility and economics of such a unit and to kindle their enthusiasm to start the coir fibre units.

(2) Providing financial assistance, to the prospective entrepreneurs, to set up mills, for land, building, machinery and working capital, under the State Aid to Industries Act.

(3) Organisation of a Central Service Industrial Co-operative Society to market the fibre produced by the Units.

The Scheme involves an expenditure of Rs. 15.45 lakhs by way of loan to the private entrepreneurs, a small grant to the Central Society, besides share participation in the Central Society. Free services of staff according to the approved pattern will be provided. The six departmental units need Rs. 3.60 lakhs towards non-recurring expenditure and Rs. 0.76 lakhs towards recurring expenditure, and this has been provided.

TAMIL NADU ENTERS ELECTRONICS Field

Different electronic components will be produced in the functional industrial estate for electronics at Adyar, Madras. Work on the estate has already started at an initial cost of Rs. 36 lakhs in a ten-acre radio-free-zone. The first six sheds will be available for entrepreneurs by December 1970. Simultaneously training in electronics instrumentation has also been initiated in a few polytechnics. In addition, the Technical Training Centre, Guindy which imparts specialised training to degree and diploma holders will include electronics in its syllabus.

The State Government has already recommended to the Centre six private manufacturers having plans to make T. V. components, for issue of licence.

Technicians for electronics industry are under training

Thiru S. Madhavan, Industries Minister, explaining to newsmen the Tamil Nadu Government's role in promoting the industrial estate, said that unlike in the other industrial estates, the sheds will be let to entrepreneurs on a "hire-purchase" basis. They would not be rented. As in the other estates, common facilities like testing facilities and laboratories would be provided by the Government. If the response from the entrepreneurs warranted it, the industrial estate would be further expanded.

A seven-member technical committee consisting of Prof. A. Sampath, Deputy Director, I.I.T., Madras, Thiru K.S. Hegde, Principal of the Engineering College, Guindy, Thiru Sheshadri and Thiru M. Lakshminarayanan both from M.I.T., Madras, Thiru M. G. Damodar, Philips, India, The Director of Small Industries Service Institute, Madras and Thiru E. N. Narayanaswamy, Deputy Director of Industries, has recommended that the Government promote 25 lines of production. The working group, appointed in April last, has prepared

" almost a near-feasibility report " with estimates of costs, raw material requirements, demand projections, foreign collaborations available, and facilities needed.

The group has recommended production of metal oxide resistors, capacitors (both polystyrene and polycarbonate), Ferrites, microwave instruments and antennae, ceramic and teflon wafers, auxiliaries like litz and solderable wires, batteries, battery eliminators, penmalloy laminations, special solders, connectors, and electronic hardware like fasteners and belts.

The group, whose report has been accepted by the Government, after discussions with officials, scientists, industrialists and experts from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and National Laboratories, has okayed the whole scheme of the electronics industrial estate. It has welcomed the idea of a certification and product development laboratory in the estate campus on the lines of the regional evaluation laboratories. The I.S.I. is being associated in this venture.

The group has recommended that at least two units for manufacture and assembly of T.V. receivers should be encouraged in the estate, as also development of electronic ceramics and a research centre for this purpose in the ceramics complex at Vridhachalam.

For feeding skilled personnel, the group has emphasised the need for craftsmen training in electronics in the I.T.I.'s in the State.

The group has favoured canalising imported raw materials and components through the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation.

The group's report contains a list of processes developed by various National Laboratories for development of electronics. It has recommended setting up a Standing Committee for development of electronics with a technical officer as convenor to keep close liaison with all National Laboratories and other organisations to advise the State Government on various promotional measures from time to time.

A degree course in Electronics and Communication Engineering with an intake of 22 students was started in the Alagappa Chettiar College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikudy, in 1969. Similarly, a diploma course in Electronics Engineering was started in the Government Polytechnic for Women, Coimbatore. In the Government Polytechnic for Women, Madras also an electronics diploma course is run. (Pictures on this page and in the previous page are of students in Women's Polytechnic, Madras.)

MASSIVE MINOR IRRIGATION AND FARM MECHANISATION PROGRAMME

Schemes of minor irrigation, including sinking of tube-wells and open wells, and farm-mechanisation programme devised by the Government of Tamil Nadu for institutional finance were placed before a World Bank Team for the purpose of financing by International Development Association.

The World Bank Team comprising Mr. Christopher H. Walton Leader, and Messrs. E. A. Bobb, R. Rossi, J. M. Daniel (members) and D. Thomas (observer) toured the scheme areas in the districts of South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Salem and North Arcot, for a fortnight in September.

The bank team has indicated the strong possibility of I.D.A. credit for financing these schemes and has urged the Government of Tamil Nadu to have these schemes executed in a matter of two years instead of three years as planned at present.

Tamil Nadu requires the import of 200 hand-boring sets, 50 rotary drills and 10 rotary-*cum*-hammer drills. The project as a whole consists of eleven schemes for the financing of agricultural development through construction of open wells, deepening of wells and installation of pumpsets, three schemes for the sinking of filterpoints and tube-wells in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot and a farm mechanisation scheme envisaging the procurement and deployment of 3,000 tractors.

New Horizons

The Minor Irrigation Programme contemplated in the project report is on a scale not attempted so far. Various measures have therefore been taken to gear up the organisation to the new tasks ahead. At the district level, a Project Officer has been appointed so that he could monitor the schemes being implemented under this project. Technical Cells have also been constituted at the district level which are expected to analyse the data compiled by the Ground Water Investigation Units as well as other agencies and use such data for the formulation of new schemes and the effective implementation of sanctioned schemes. The District Collector has been made fully responsible for all the minor irrigation schemes in the district. Thus the agency at the district level would now be in a position to tackle the schemes entrusted to it. The Land Development Bank too has been strengthened. A Technical Cell has been created in the bank to enable adequate scrutiny of schemes and monitor effectively their implementation. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies' Organisation too has been strengthened and an officer of the status of the Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been posted for handling Agricultural Refinance Corporation Schemes. Delay points have also been eliminated and powers have been delegated to ensure quick decision and smooth implementation. Review Committees have been constituted at the district level as well as the State level. The State Level Committee on minor irrigation schemes is presided over by the Minister for Co-operation while the non-minor irrigation schemes would be reviewed by the Chief Secretary.

Benefits of Tube-Wells

The main benefits accruing from the filterpoint tube-well schemes is through supplementation of existing irrigation sources. In South Arcot and Tiruchirappalli districts, these tube-wells will, in addition to increasing the extent

of double cropping, assure irrigation facilities to summer crops. The benefits in the case of Thanjavur cultivators consist of intensive cropping and better yields from the crops now grown. These tube-wells filter-points will help in raising nurseries in advance for taking up Kuruvai planting soon after water is let out from Mettur Reservoir and this will enable a considerable step-up in double cropping area. These tube-wells and filter-points will also supplement canal irrigation for the second crop during January and February when the Mettur Dam will be closed. Apart from this, cultivation of summer crops like maize, cotton, vegetables, pulses, etc., can be taken on. Besides farmers would be able to raise certain crops like sugarcane in factory zones and bananas in deltaic areas.

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative State Land Development Bank is the apex financial institution for these schemes. To help the Bank make a proper appraisal of the schemes especially from the ground water and agronomy angles a technical cell consisting of a State Geologist, an Agricultural Engineer and an Agricultural Economist, with a complement of subordinate staff will be constituted in the Bank.

The "Chintamani" Co-operative Super Market in Coimbatore has adopted a novel method of assisting its clients. It runs a posh bus like the one shown here to enable customers carry home their purchases without loss or exertion This facility is availed by housewives residing in the neighbourhoods of Coimbatore. Imaginative measures like these have enabled the Chintamani to record an average monthly sales of Rs. 26 lakhs last year. It has 17 departments including Agro services which sells all agricultural implements including tractors!

PICTURE PAGES.

Opposite page:—Thiru K. Rajaram, M.P., presents a ceremonial gift of gold plated silver mangoes to Prime Minister Thirumathi Indira Gandhi and Chief Minister Thiru M. Karunanidhi on the occassion of the inauguration of work on the Rs. 100 crore Salem Steel Project on 16-9-70.

Centre spread.—Views of Sathanur Dam and the picnic centre surrounding the Dam.

Last page

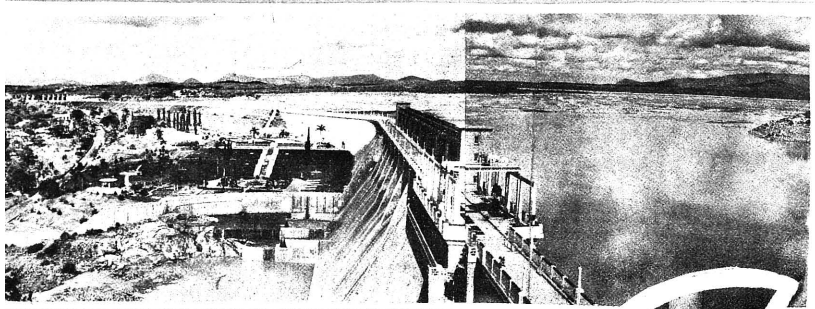
Top left:—Governor Sardar Ujjal Singh, the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, the Minister for Industries Thiru S. Madhavan and Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Engineering Thiru B. R. Baghat at the Memorial Ashoka Pillar. Salem Steel works.

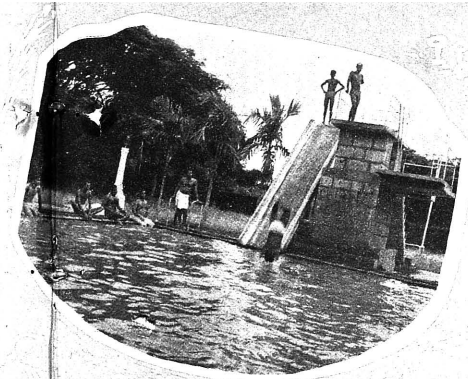
Top right:—The Governor, the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister arriving in an open jeep for the inaugural function.

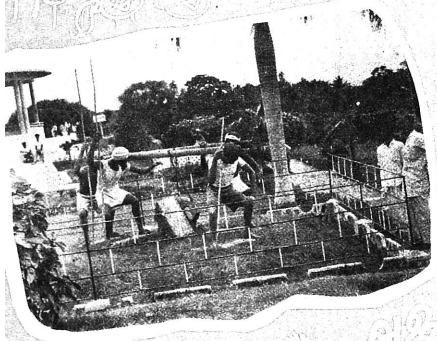
Middle left:—The Chief Minister making his Presidential speech.

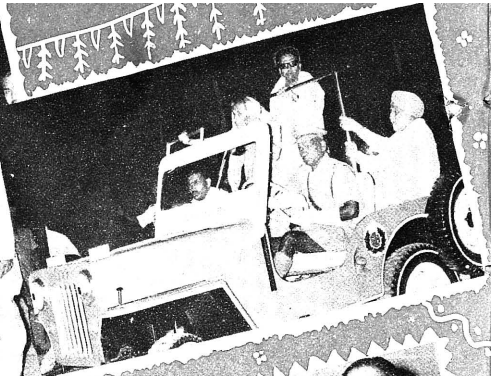
Middle right:—Intently watching the unveiling of the Memorial Ashoka Pillar are Thirumathi Indira Gandhi, Thiru M. Karunanidhi, Sardar Ujjal Singh and Thiru B. R. Baghat.

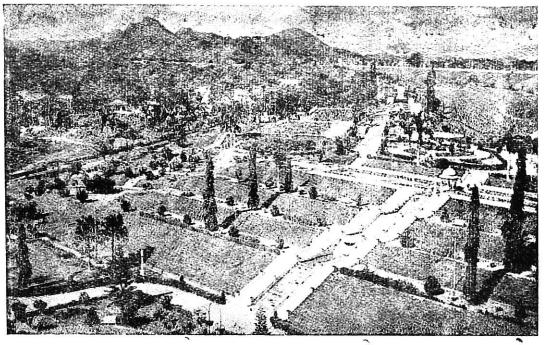
Bottom right:—The ladies ensure of the large audience which turned out for the inauguration of Salem Steel Project.











Terrace gardens at Sathanur

Sathanur... A WEEK-END RESORT

The Sathanur Dam is located across the Then Pennai River near Sathanur village about 20 miles from Thiruvannamalai town in North Arcot district, Tamil Nadu. The catchment area of the river at the Dam site, is 4,180 sq. miles. The Then Pennaiar starts from the South Eastern slope of Chennakesava Hills in Mysore State and flows over 53 miles in that State and then enters Tamil Nadu near Hosur in Salem district. A Dam across the river about 6 miles from Krishnagiri has been completed. The Sathanur Dam is about 70 miles below the Krishnagiri Dam and it is 178 miles from the origin of the river. The river below the Dam traverses through the North and South Arcot districts and finally enters the sea near Cuddalore town. The total length of the river is 253 miles.

Irrigation facilities available in Thiruvannamalai and Chengam taluks are scanty and are not quite dependable. There were no means of drawing water from the Then Pennaiar traversing through the district. Several schemes were investigated from time to time, but no scheme was taken up owing to several considerations like economical return on the outlay, unreliability of flow data in Pennaiar, etc. But after the second World War, steps were taken to review all such schemes under the "Grow More Food" drive. The present scheme was taken up for detailed investigation in 1954. This was immediately sanctioned for execution at an estimated cost of Rs. 289 lakhs. The project was inaugurated on 2nd October 1954.

The margin of the river below the Dam is rocky and rugged for a considerable distance thus rendering a direct off-take from the reservoir for irrigation canal impracticable. Therefore, water from the reservoir is let down in the river itself and picked up about 4½ miles lower down by an Anicut. Thus, the project comprises of a reservoir with a storage capacity of about 4,600 million cubic feet (first stage), a pick up Anicut and a canal system. The total length of the Dam is 2,558 feet of which masonry section is 1,373 feet. The balance is of earth Dam.

The length of the pick up Anicut is 400 feet excluding 20 feet bye-wash on the right flank and its maximum height above the foundation is 25 feet. It is designed to discharge a maximum flood of 280,940 cusecs.

The main canal which takes-off from the pick up Anicut on its left flank is 22 miles in length and it is designed to irrigate a total of 21,000 acres both in North Arcot (Chengam and Thiruvannamalai taluks) and South Arcot districts (Thirukoilur taluk). The total length of the distributaries is about 55 miles.

The canal was opened for irrigation during 1956-57 itself when the Dam was partly finished and an area of 408 acres was irrigated during 1957-58. The full ayacut of 21,000 acres was thrown open for irrigation during the year 1959-60.

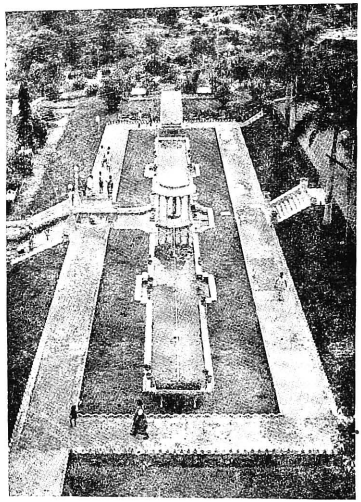
In the second stage of the project the capacity of the Reservoir was increased from 4,600 m.c.ft. to 8,100 m.c.ft. This was made possible by providing 20 ft. high gates on the crest of the spill-way. The extra storage available will be utilised to stabilise 5,000 acres of second crop in the Thirukoilur Anicut System which was precariously carried on depending on the available spring flows.

The proposal of providing 20 gates and operating arrangements including overhead platform, counter weights, etc., for the 9 vents of 40 feet into 20 feet on the crest of the spillway section have all been completed. Water is stored in the dam from late November and supplied for irrigation till late March every year.

Sathanur Dam provides attraction for Tourists

An attractive park has been laid out in the rear of the Dam. Special illumination on Saturdays and Sundays attracts the tourists.

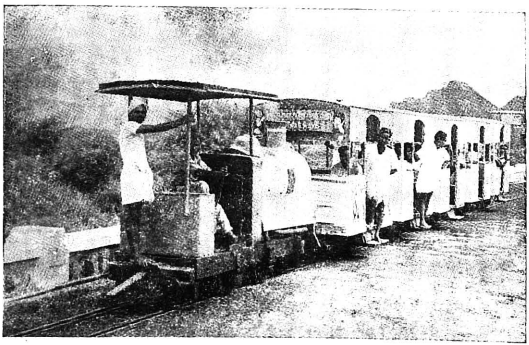
Accommodation is provided at the dam site for the tourists at cheap rates by the Public Works Department. There are 70 rooms. The daily rent varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 4.25 according to the comforts available. About 3,000 tourists visit every week. The income from tourists by way of rent amount to Rs. 2,000 per month.



An ornamental garden at Sathanur

There is a swimming pool and a toy-train. Tourists can enjoy boating also. There is a small zoo with bear, python and some birds of different species.

The Sathanur Toy-Train



This dam site with attractive landscape gardens of the Japanese pattern is a favourite venue for shooting films. On payment of the stipulated fees, permits for such film-shooting are issued. Annual income derived by way of such licence fees amount to Rs. 12,000. Being only 130 miles from the city, with plenty of accommodation it is a suitable week-end resort for families.

THE BANANA CAN BRING MORE FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Banana is one of the important table fruits in Western Countries as also in Russia and Japan. But all these countries have to import the banana. It is in this context that the banana has become an important commercial crop with a high potential for earning foreign exchange.

Banana is one of the oldest fruits known to mankind. It is the most important fruit of the tropics. It is also one of the most nutritive and popular table fruits of South India from time immemorial.

Banana is capable of earning more foreign exchange than other traditional agricultural commodities which figure in export such as pepper, cashew kernels, sugar and coffee. Estimates of foreign exchange earned from an unit area of 1,000 acres of selected agricultural commodities in India are as detailed below :

	(Rs. in lakhs.)
Pepper	4.3
Cashew Kernels ...	12.0
Sugar	16.6
Coffee	19.7
Banana	99.4

Banana ranks first in the matter of foreign exchage earnings from the same unit area of production. From this, one can judge that a far smaller extent of land is required under banana than under any other agricultural commodity to earn the same amount of foreign exchange.

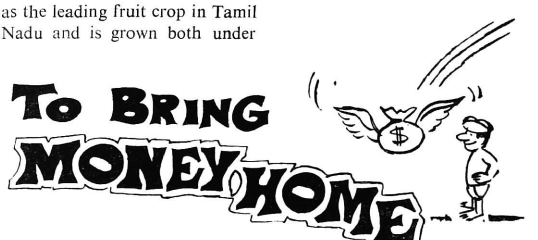
India is the second largest producer of bananas' being next only to Brazil, but the exports from India form a mere 0·4 per cent of the world trade against 48 per cent exported by Brazil.

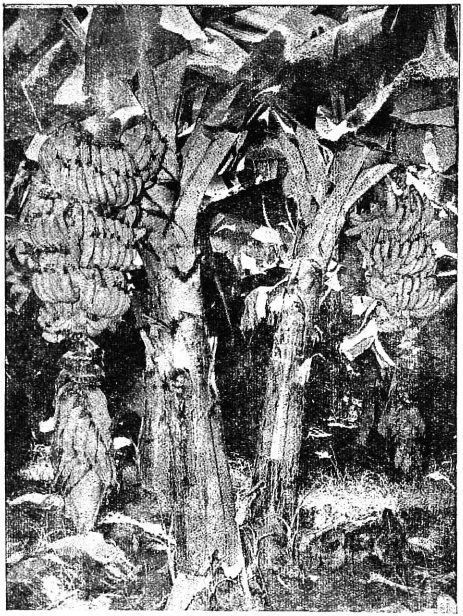
In India, Tamil Nadu occupies a premier place in area & production of banana, with an area of 89,000 acres and a production of 6·9 lakh tonnes. Banana ranks as the leading fruit crop in Tamil Nadu and is grown both under irrigated and in rainfed conditions in the plains and in the hill ranges upto an elevation of 5,500 feet. Banana cultivation is a paying vocation besides being one of the most efficient means for augmenting food production in Tamil Nadu.

Export Possibilities

Tamil Nadu has the commercial variety of bananas much in demand in the world-trade, viz., the 'Dwarf Cavendish' variety which is known as "Mauritius" or "Vamana Keli". The Dwarf Cavendish variety of banana grown in the sandy areas around Tuticorin is acceptable to the Market in Europe, U.S.S.R. and Japan. Especially it is very much liked by the Japanese, as it is sweeter than the present variety (giant Cavendish) now marketed in Japan.

Tamil Nadu offers excellent possibilities in extending the area and production of Dwarf Cavendish due to the nearness of areas to ports of export, the possibility of planting almost through a major part of the year enabling production to be evenly spread out, the very intensive methods of cultivation adopted and the high tonnage obtained per acre. Dwarf





The Dwarf Cavendish.

Dwarf Cavendish variety has increased both in terms of bunch weight from 10 kg. to 16 kg. and in terms of hands per bunch from 7 to 9 with not less than 16 to 18 fruits per hand.

Rs. 4 Crore for Banana

There is a proposal to cultivate Dwarf Cavendish variety in 6,000 acres in the sandy areas around Tuticorin. The Agricultural Finance Corporation has agreed to assist this scheme with financial assistance of Rs. 4·43 crores. When the first berth in the Tuticorin Harbour is ready, banana export could commence from Tamil Nadu to Japan, leading to earning of foreign exchange to the tune of 6 crores of rupees per year by this scheme alone.

With such advantages banana is sure to become one of the major export items of Tamil Nadu. Measures such as the Banana Research, Package Scheme for Banana Cultivation, etc., have been taken up for extending and improving banana cultivation. An exhaustive article on the various steps taken up for stepping up of banana cultivation will appear in the next issue of Tamil Arasu.

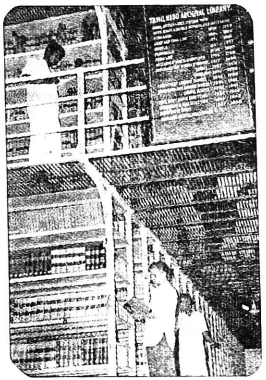
Cavendish variety is mainly grown in the districts of North Arcot, Madurai and Tirunelveli and to a smaller extent in Chingleput, Thanjavur and South Arcot districts.

To improve and stabilise the cultivation practices in the exportable Dwarf Cavendish Banana in garden land conditions, a Banana Research Station has been sanctioned. This Research Station will be located in North Arcot district. Already, by means of the Banana Package Scheme the yield per hectare of the

Export Packing of Banana.

All Our Yesterdays

ARE IN THE TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES



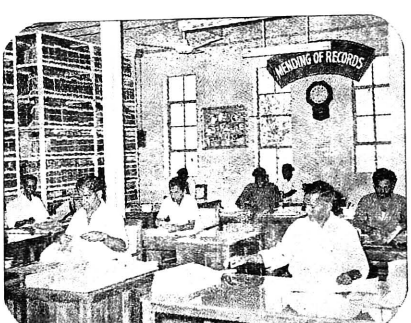
The Madras Record Office (now Tamil Nadu Archives) which came into being in 1909 is entrusted with the custody of all historical documents, books and Secretariat records for proper preservation. The records of the Board of Revenue, the Collectors, the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Survey Department, the High Court, the District Courts, etc., have also been entrusted to it. It has now about 6 million files and 6 lakhs books and volumes dating back to 1670, making it the biggest record repository in the country. The records in the Districts after 1857 and the language records i.e. Tamil, Telugu, etc., still await centralization.

The records lying with private individuals, associations, institutions, religious mutts, etc., are equally valuable from the point of view of history. They have to be unearthed, preserved and made available for research. With this object in view, Regional Committees have been constituted in States on the recommendation of the Government of India. The Tamil Nadu Committee, which was first constituted in 1948 has been listing records of importance with the private owners for inclusion in the National Register being prepared by the Government of India.

Repository of Dutch Records.

The Tamil Nadu Archives is the only centralised repository of Dutch Records in India. There are 1,642 volumes of Dutch records which relate to Cochin and Coromandel coast. The Dutch occupied Cochin from 1663 to 1795 and the Records cover the period from 1657 to 1845. The Dutch Records in all other parts of India were concentrated in the Madras Record Office in 1931. All of them have been presslisted, and catalogued ; 15 of them have been printed.

The Dutch and Danish records preserved in Tamil Nadu Archives contain valuable materials on the history, administration, etc., of Cochin and Tranquebar by the respective nations. The Persian records mirror the internal administration and the correspondence of the Nawabs of the Carnatic during the 18th century and as such contain good



source materials of our history. A mine of published information relating to sociology, politics, science and religion is found in the books registered at the office of the Registrar of Books and preserved here.

It is a matter of pride to note that even the East India Company's Government in Madras realised the importance and need for the centralisation of the Provincial records. Certain apartments on the north side of the Fort Square, considered to be well suited for the purpose, were appropriated for keeping the records. This was the nucleus of an organisation which later developed into the Madras Record Office, now known by the name Tamil Nadu Archives, almost a century later.

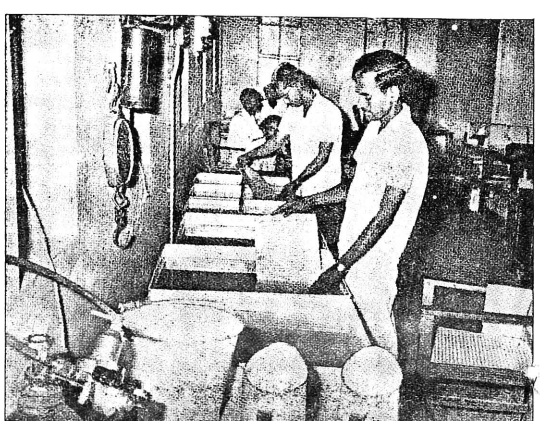
Wide Range of Material

The archival materials in the Tamil Nadu Archives range from the list of packets received from England to the conclusion of a treaty with an Indian Prince. Thus, for instance, there is abundant material on irrigation schemes ; on the development of large and small scale industries, cottage industries, village industries; on the existence of hitherto untapped minerals like copper, silver, lead, lignite and iron ore on the one hand and on land revenue collection, permanent settlement of 1802, Ryotwari settlement of 1818, Inam Settlement of 1858—1869 acquisition of Estates and Conversion into Ryotwari Tenure of 1948, Land Reforms fixation of ceiling in 1961 on the other. Materials on judicial administration, from the establishment of the first Supreme Court in 1678 and Mayor's Court in 1688 down to the reforms in Civil and Criminal Law ; on the administration of police from the grant of a Cowle to Pedda Naicken for attending to police duty of guarding the town of Chennapatnam down to modern period are also available. Archival materials are likewise found on several matters connected with Local Administration from the passing of the India Act XXVI (1850) down to formation of Panchayat and Panchayat Unions and on the origin and growth of education from the creation of a fund of a lakh of rupees out of the revenues of the East India Company for promotion of the literature and encouragement of scientific knowledge among the inhabitants of the British territories (1813), the efforts made by Sir Thomas Munro in establishing Collectorate and Tahsildari schools, the formation of University Board (1841) down to Bifurcation of Secondary and Higher Education in Madras. Source materials on buildings, roads, Railways, medical aid, co-operation, labour conditions, famine, unemployment, ports, religious endowments, fisheries, boundary disputes, territorial rights, economy, sociology, etc., are also available, besides those connected with claims of inamdars, Devasthanams, political pensions, welfare schemes, etc.

Facilities for Research :

In order to facilitate quick disposal of requisition for record, both for administrative and

Deacidification of documents.



research purpose, this Archives has undertaken the preparation and publication of Press lists, Guides, Calendars, etc. It also possesses manuscript and printed indexes for all series of important records. Press lists have been prepared for all Government records from 1670 to 1800 including the Factory Records of Ganjam, Vizag, Masulipatnam, South Arcot and Malabar Districts.

From the year 1857 up to date the Government and the Board have compiled current printed indexes of completed correspondence for deposit in record with the files to which they refer. Guides have been prepared and published for all district records down to 1835. Calendars have been compiled and published.

Preservation Methods :

Preservation of records is one of the primary functions of an Archives. The value of historical records increases as centuries pass by and the older the records the greater their value, both for administrators and for historians. The problem of preservation of records has two main aspects. Firstly, the preservation of records on good paper which are not affected by any destructive agencies against deterioration in figure by proper housing, control of atmospheric conditions and precuation against insect attack. This really is preservation by preventive measures. Secondly, the rehabilitation of brittle, damaged or insect-infested records by fumigation, lamination and chiffon mending.

The conventional methods of keeping records, repairing them and freeing them from record pests have been found to be ineffective and unsatisfactory, especially when the volume of records to be preserved is so vast. The emphasis now, therefore is on introducing modern techniques and equipments.

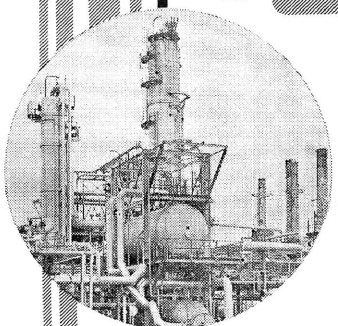
Archivism is yet to devise a method by which all records, files, bundles or volumes can be repaired or strengthened mechanically applying latest techniques. Any repair has, therefore, to be done sheet by sheet, a process which is apt to be slow. And when the archivist is confronted with a mass of decayed and brittle records, he is agitated, for he knows it too well that employment of even a large number of persons to mend the records on conventional lines may not touch the fringe of his problem, he knows also too well that allowing the decayed records to decay further would amount to discarding them to self destruction.

(*Cont. on Page* 46.)

Dusting of shelves by vacum cleaner.

THE FIRST YEAR OF SO MANY FIRSTS

at Madras Refinery



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- **FIRST with a Hydrogen Unit**
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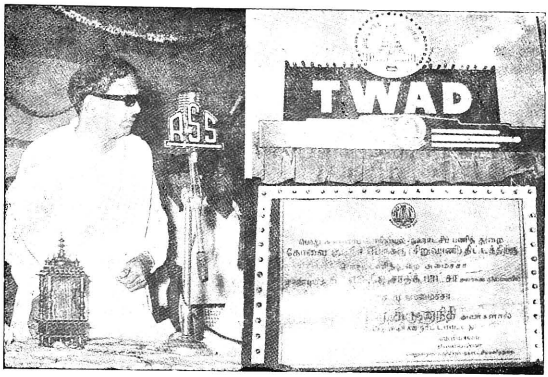
COIMBATORE GETS



SWEET SIRUVANI

The pride of Coimbatore has ever been its ever-cool drinking water—the famous Siruvani Waters. Thanks to an amicable inter-State Agreement between the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the fast expanding town of Coimbatore is now assured of its pride in the matter of drinking water for many, many years to come.

The Siruvani waters is adjudged the second best in the world, and no wonder Coimbatoreans if they are away from Coimbatore, will, miss with nostalgia nothing but their Siruvani water. The large-hearted way the Kerala Government acceded to the needs of Coimbatore will be remembered with gratitude by all in Coimbatore as supply at 20 gallons per head per day is assured for the growing city.

Work on the Rs. 6 crore scheme for augmentation of Siruvani Water Supply was inaugurated on 15th September 1970 by the Chief Minister. The scheme envisages the construction of an impounding reservoir in Kerala territory and diversion towards Coimbatore by means of a tunnel. The augmentation scheme will come into use in $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, and will represent a five-fold increase over the present rate of supply to the city.

The existing scheme

The existing water-supply scheme for Coimbatore town was completed and brought into use in 1931. The source of the water supply is the head waters of the Siruvani Stream having its origin in the Attapadi Valley in the Western Ghats.

Designed for a population of one hundred thousand at a per capita rate of 20 gallons per day, the scheme has practically no storage and depends on the dry weather run off in the source for the supply. The scheme is currently serving the town with a restricted supply of 14 gallons per head per day for the present estimated population of 3.5 lakhs during non-summer months. Even this rate is greatly reduced during the summer months, due to the drying up of the Muthikulam Falls which is the main feeder of the source of the present scheme. During this period, the Municipality supplements, the reduced yield from the Siruvani source by pumping water from the Periyar Stream flowing in the Noyyal Valley to an extent of four hundred thousand gallons per day.

(*contd. next page.*)

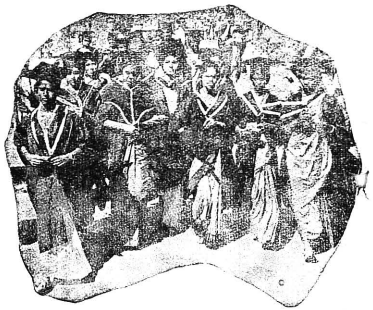
2,50,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOU

The number of international scholarships for study abroad was negligible two decades ago. It has now reached the dimension of a noticeable world phenomenon. "Study Abroad" a biennial UNESCO compendium which covers world opportunities in a single volume, contained some 15,000 scholarships in its first edition, published in 1948. The new edition just issued lists more than 250,000 awards in virtually every field and at all levels of learning in almost all of UNESCO's Member States. The information is for the 1970-1971 and 1971-1972 academic years.

A new trend to be noted is the increase of awards open only to women. The previous edition of ' Study Abroad " contained less than 1,000 ; the present volume reports almost 3,000 awards open only to women candidates.

Opened at random, " Study Abroad " reveals the great variety of possibilities offered. Are you a scientist with a background in isotope techniques interested in the three-week seminar on neutron activation analysis held in the United States ? Are you a marine Zoologist free to accept a six-month residency at a university on the west coast of Italy ? Scholarships can shorten the distance for you.

Fields of study range from earthquake engineering, cell research and theatre to nutrition and teaching about the United Nations.



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The project work under the augmentation proposals envisage construction of an impounding reservoir in Siruvani Valley with a storage capacity of six hundred and fifty million cu. ft. and an intake tower at the existing tunnel head to divert water through the existing tunnel to the Coimbatore side of the Western Ghats. The supply is proposed to be drawn at the foot of the hills through the natural course of the Anayar Stream into a treatment plant. After treatment, the purified water is proposed to be conveyed to the Coimbatore town through a gravity main of 33 " diameter and distributed to the town through distribution reservoirs and the existing distribution system with certain improvements. The supply contemplated to the greater Coimbatore town in the intermediate stage period up to 1986 including its suburbs is 17·6 million gallons per day and the supply contemplated during the ultimate stage period from 1986 to 2001 is 22·5 million gallons per day.

COSTLY LAND GOES INTO SUB-WAY

DORAISWAMY ROAD SUB-WAY

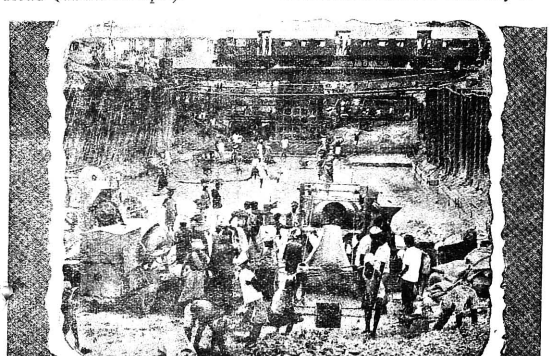
The area known as West Mambalam lying on the West of the Railway line has been developing very fast in the course of the last decade. The growth was mainly in the nature of residential housing. The people have therefore to cross the Railway line every morning and evening to go to their work and back to their home. Besides the shops and schools being situated in T. Nagar, the necessity for many daily crossings of the Railway line extends even to the younger folk and women.

The daily movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic from one side of the railway track to the other takes place (through four level crossings) two of them situated to the north of Mambalam Station and two of them situated to the south of the station. Those on the north are Rengarajapuram Road and Doraiswamy Road and those on the south are at Madley Road and the Burial ground Road (Kannammapet).

The closure of the level crossing extending even upto forty-five minutes during the peak hours of traffic in the morning and evening is causing considerable inconvenience to the public and waste of time. Large crowds collecting at the level crossings waiting for the gates to open and the sudden rush and scramble when the gates are opened after long waiting resulting some times in accidents have become a normal feature.

It has therefore become a matter of urgent necessity that an overbridge or sub-way should be provided at least at some of these points so that the public may not be inconvenienced in their day to day activities. Doraiswamy Road level crossing is one such place where intensity of vehicular and pedestrian traffic is large.

The railway track at the place being at a higher level than the adjoining ground level it is proposed to construct a sub-way at this place in preference to an overbridge as the sub-way will be more economical. The most formidable obstacle is that the area in this region is heavily built up and the land required will have to be acquired at a heavy compensation. In view of this and the fact that the construction of a standard overbridge at Arcot Road level crossing at about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from this place has already been completed, it was originally considered sufficient that a sub-standard subway with a head room of nine feet may be constructed at the place for the use of pedestrians, cycles, and car traffic only. Lorries and buses were to be pohibited, so that the length of the subway will be less, resulting in the reduction of cost of acquisition. Accordingly a design for the construction of a sub way of 9'0" clearance at a cost of about Rs. 12.6 lakhs was prepared and the same was approved by the Government. Subsequently due to the representation of the



public the Government have since decided to increase the clearance of the sub-way from 9'0" to 12'0" so as to permit the City buses to ply and have also directed the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras to prepare and submit plans and estimates. Accordingly the revised designs with plans and estimates have been prepared for 12'0" clear sub-way which will, allow all kinds of vehicles except lorries.

The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 25 lakhs. The sub-way will consist of three parts namely (1) open sub-way, (2) Service Roads and (3) Sub-way covered portion, viz., Bridge. The sub-way will be 34'0" wide in the railway and bridge limits for a length of 197'0" and provides 24'0" vehicular way with footpath of 5'0" wide on either side. For the rest of the open portion the sub-way will be 26'0" wide without footpath with 1'0" kerb on either side. The work is in progress and will be completed early in 1971.

FILM AWARDS 1970.

The Government appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Varadarajanar, to select the best Tamil Film, etc., of 1969. The Committee viewed 11 films received as entries. The Committee has announced the following 15 awards:—

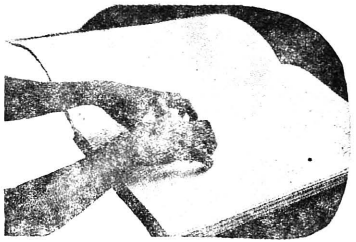
1.	First best feature film	... Adimai Penn.
2.	Second best feature film	... Akka Thangai.
3.	Third best feature film	... Deiva Magan.
4.	Best Director ...	... Thiru P. Neelakantan (Mattukkara Velan).
5.	Best Actor	... Thiru Sivaji Ganesan (Deiva Magan).
6.	Best Actress	... Thirumathi Sowcar Janaki (Iru Kodugal).
7.	Best Story Writer ...	... Thiru Bala Murugan (Thunaivan).
8.	Best Dialogue writer ...	... Thiru Sornam (Nam Nadu).
9.	Best Music Director ...	... Thiru K.V. Mahadevan (Adimai Penn).
10.	Best Camera Man ...	... Thiru Marcus Bartley (Santhi Nilayam).
11.	Best Supporting actor	... Thiru Major Sundararaj (Deiva Magan).
12.	Best Supporting actress	... Selvi Pandari Bai (Adimai Penn).
13.	Best male singer ...	... Thiru S. P. Balasubramaniam (Adimai Penn, Santhi Nilayam).
14.	Best female singer ...	... Thirumathi K. B. Sundarambal (Thunaivan).
15.	Best song composer ...	... Thiru Marudakasi (Thunaivan).

The Committee also recommended that a special prize may be awarded to the child actress Baby Rani for her performance in 'Kanne Pappa'. The Government has accepted these recommendations.

SUGAR WAGE BOARD AWARD

As there was delay in the submission of the recommendations of the Wage Board for Sugar Industry, appointed by the Government of India, the workers in the Sugar Mills in Tamil Nadu agitated for revision of Wages, Dearness Allowance, etc. Pending the announcement of the recommendations of the Wage Board, settlements were reached in this State with the help of the Labour Department providing for the payment of interim relief ; in view of the settlement, the workers agreed to wait till 15-7-69. The recommendations were not known even by then, and further talks were held before the Minister for Labour when a proposal for setting up a negotiating Committee to discuss the issues in dispute was put forward. Meanwhile the Government of India have published the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industry and have also announced acceptance of its majority recommendations. In view of the above changed circumstances, the Government consider that there is no necessity to constitute a negotiating Committee. The majority recommendations of the Wage Board are commended for implementation by the Managements and Unions concerned, who are requested to settle at Unit level any points that may arise in the course of such implementations.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, POONAMALLEE.



The school came into existence as a joint effort of the Madras Association for the Blind and the Victory Memorial Committee. The Victory Memorial Committee of the World War I, which had some funds and a huge building with spacious grounds, felt that the fund could be best used for the welfare of the blind and so approached the Madras Association for the Blind stipulating certain conditions. The latter acceded, and this school came into existence in 1930 under the name "Victory Memorial Blind School, Poonamallee". This school had a powerful governing body to manage the Institution. But after some years the Governing Body requested the then Government of Madras to take over the management of the school. The Government managed the affairs of the Institution for 2 years; the same Governing Body then thought it was better, to hand over the assets and liabilities of the Institution to the Government of Madras. The School thereafter became a purely Government Organization under the direct control of the Education Department.

The school started with 17 pupils taken over from the Corporation Blind School which had just then been closed. At that time the Palayamkottai School thought it fit to send 28 of their pupils for further training and employment in this school. The strength of the school in 1946 (when it was handed over to Government) was 100 and it has since increased to nearly 300 students.

Boarding, lodging, tuition, clothing, medical attention, books and Braille appliances are provided free, to the pupils, who are also allowed to travel to and from their homes for the summer holidays at State expense.

Broadly speaking, the school consists of two sections : viz., Educational and Industrial.

The main objects of this school are : (*i*) to give academic education up to the S.S.L.C. examination standard, (*ii*) to train blind adolescents in certain trades, (*iii*) to train teachers of the blind, (*iv*) to print Books in Braille and (*v*) train adults in light engineering operations.

Educational Section

Blind children between the ages of 5 and 10 are admitted into this section for coaching them in standards I to XI. The syllabus and text books are the same as those presented for the corresponding classes in normal schools. The school trains students for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination. Practically during all these years the School has achieved 100 per cent results in the Public Examinations. After passing the S.S.L.C. examination some students take to University education, and so far five have graduated in different subjects. The pupils are also coached and encouraged to appear for the Government Technical Examinations in Music.

Extra-curricular activities receive due importance in this section. Scouting, girl-guiding, Red-cross, Literary associations, Dramatic groups and Orchestra are very popular with the students. They are also very keen on gardening, camping and going out on excursions.

Industrial Section

Blind adolescents between the ages of 14 and 20 are trained in handloom weaving and cane-work. This course of training is spread over a period of four years ; but in individual cases, it is extended, if necessary. After training, their services are utilized to make and perfect the respective products for sale.

The handloom weaving section, meets not only clothing requirements for the inmates of this

Institution, but also meets the requisitions of two other institutions. A sizable quantity is sold to the public as well. The products are quality fabrics and sold at competitive prices.

Similarly, in cane-work, several utility articles like chairs, stools, carbacks, shopping baskets, tapal boxes, trays, etc., are made. Customers with aesthetic taste are quite satisfied with the products from this section.

Mat-weaving, knitting, machine-sewing and hand-sewing are taught as hobbies.

Teachers' Training Section

The teachers' training section, trained qualified teachers, in teaching blind children as and when required till recently. The Government of India has since selected this school to run a Regional Training Centre for training teachers of the blind. This Centre will cater to the needs of four States, viz., Tamil Nadu, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. It is hoped that this Training Centre will become a permanent feature of the School for the Blind.

Regional Braille Press

A Regional Braille Printing Press has also been located in this school compound to produce text-books in Braille in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, and has already started producing text-books for the lower classes.

U.S.A. aided to Light Engineering Project

A new research-project was started by the management in training blind adults in light Engineering operations. This Project is located in the Industrial Estate. It trains blind adults in the use of hand tools and certain electrically driven machines like lathes, drills, sanders, wool-grinding machines, fly-presses, etc. The successfully trained students are placed in factories on a competitive basis, and the respective managements are satisfied with the quality and quantity of their work.

New Vistas for Blind

It is comforting to be able to say that the blind earn anything from Rs. 75 to Rs. 285 per month on a par with their sighted brethren. This scheme has become possible because of the financial assistance given by Government of the U.S.A. to the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is hoped that this study will open up new vistas for the benefit of the blind.

This school which greatly expanded not only in its numerical strength but also in the variety of its activities, has come to be now recognized as one of the foremost institutions of India as a whole and it is the fervent hope of the management, that there will be progressive increase in the activities of this Institution, in the years to come.

State Board for the handicapped

The Government of Tamil Nadu have constituted a State Board for the handicapped on which the Director of Employment, the Director of Education, the Director of Industries and the Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board will be ex-officio members. The Governor will be the President and the Health and the Education Ministers will be Vice-Presidents. The Chairman, Secretaries and Treasurer will be non-officials. The Executive Committee will have representatives from all the institutions of the handicapped. There will also be eight nominated members from the two houses of the legislature.

Chief Minister's Police Medal

Instituted last year, for the first time, the Chief Minister's Award to the Police, this year was presented at Coimbatore. Incidentally Tamil Nadu is the only State which confers such distinction at State level on its constabulary. This year four members of the Police Force were singled out for Gallantry Awards, one of them was a Police Constable, and the rest were three Inspectors of Police. The other 17 awards were for outstanding services. The names of recipients of the Chief Minister's Police Medals for outstanding service are given below. Three of the Gallantry Awards were for tracking down, and arresting nine revolutionary top ranking extremists of All India importance in Madras City on the night of 18th December 1969 at grave personal risk. They are :

Thiru T. Natarajan,
Inspector of Police,
Special Branch,
C.I.D., Madras.

Thiru A. Ramaswamy,
Inspector of Police,
Special Branch,
C.I.D., Madras.

Thiru S. Ganesan,
Inspector of Police,
Madras City Police.

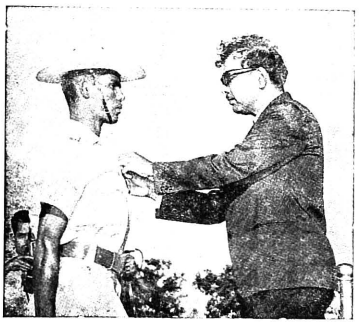
The act of Gallantry on the part of the Police Constable Thiru P. C. Chelliah is as follows :

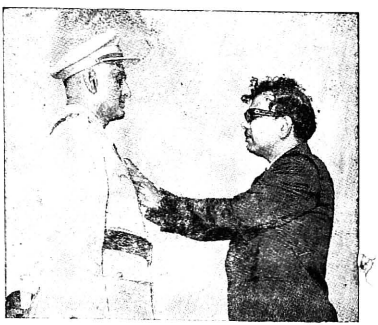
On 14th June 1966, a platoon of 'F' company of the Special Armed Police IV (Tamil Nadu) Battalion on deputation in the Assam State, took charge of an out-post at Jayanpunchi, Cachar district. At 4-25 a.m. on 27th September 1966 the out-post at Jayanpunchi was fired upon by surprise by armed Mizos, numbering about 100. The Special Armed Police Platoon returned the fire. The engagement continued till 6-30 a.m. when the Special Armed Police platoon successfully repelled the Mizo attack. The attackers fled into the thick jungle, leaving behind a sten gun, magazines with 30 rounds, some 303 empty cases and a pair of Binoculars. In this attack, three constables of the Special armed police suffered fatal bullet injuries. Eleven others suffered injuries, the most serious being Police Constable 1083, Chelliah, whose left leg had to be amputated. The object of the Mizos obviously was to overrun the Special Armed Police Out-post and capture the arms and ammunition therein.

Police Constable 1083, Chelliah of Special Armed Police IV, Battalion, in facing the armed Mizos squarely at the fag-end of the night and helping his platoon to put the Mizos to flight, even when he was badly injured, showed extraordinary devotion to duty and gallantry in the best traditions of the Tamil Nadu Police.

The names of recipients of the Chief Minister's Police Medals for outstanding Service are—

1. **Thiru G. Narayana Vastad,** *Deputy Superintendent of Police,* North Arcot District.
2. **Thiru K. Narayanasamy,** *Deputy Superintendent of Police,* South Arcot District.
3. **Thiru B. Abdul Majeeth,** *Deputy Superintendent of Police,* Category-II, Tiruchirappalli District.
4. **Thiru M. Veluswamy,** *Assistant Commandant, on deputation in M.S.P.I. (Tamil Nadu) Battalion,* NEFA.
5. **Thiru M. S. Subramaniam,** *Divisional Fire Officer,* Tiruchirappalli.
6. **Thiru R. Govindarajalu,** *Inspector of Police,* Crime Branch, C.I.D., Madras.
7. **Thiru D. Thassiah,** *Inspector of Police,* Tirunelveli District.
8. **Thiru R. H. Taylor,** *Inspector of Police,* Government Railway Police, Tiruchirappalli.
9. **Thiru K. K. Chenthamarakshan,** *Inspector of Police,* Thanjavur District.
10. **Thiru V. S. Kandaswami,** *Inspector of Police,* Food Cell, C.I.D., Madras.
11. **Thiru P. Muthiah,** *Inspector of Police,* Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption, Madras.
12. **Thiru S. Natarajan,** *Inspector of Police,* High Court Vigilance Cell, Madras.
13. **Thiru P. Meenakshisundaram,** *Inspector of Police,* Special Branch, C.I.D., Madras.
14. **Thiru P. J. Manual,** *Reserve Inspector,* Headquarters, Madras City Police.
15. **Thiru N. M. Somasundaram,** *Sub-Inspector of Police,* S.B., C.I.D., Madras.
16. **Thiru C. Ranganathan,** *Jamedar,* Special Armed Police-I, Battalion, Avadi.
17. **R. Manicka Naidu,** *Head Constable* 16, Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption, Madras (over 30 years service).
18. **Thiru R. Karuppiah,** *Head Constable* 1309, Ramanathapuram District.
19. **Thiru M. D. Subramaniyam,** *Police Constable* 1046, Chingleput East District.
20. **Thiru K. Velayutham,** *Police Constable* 545, The Nilgiris District.





Earnings from Tourism go up

The foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India in 1969 has shown a 23 per cent increase, and, according to official figures, the earnings had gone up to Rs. 33·11 crores as against Rs. 26·42 crores in the previous year. Only 21·5 per cent of tourists visiting India went over to Madras to tour Tamil Nadu.

Interesting facts regarding the various aspects of tourism have been revealed in a sample survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion on behalf of the Department of Tourism. According to the survey, the average expenditure of a tourist was Rs. 1,367·81 and his average stay 22·3 days. The largest income was derived from the tourists from U.S.A. The average expenditure by an American tourist was Rs. 1,714.

Encouraging Tributes

Encouraging tributes were paid by most of the tourists. As many as 93 per cent of the tourists had declared that they enjoyed their stay in India. For 60 per cent of them the Indians were warm and friendly people. For 54 per cent of them the things that attracted them were the beautiful creations of man-buildings, temples and churches. About 48 per cent of them appreciated the beautiful and natural scenery. Other things that attracted some tourists were good shopping facilities and reasonable prices; attractive customs and ways of life of the people; exotic environment and wholesome food.

In all, 2·45 lakhs of foreign tourists visited India in 1969 of whom 48,080 turned towards Tamil Nadu. Tourists from U.S. formed the largest number followed closely by U. K. Quite a good number came from West European countries like France and Germany. As for the mode of transport, 83·9 per cent of the tourists left by air, 11.1 per cent by sea and 5 per cent by land. There was an increase in the destinational traffic, India being the destinational point for 52 per cent of the tourists in 1968–69 as compared to 43 per cent in 1965–66. The average stay of tourists was estimated at 22·3 days an individual.

Diverse Enjoyment

The purpose of the tour was declared to be "tourism as holiday" by 53·4 per cent of the tourists as against 51·4 per cent in 1965–66. On the other hand, the proportion of those coming to see relatives and friends had declined from 15·7 per cent to 12·6 per cent. An increase has been registered in the category of those tourists who had no special purpose. A large proportion of them are supposed to be non-conformists like "Hippies".

Air travel has been most popular for tourists from all countries. Travel by overland routes is also becoming increasingly popular.

The most popular centre in India for the tourists was Delhi. A majority of tourists leaving by air chose Delhi as the embarkation point, Bombay being the next in preference. Most of the tourits visited Agra (35·2 per cent), Calcutta (24·2 per cent); Madras (21·5 per cent), Varanasi (11.8 per cent) and Jaipur (10.2 per cent).

NEW LOOK FOR MADRAS AIRPORT

Work on the International arrival wing of the Madras airport is going on apace and it is expected to be completed very shortly. It is estimated to cost just over Rs. 10 lakhs.

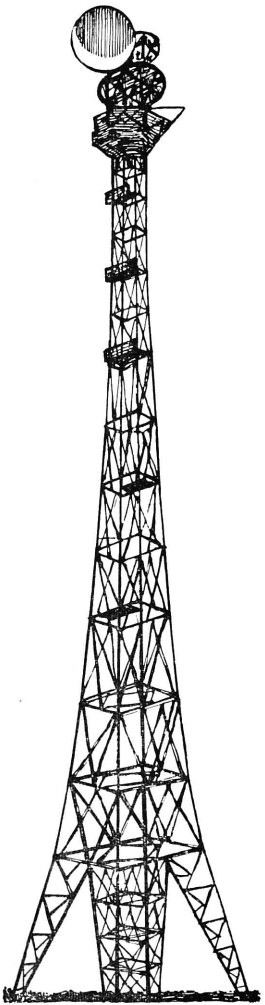
The total cost of air-conditioning of the buildings (which include the restaurant, domestic arrival and departure wings and international arrival and departure wing) are expected to come to about Rs. 30 lakhs.

It is proposed to provide a conveyor belt for taking baggages from the air-craft to the baggage counter. The runway is proposed to be extended by another 3,000 feet to 13,000 feet.

BUOY LIGHTS FOR MADRAS HARBOUR

Lighted buoys will be used in the Madras Port's 15·6 metres deep and 3·2 km. long main channel to demarcate either side. The channel has been recently dredged to facilitate the piloting of deep tankers and ore-carriers into the harbour.

A total of nine buoys, each fitted with a light having flashing characteristics for night navigation, would be installed to mark the channel.



THE TANSI

Challenging projects like the re-decking of Dhanushkodi Pier and export of 80 metres high micro-wave towers to African Countries have been successfully completed by the Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation in the last year. The TANSI has earned a big name for steel structural work at home and abroad. Virtually, these structurals span oceans and scan the skies in the African countries now.

During the year 1968-69, the TANSI was able to secure sizable orders from Hindustan Shipyard, Vishakapatnam, Madras Port Trust, Madras Industrial Development Corporation and from the State Highways Department for the re-decking of Dhanushkodi Pier. Site Workshops were set up by the Company at Vishakapatnam and Rameshwaram. On the basis of the TANSI's performance at Vishakapatnam, additional orders of 790 tons of structural works were placed on the Company by the Hinsdutan Shipyard Limited. The re-decking of Dhanushkodi Pier was a challenging project and the company completed it in time.

All this is in the general trend of events in the engineering field in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Technicians have been erecting electric transmission towers in African countries. The Tiruchi Heavy Boiler Plant has recently secured from abroad an order for making a heavy boiler for thermal generation. Following the supply of micro-wave towers as high as 80 and 90 metres for the Southern Railway micro-wave communication net-work, the TANSI has now secured an order from Kuwait for the supply of similar towers. These towers are being galvanised in TANSI's unit at Mettur. The Kuwait order is worth Rs. 60 lakhs and involves 4,500 tonnes of steel. The out-turn of this unit (i.e., The Galvanising Plant, Mettur) of TANSI for the current year is likely to exceed Rs. 1·25 crores. The TANSI as a whole was able to do better than Rs. 6 crores of turnover last year.

For the galvanising plant, orders have also flowed from Nigeria. The plant is equipped with 21 feet long galvanising pits and the electric cranes of the galvanising pits can handle up to 48 tons for automatic dipping and drying.

The increase in tempo of production and sales of TANSI was mainly on account of planned attempts made to exploit the idle capacities available in all its 60 units. As a result, production in the General Purpose Engineering Workshops went up from Rs. 56 lakhs in 1967-68 to Rs. 76 lakhs in 1968-69, while in some of the units in the group, the rise was as high as 60 to 100 per cent.

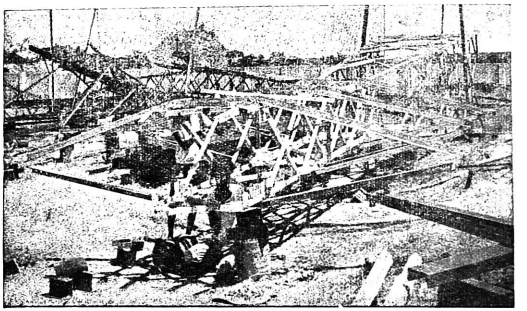
The activities in the Units of the Corporation were diversified to undertake manufacture of new products. The Farm Implements Unit, Tiruchirappalli, successfully developed manufacture of tractor trailers. The experience gained has enabled the Unit to stabilise production of this item. Sizable orders have been received and executed for this item from Agriculture Department as well as from private parties.

The Fractional Horse Power Motor Unit, Guindy, has started manufacturing a new product, emergency lamps. From the enquiries received, there seems to be a good demand for this item.

There are 60 units under the Company now and they were set up originally for various non-commercial purposes such as dispersal of industrial growth, training of artisans, adoption of modern techniques, etc.

With a view to running these Units on fully commercial lines, the Government formed on 10th September, 1965 an autonomous Corporation—The Madras State Small Industries Corporation limited. Its name has now been changed as "Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited".

Half the number of units have no end products and are completely dependent upon job orders for their existence. The capital structure in these Units has had no relationship to their commercial viability, as these units have been conceived and designed primarily as Service Centres.



A Galvanised transmission Tower.

However, despite the company being predominantly service-oriented and engaged in engineering field, the Company was successful in achieving a substantial increase in its production.

The Company has established contacts with several establishments like the Electricity Board, Vishakapatnam Shipyard, Madurai and Annamalai Universities, Sainik School at Amaravathi, Hindustan Machine Tools, Bharat Electronics, etc., for securing orders. Now private companies have also started placing orders on TANSI. The export order to Kuwait is one of such orders.

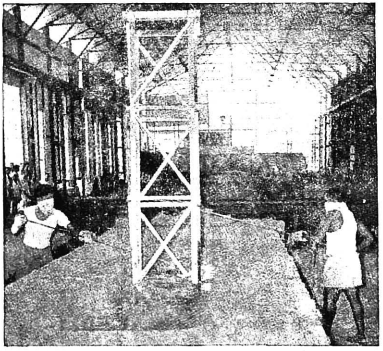
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN AUGUST 1970.

Reports received from the Employment Officers in the State, revealed that during August, 1970 (compared with those of July 1970), there were lesser registrations and lesser vacancy notifications but more placements. The Employment Offices in Tamil Nadu registered 35,835 applicants and placed 3,965 registrants during August 1970.

The number of vacancies notified by employers to Employment Offices was 4,436 a decrease of 353 over the previous month. The Live Register at the end of August 1970 stood at 4,15,173 an increase of 9,428 over the previous month.

Shortages of manpower were reported in the following occupations :—

Medical Officer ; Maternity Assistant ; Pharmacist ; B.T. Assistant (Maths. ; Science) ; Tamil/Telugu/Malayalam Pandits; Urdu Medium Basic Trained teacher (Higher/Secondary grade-male/female) ; Kannada medium Secondary grade trained teacher ; Physical Education Teacher ; Stenographer ; Laboratory Technician ; Power driller ; Instrument Mechanic ; Mechanic with 3 years experience and Road Roller Driver.



The Galvanising pit.

The Special Employment office for Physically Handicapped at Madras registered 63 (Blind-12 ; deaf-8 and Orthopaedic-43) and placed 16 (Orthopaedic 16) applicants during August 1970. At the end of August 1970, there were 945 (blind-182 ; Deaf-96 ; and Orthopaedic-667) applicants on the Live Register of Employment offices in the State.

(*continued from page* 33)

Distinction of Tamil Nadu Archives.

Tamil Nadu Archives enjoys the distinction of being the first and well organised Archives in India. The Archives preserved here reflect the origin, growth and expansion of British Rule by territorial conquest and the final establishment of supermacy over all rival powers both foreign and Indian. The archives preserved here also contain, a mine of information on the aspirations and achievements of the British Government on all matters of administration, covering all aspects of Socio-economic problems, besides throwing light on the views and ideas of able and experienced administrators, statesmen and legislators of the past, on all matters of public interest.

The Tamil Nadu Archives has been justifiably attracting research scholars from distant countries like the United States, Australia, Czechoslovakia and France. Recently there was a case where a valuable record was borrowed by the Yale University in the United States for an exhibition organised in connection with the bicentenary of Yale who was former Governor of Tamil Nadu.

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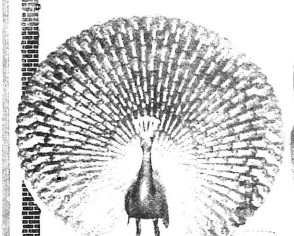

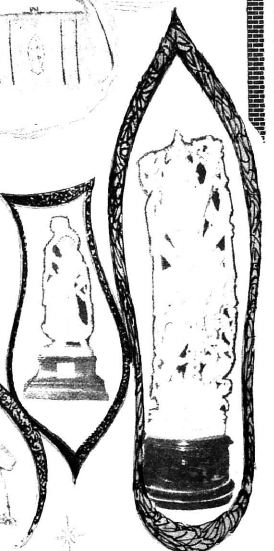

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