

titled "Summary and Conclusions", reviews the progress being made in, particular fields such as food production; production of other commodities such as jute, rubber, tea and tin; manufacturing; and public utilities and services. It discusses the financial problems faced by the Asian members in connection with economic development, the external grants and loans available to them, and the importance of technical assistance. Finally it surveys the task ahead.

The report contains many encouraging examples of projects completed or well on their way to completion in the countries of South and South-East Asia. These include such projects as the Thal Development project in Pakistan; the Mayurakshi dam, the Sindri fertilizer plant and community development projects in India; the Gal Oya hydro-electric project in Ceylon; the Taungpulu dam in Burma; water reservoirs in Indonesia; and the establishment of a Rural and Industrial Development Authority in Malaya. These are but random examples which could be multiplied several times but which demonstrate that, in varying degrees, the countries of South and South-East Asia are actually achieving concrete results in their efforts to make the benefits of modern techniques available to an ever-increasing number of their people. Actually, at this stage, the rate of development is difficult to assess in physical terms because many of the important projects take years to complete and will yield returns only gradually. Also, much of the progress being made is in fields where results are not easily measurable such as health, education and improved technical capacity. On the other hand, the heaviest task in these fields still lies ahead and, in another less tangible field—that of employment—the situation is still serious in some countries.

The report records that, in the area as a whole, total development expenditure increased by 27 per cent during the past year and is expected to increase by 31 per cent in the current year. The current food supply of the area has been improved; food production has increased in several countries; and continuing heavy investments in agriculture should ensure a rising volume of food production and a higher measure of economic stability for the whole area. There has been expansion in manufacturing and in public services such as power and transport during 1953-54.

Financial Problems

The report states that the financial problems of the Colombo Plan countries, relative to their development needs, are most serious, and that, although important steps have been taken to use domestic capital more effectively, the low level of average individual incomes makes it difficult to mobilize sufficient domestic resources for a rapid rate of development. Note is taken of steps which certain Colombo Plan countries have taken to enlist the co-operation of private enterprise in the economic development field, and of measures to encourage the investment of private capital from abroad. However, the report states that new private investment has been small and that, in the main, economic development in the area will probably be carried on within the framework of public planning for some time to come.

The report indicates that the amount of grant aid known to be available for the coming year will be about the same as in the recent past, supplemented, as heretofore, by loans. It states that the countries of the Colombo Plan area are aware that the main burden must be borne out of their own resources, al-