

hydro-electric installations in this country, and some of our electrical manufacturers. A Highway and Bridges Mission which has travelled extensively here studying our methods of road building and bridge construction, traffic control, and so on.

Some of those who have come to us are scholars accepted for post graduate study. Others again are Fellows, coming here for special fellowship courses.

We also, in our Technical Assistance Branch arrange courses, travel, etc. for trainees sent into Canada by the United Nations for study here.

Taking these visitors as a whole, they study a very wide range of subjects, from nutrition and child care to railway administration. They are avid for information, work hard, read everything they can lay their hands on and go back, we hope, as friends of Canada for all time.

It is not easy to arrange courses and tours for these people and I want here to ask for your co-operation in making it easier. I can think of no greater ultimate benefit to this country than that we should have this great opportunity to get to know these people, to teach them to know and use our machinery and Canadian products, to make friends with them to show them something of the great kindly heart of this Canada of ours, to play each of us his individual part in helping to build a bridge of friendship between Canada and our Asian Commonwealth partners, India, Pakistan and Ceylon.....We have an opportunity to study these Oriental countries, to make friends with their people. Not only are they coming to us, but a further aspect of our technical assistance to them is the sending out of experts from this country to teach in Asia. We found for instance an expert statistician for Burma, a fisheries expert for Ceylon and now on his way, a refrigeration expert for Ceylon. For the Food and Agricultural Organization we found an expert to go to Chile. Coming now to the Capital Assistance Programme we have, as I said earlier, \$25 million which this year will be used to start off projects which are now in the discussion stage. Obviously today, I have not the time to go into detail, but I will mention two projects which have appealed to us as the type of co-operation we would like to have with these Asian Commonwealth partners of ours. One is a scheme for village rehabilitation in which impoverished villages are divided into convenient economic areas. Then a study is made of each area to see how it can be made more productive. How can the poor villager be equipped so that he can better fight off the ever encroaching jungle, the fast growing tropical weed. How can the poor cultivator get more and better food and thereby more physical strength for his work. Possibly in some of the areas in a short time, tractors and other agricultural machinery could be used. The scheme calls for machinery for the digging of deep wells for the provision of a better and continuous water supply. A power mill of some kind will be erected in each area for grading grain. More hand tools, axes, hoes, etc., will be provided. This is a direct grass roots approach to the problem of village poverty, couple it, as we are trying to do, with a good agricultural college and you can see that through such schemes, at least some inroads can be made on Asia's dreadful poverty, particularly when you remember that between 70 and 80 per cent of the population in these countries are engaged in agriculture, very largely at the mere subsistence level.