

In the Thal area, where we are building the cement plant, we are also assisting with the development of an experimental farm, from which it is hoped to supply the settlers with draft bullocks, buffalo, good seed and expert advice. We are supplying agricultural machinery, tractors, ploughs, etc., to a value of roughly \$150,000.

#### The Colombo Plan So Far — Technical Co-operation

One of the very great needs of the whole of the Southeast Asian area is men and women trained in various technical skills. Practically the whole work of the United Nations and much of the U.S. Point Four endeavour is devoted to that huge problem. The Colombo Plan also is working in this field. Canada gives \$400,000 yearly to technical assistance work under Colombo Plan auspices and \$850,000 yearly to aid the United Nations in its work in that field, and our Colombo Plan work falls into two parts: capital and technical, that is, technical experts going to Asia and, by far the larger section, people from Southeast Asia coming here in search of training in all kinds of skills. In all, including training work we have done in Canada for the United Nations, nearly 300 people have been here for training in the last year or so. Their courses have covered a wide field: agriculture, health, railways, fisheries, hydro-electric, general engineering, administration, geology, education, forestry and statistics.

I want to mention particularly one field in which, I think, we have attained some success. It is vitally important that senior officials in Southeast Asia be made aware of what we have to offer in technical assistance, only if such men are prepared to co-operate can a satisfactory programme be evolved; and so we have invited various missions here, composed for the most part of senior officials who cannot be spared for more than three months or so. These missions have so far been composed of groups from India, Pakistan and Ceylon, who have toured this country looking into our facilities in such divergent fields as roads and bridges, hydro-electric development, medicine and public health, and agriculture.

There is one mission I would like particularly to mention, which was not composed of senior men. It was a mission of twelve young Pakistani boys who had just entered the civil service of their country. They were all fine, clean-cut, young fellows. They started here with an interview with the Prime Minister, who not only welcomed them to Canada but told them something about his job in this democratic country. They saw members of the Cabinet and learned something of their jobs, and so they went down deeply, by interview and lecture, into all the ramifications of our federal government system. Then they toured the provinces; they were particularly interested in Quebec and in seeing how we had solved our two-language problem, because they have, not a two, but

a many-language problem. They dug into our municipal problems, and so, from one end of Canada to another, they studied the workings of a well established democratic country. We kept them out of hotels as much as possible, and put them up in homes. The result was that they made many friends with whom they are corresponding. I am reasonably sure that those twelve young men will enter on their careers with broader minds and an affection for Canada, which will last them all their lives.

This particular piece of our technical assistance effort did what I would like to be sure that the whole world-wide technical effort is doing: it made us twelve real friends in Asia.

#### The Future of the Colombo Plan

Well, so much for what we have done. Now what about the future? We shall again give India some wheat, probably about \$5,000,000 worth. I hope we shall be able to provide more assistance towards the completion of the Mayurakshi dam project.

We are working on the details of several projects for India and Pakistan, about which it is too early yet to talk, and we have entered into a fishing and refrigeration project for Ceylon, upon which we shall probably spend one million dollars before we are through, and we are looking at another project for Ceylon.

This business of working out suitable projects with our Commonwealth partners in Southeast Asia is not an easy one. We have to take into sympathetic consideration all the time their shortage of top, well-trained personnel with whom we can co-operate. We have to remember always that they are proud, independent powers with definite ideas of their own about the needs of their people. They work from an entirely different religious and ideological background, but we have with them the link of their faith and belief in human freedom.

One criticism frequently heard about the Colombo Plan and other programmes of aid to Asia, is that, compared to the problem, any aid we could give would be hopelessly inadequate, so why do anything?

There is one answer to that kind of criticism; it is, that all our aid is trying to do is to help these people to help themselves. Always we must remember that they are using their own capital resources with ours on the same projects. We are only helping where we can and trying to give training and experts who can point the way. We have to be prepared fully to recognize, and to work with, the present trends of the whole Asian area. What are those trends?

#### Trends in Asia

Frequently we hear about the nationalistic tendencies of Asian people, but we need most carefully to examine these nationalisms, and