



OPENING CEREMONY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, officially opens the "Canada Dam", the main reservoir in the Mayurakshi Project.

who before dawn had left such romantic sounding places as Mahammad Bazar, Ahmedpur and Dumka to see what was going on at the dam.

Mr. Pearson, who was introduced to the gathering by the West Bengal Minister for Irrigation, said Canada had been honoured through the naming of the dam. "Our peoples have shared the cost. And because, among friends, when the welfare of some is furthered by help from others, we also share the benefit. It is as simple and as fundamental as that; as simple as neighbourly help and as fundamental as friendship." The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. B. C. Roy, then paid tribute to our country for the active help it was giving India in its drive for economic regeneration.

The time had come for the dam to be opened. Mr. Pearson pushed a button and simultaneously the curtain which had shrouded the name plate on the dam swept back and from the sluice-gates the tawny water spouted in three roaring jets. The ceremony was over and the official party had hardly left the dam site before the sluice-gates were shut again. Because it had taken twenty-seven years of planning and striving to capture the water treasure of the Mayurakshi only so much and no more could be spent of it for ceremonial purposes. This seemed peculiarly fitting.

On the day Mayurakshi formally became a part of India's destiny, Prime Minister Nehru sent a message of good wishes which concluded with these words: "The dam will be a visible and enduring link of friendship between Canada and India. Let this friendship endure."