

country. We kept them out of hotels so 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 if we do, we find them tending to seek out their ancient cultural backgrounds. They do not seem to be seeking nationalism as we Westerners understand the term. The followers of Islam, for instance, in every Muslim country - excepting only those under Russia's domination - are looking to, and trying to bring about, a resurgence of Islamic civilization and a co-operation between Muslim countries to blend and strengthen the Muslim world. The leaders of Burma today are a band of devout Buddhists. Mahatma Gandhi, still the