

As one of our Commonwealth partners, her problems must be of concern to us, and I am happy to be able to tell you that out of the \$10 million which we allocated to Pakistan last year five million of it will be spent on a cement mill to be erected in the Thal area of the Punjab, where it is proposed to settle a large number of these refugees.

I travelled through this Thal area. It has been handed over for development to a body called "the Thal Development Authority", and that body has as its chairman Mr. Zafar-ul-Ahsan, one of the most dynamic organizers I have met for many a long day. Under his able direction the Thal is coming alive. He is surrounded by a band of able men who, each in his own sphere of road building, town planning, irrigation, power development, animal husbandry, etc., is directing operations, the sum total of which will make a magnificent contribution to the refugee problem and to the overall wealth of Pakistan.

It was a peculiar sensation, but nevertheless, an exciting one, which I experienced away up in that almost desert area, as I sat by the roadside one night whilst the chief engineer's car was being repaired. We sat on a modern road and pored over plans showing all this new development along very modern lines, and just off the road camel caravans wended their way along towards the Northwest Frontier, as they have for centuries and the nomad tribesmen in charge of them called out their age old greeting as they passed: "Assalam-o-Alaikam" - "Peace be unto you".

Here the modern techniques of the West were meeting, and for good or ill, and let us all hope for good inevitably changing the age old traditions and way of life of that historical frontier.

The Thal irrigation project covers a development area of two million acres and $1\frac{1}{2}$ million of those acres will be brought under irrigation.

Small towns are coming into existence. At Mianwali in the area, hydro-electric power will be generated and industries developed to provide employment as part of the basis for this colonization project.

Owing to the nature of the desert soil, all irrigation canals will have to be lined with cement: the new town development and the provision of housing will also require large quantities of cement. Fortunately, at Daud Khel in the Thal area there is an almost unlimited supply of all the raw materials required for cement making, so we have agreed to give a cement mill which will cost approximately \$5 million of the Canadian allocation of \$10 million for the fiscal year 1951-52.

We are also arranging for an aerial survey of the large areas of Pakistan in which it is expected to find minerals. This scientific survey will be invaluable to mineral and oil discovery and we hope will save 20 or 30 years over ordinary surface methods of hunting for minerals with a pick and shovel. We shall also survey for them, many agricultural areas with a view to helping to solve some pressing agricultural problems such for instance as water-logging. In all, this survey will cost \$2 million and that leaves (out of the \$10 million) \$3 million which will