

One of the Canadians serving abroad with the FAO is Professor A.E. Hardy of the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the University of Saskatchewan. He is advising the Government of Ceylon on how to cope with its problem of agricultural development. There is a constant demand for the services of additional experts from our Federal and Provincial government departments, from Canadian universities and from private professions.

Because we realize that the needs of the peoples of South and Southeast Asia for technical assistance are particularly urgent, we helped to establish and are now participating in the Colombo Programme for Technical Co-operation. It is not possible for the Asian countries to carry out their plans for economic development without trained manpower and without the benefit of technical advice from the West. In addition, therefore to the \$25 million the Canadian Government contributed to the Colombo Plan for Economic Development in the area for the year 1951-52 and to the same amount for 1952-53 for which Parliamentary approval will be sought, the Government secured Parliamentary authorization for an appropriation of \$400,000. to the technical co-operation programme for South and Southeast Asia for each of the past two fiscal years and is recommending a similar contribution for 1952-53.

Many of you may have come in contact with some of the fifty trainees chiefly from India and Pakistan, who have already come to Canada under this scheme. In addition, during this past year we have received three technical missions composed of senior officials from India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Some of the Indian members of the agricultural mission were particularly interested in the agricultural co-operative movement in this country and hoped to apply some of what they had learned from members of the Co-operative Union of Canada when they returned to their jobs at home.

We have had greater difficulty in meeting requests for experts but we are doing our best. A fisheries consultant from British Columbia has been sent to Ceylon to assist in the development of the fishing industry and he was followed by a refrigeration engineer to work in the same field. In addition, the Canadian Government is defraying the expenses of a survey to be undertaken in Pakistan by the Commonwealth Biological Control Service with a view to setting up a biological control station there.

Typical of the requests we are receiving from our Asian friends is one from Ceylon for a soil conservationist to give courses to groups of trainees, one from India, for instructor engineers for the Indian Institute of Science and one from Pakistan, for a three-man team to survey and advise on facilities for the preservation, processing and marketing of fruits, milk and similar produce. We are indeed hopeful that we can fill some of these requests for Canadian experts in addition to making training facilities available in Canada.

The Canadian Government regards the Colombo Programme for Technical Co-operation as a temporary supplement to the technical assistance activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in South and Southeast Asia. We consider it important, therefore, not only to avoid any duplication or overlapping between the United Nations programmes and the Colombo Programme but also to insure that every effort is directed towards integrating them to as large an extent as possible.