

Britain is now feeling the pinch, according to US observers. Imports are costing much more. More must be bought in the dollar area. It has been officially estimated that Britain will have to increase exports in 1951 by some £250 million merely to support the volume of imports at last year's level. In order to obtain mere imports required for defense and normal requirements, Britain will have to stop up exports by £300 million.

This is a formidable assignment for a nation which for years has been short of so many articles. It is hoped production can be stepped up by 4 per cent, this year but an increase in exports of the above proportions can be achieved only at the cost of more austerity.

And, even if this export expansion is attained, merchandise trade exclusive of stockpiling presumably will result in a considerable deficit. In fact, British officials have said the UK must be content to maintain a balance only in her payments account.

Apparently the stockpiling programme which envisages purchases of some £140 million in the new fiscal year, will be met only by rise in sterling balances held by other countries or by drawing upon gold holdings.

Some further addition may be made to gold-dollar holdings in the first half of the year. Some \$170 million of ECA aid which was committed some time ago probably will be received for projects now in the course of completion. Further, Britain may continue to earn some gold from EPU for at least some months to come.

Later on, however, stockpiling may affect the gold picture. Further, exporters point out that shortages could easily throw a monkey wrench into British full production plans.

In any event, the distribution of British foreign trade will be altered materially this year both as to the character of the goods exported and the market involved.

Every effort is going to be made by the Government to see that exports to the dollar area are maintained. The proportion of fully finished steel and metal products may be reduced but it is hoped this will be offset by heavier consumer goods sales.

The Commonwealth will come next. Where sterling area countries rely on Britain for essential goods, the flow will be maintained if at all possible.

mentioned above is expected to take the gaff although some markets, perhaps some of the nations in Western Europe may find supplies reduced.

### Wool Stockpiling

The Commodity Credit Corporation announced that its raw wool stockpiling programme "will be suspended until further notice." Simultaneously, the Quartermaster Corps disclosed it will "fill out" the remainder of the 30-million pound of raw wool quota it assigned to CCC for procurement last fall by purchasing the equivalent in wool end-products.

CCC refused to comment on its reasons for suspension of the programme assigned to it by Congress last year under the wool military reserve programme.

Under the stockpiling programme a total of 100 million pounds of wool were to be purchased of which 30 million were to be raw wool and the balance in various types of fabrics. The programme was designed to cover the needs of the Army, Air Force and Navy.

### From South India

## Paying For Security

SEVEN crores is the price of security in Madras State whose citizens numbering five crores have agreed to pay the amount this year.

That is the meaning of the demand under the head "Police" to which the Assembly has accorded its approval. Yet it is not the full expenditure on policing the state. Village policing is mostly done by Talayaris in both ryotwari and proprietary estate villages. The provision for the cost of these Talayaris is made separately, under the head "General Administration".

Roughly, therefore, it may be taken for granted that slightly over a rupee and a half is being paid by each citizen in the state. Shakespeare might say that security is mortal's chiefest enemy but civilised conscience always needs a policeman near at hand of whom there are now about sixty thousand officers and ranks. It is these sixty thousand who share the seven crores. Is the number adequate; does the citizen get his due return, what does the constable feel about his status, his own basic salary which is but a rupee a day or his education or about his individual needs and whether his wants are met in this Competitive world are questions too

### RFC Sole Tin Importer

The importation of tin has become the sold province of the Government, which in turn will now allocate supplies to private interests. The step, taken under the authority of the Defense Production Act, is intended among other things to end the "gouging" of the Government by Malayan and other tin suppliers, who have increased prices by more than 150 per cent, since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea.

Under decisions announced by the National Production Authority, all tin for use in this country will be purchased by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation on behalf of the Government. Prices at which tin will be sold for domestic use will be governed by the RFC.

The Government brought tin prices tumbling when it announced that it would no longer purchase tin for its stockpile until prices had returned to a "reasonable" level. It added that commitments for tin purchases for immediate defense uses would also be held by the Government to the "lowest possible minimum."

complex for discussion. Suffice it to say that Minister Gopala Reddy agreed with a member that the low economic condition of the people was responsible for the increase in crime and the consequent need for more and better police hundobust. Denying the whispers that police were "pampered", he said that with the advent of independence there was some tension in this country also, as in Burma, Malaya and Indonesia and that maintaining internal security became a major part of the Government's work.

Incidentally, the Communists seem to have been responsible for the increase in the strength of the Special Police, contingents of which had to be deployed in various places. The Communist always delights to bask in publicity which he got amply during the police debate. Mr. Prakasam who by a cut motion criticised the authorities' policy as being responsible for the growth of Communism was not present during the subsequent stages of the debate with the result his cut motion was deemed to have been withdrawn and the demand was passed. But not before a member had signified his protest against the Speaker's

action in not allowing him to speak, by staging a walk-out.

So ended the Police Debate, the Leader of the House promising to do what he could to make the cop look smarter, in compliance with members' suggestions.

Crime and slum increase with progress in civilisation. What time the policemen figured in the Assembly rooms, a bunch of three were noticed trying to remove the gold *kalasam* from a Vimanam in Kancheepuram temple. The temple watcher alerted the police and the culprits were caught. But the record of the Police Department is not always so happy. The percentage of detection to total cognisable crime in the Madras State is but 44, though the incidence of crime per 1,000 of population is only 1.5 compared to 13.47 in Bombay (1948 figures). Policemen do, by and large, get a pat on the back, although even they had to resort to some form of Satyagraha a couple of years ago to show that all was not well with the force. As for the official record of their achievements, the Government still stick to the rule of the Central Government which fixed the number of pages of the Police Administration Report at 40—an antediluvian edict drawn up half a century ago in 1901.

Turning to slums and the parish pump, the loan of Rs. 15 lakhs asked for was over subscribed and the list of allottees has been announced. Slums take long to clear and once removed, have a habit of springing up elsewhere unexpectedly. It is a virus vehemently active and could be eradicated only by dogged efforts carried on for long, both by the Government and the Corporation.

Summer is on and water is scanty. The mountain looks to the Marathon but the Marathon is at sea, drowned by a host of demands. However, the Government, in order to enable the City Corporation to tide over the difficult supply situation have sanctioned an emergency lump sum of about Rs. 38,500 to sink wells and to install pumps and agreed to give an equal amount as loan if applied for. Were any efforts made to produce artificial rain in Madras, was a question in the Legislature. Yes; but dry ice was the bottleneck, replied the Irrigation Minister. Latest American opinion on this point is worth recording: controlled rain making might damage the nation's defences more than five atomic bombs. of course, there is no danger at all of

such pain making in Madras, though the Bombay Corporation has been toying with the idea and have actually asked for quotations for a rain-making plant from an American firm. The purpose, obviously, is to seek the help of modern rain-gods to ensure a safe water level for the Tansa lake to keep the City's water supply going.

Weavers continue to get their dolos, affirm the Government. But even the allotted quantity is not supplied in full, let alone making good the over-all shortage of yarn. Meantime there has not been much progress in the 12,000 spindle co-operative mill which was to have been registered at Guntakkal, ac-

ording to Chief Minister Kumaraswami Raja. Though the mill would have but a monthly producing capacity of 700 bales of yarn, it was a pointer to the future, he had said. The share capital would be raised by the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, This Society has affiliated to it 948 primary weavers' co-operative societies, with 1,82,000 handlooms which are a third of the number of handlooms in the State. There may be others without affiliation. The society was able to get in the last few months only about 3500 bales of yarn as against its requirements of 6500 bales. So underemployment as well as unemployment are both acute.



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The Madras Government have decided to exempt all dramatic performances other than dance dramas from Entertainment Tax for a period of two years from April 1, 1951. But what is a drama and what is a dance drama? The official Daniel's judgment is as below:

A Drama is one which demands a representation on the stage by which interest is focussed on the interaction of emotion on character and in which spoken dialogue and facial expressions are employed to reveal the impact of circumstances on the various *dramatis personae*, whereas in a dance drama the interest is focussed more on the dances than on the emotional situation and the conflict is sought to be revealed not by dialogue but by Dance—movements and gestures.

Exhilarating, indeed!

The recent census has revealed that there are more women than men in Tamil Districts and more men than women in most of the Telugu districts.

#### Ayurveda and Andhraites

Executive edicts are easy to pass and there is the official gazette to publish them. The latest to hit the middle class is the increased price of sugar which the Government propose to announce shortly. What is the reason? The price of imported sugar is higher than that of Indian sugar and so to prevent the anomalous position of a disparity in sugar prices, a uniform price has been fixed. What a glorious justification of the principle of parity. Is there no anomaly in the price level going up and up and real wages correspondingly going down? We are again in the well-known vicious circle without a remedy. Sugar prices were 6 to 8 as. a viss in the Madras State in former times and it is now very nearly four times and more in the so-called distribution centres and in the well-known black-market the only real market where things are available—it may fetch anything from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2/8. With the growth in the coffee and tea habit, the consumption of sugar has grown and with prohibition driving the less enterprising to take to these beverages, sugar ceased to be a luxury item even in the working class budget. It is a necessity.

Turning back to the all important food debate, Mr. O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar accused the Government of playing the perilous game of sticking to power when famine stalked the land and exhorted the

and quit.

Indeed the writer who had recently visited parts of the Ramnad district from where the Chief Minister hails found that famine was but round the corner unless adequate measures were taken on hand. Water was scarce; rice was available in Ramnad villages at Rs. 2-4 a Madras measure (ration in rural areas is off) and some of those who still believed in propitiating the gods could obtain them at Adi-Sethu, on Thai Amavasya day. But they could cook such rice only in saltish water, for failure of the monsoon had made all well water saltish.

Tension continues in a part of the student world. Students of the Government College of Indian Medicine are still on strike. Starting from a mere school, this institution owes its present status to the late Raja of Panagal, leader of the Justice party who was untiring in his efforts to help the indigenous systems of medicine. Under an alien Government, it was as much as anyone could do. There is no doubt that our own ancient systems, Ayurveda, Siddha, or Unani as practised by the Vaidyas and Hakims can never be roofed out of the soil. A larger proportion of the public, if statistics were collected, would probably be found to resort to them than to modern medicine, say what you will. Efforts are no doubt made to encourage Ayurveda, but they are inadequate to bring the indigenous medicine on a par with the modern scientific systems. Even so, in Madras, attempts were made to encourage the school and recently the school was raised to the status of a college. The Madras University authorities, however, under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor Dr. (Sir) A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] pointed out that recognition of this college depended upon several conditions being fulfilled and that the question should await the framing of syllabuses in degree courses in indigenous systems. But students were adamant. The question obviously resolves itself into one of the status to be given to indigenous medicine. The claim to equality of status has not been conceded, by the Government of India and both the Health Minister Shrimati Amrit Kaur and the Prime Minister have flatly refused to give recognition to empirical systems of medicine not based on sound science. The students of indigenous medicine feel they are at a disadvantage compared to

system and that they are being deprived of their privileges and denied an equal opportunity to earn. It is, however, too soon for them to put up such demands and the Government's warning that such threats as the continuance of strike or disorder as are being held out by the students, under obvious outside influence, will be met with stern action should open their eyes to the evil of the course which they are adopting. The silver lining is that Government have the expert advice of Dr. M. R. Guruswami Mudaliar still available to them.

There has never been smooth sailing in the Madras Congress House. One of the well-known Congress workers resorted to a fast some time ago to call attention to several abuses in the Congress. He also made some allegations against the Tamil Nad President and wanted an enquiry. Just a few days ago, however, he gave up his fast on advice. The Government have now come out with a *communiqué* correcting certain "tendentious" reports in the Press about the fast with a promptness worthy of a better cause.

Paradoxically, as it were, Mr. Kamaraj Nadar observed as follows in a speech while stressing the need to bring down the price level:

"It might be that a man who asked for a rise in price was an important member of the Congress, People need not take the views of those individuals as representing the policy of the Congress."

Replying to a question, Mr. Gopala Reddi, Leader of the House, stated in the local Assembly that orders had been issued so that nearly 38 per cent of the posts in the Madras State and Subordinate services might be held by Telugu knowing officers. This was in order to set right any inadequacy of Andhras in public services, having regard to the percentage of their population in the Madras State which was 38. On such a proposition, there is always room for more than one opinion. Do women hold official posts in proportion to population—or members of backward classes, for that matter? Why not for instance, purely logically speaking, hand over the administration of the Province to illiterates, for do not they have the right to govern being the majority in the State. Did I not begin with saying that people get the Government they Reserve?