

Weekly Notes

France Takes a Strong Hand

JUST when speculation had been rife that France was about to launch a political offensive in Indo-China to rally all nationalist forces behind the Vietnam Government, in order to wean away the stagglers from the Ho Chi Minh camp, came the news of whole-sale arrest of the members of the newly set up Tunisian Cabinet. What gave credence to the likelihood of a possible fresh move in Indo-China was the historic antipathy of Cambodians against the Chinese. An attempt to capitalise on it would have been good diplomacy. But though French still remains the language of diplomacy, the French are not good diplomats as the latest developments in Tunisia show.

The Bey of Tunis is no Bao Dai though He may capitulate, and Auriol's peace offer of an 'acceptable' Government in Tunisia, acceptable, i.e. to France, is more likely to infuriate than pacify the Tunisians. France could not have set the stage better for the case of Tunisia to come up before the Security Council had she been managing the stage for it. Indeed, the Arab-Asian Group did not need any fresh goading; but can the Security Council Act, or will it act? It is willing enough, however, to admit cases submitted to it. Hyderabad is still on its agenda!

Ceylon's Great Loss

THE tragic death of Ceylon's first Prime Minister will be widely mourned. A champion boxer and wrestler in his youth, his massive frame bore the stamp of great bodily strength. His end, from a fall from a horseback, was itself symbolic of his physical fitness. Even so, Serianayeke was no 'strong man' of Ceylon, as Peebul is of Siam. The influence the Prime Minister of Ceylon wielded in the Commonwealth Conference or in the counsel of nations was drawn from other sources. This gentleman farmer was a political figure of the type dear to the Englishman's heart. Yet he could be quite strong when he chose to, as in refusing to put a ban on rubber exports to China at the cost of losing American aid.

Community Development

IN the community development programme to be financed partially from American aid under Indo-US

Technical Co-operation Agreement, agricultural extension is expected to play the leading part. Of the three community development schemes which have come into limelight of late, the one in Etawa has applied it to the best advantage. Faridabad, however, appears to be the most balanced of the three, combining as it does, urban development, which has been nearly completed, with the development of the surrounding 300 villages which will now be taken up under the American Aid Programme.

In the 46 community development projects which have been approved, and for which a sum of Rs 38 crores has been sanctioned, the bias will be for rural development, except where rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons are the main objectives. These will have to be part-urban development projects though financial limitations rule out any large scale plan for the urban component of the programme in most other cases. The distribution of these projects will be as follows:

Bihar	4	Hyderabad	2
Assam	2	Rajasthan	2
Madhya Pradesh	4	Travancore	
Madras	6	Cochin	2
Orissa	3	Mysore	1
Punjab	4	PEPSU	1
Uttar Pradesh	6	Saurashtra	1
Madhya Bharat	2	Bhopal	1
		Himachal Pradesh	1

Besides these, there will be two development blocks for the present in Assam, one in Bombay and 8 in West Bengal among Part A States; one each in Hyderabad and Rajasthan among Part B States; and one each in Ajmer, Bilaspur, Coorg, Kutch, Manipur and Vindhya Pradesh among Part C States.

Land Grant Colleges in US

IT is curious to know that the focal point in the dissemination of agricultural knowledge in America were the 'land-grant' colleges started by Abraham Lincoln. The history of these institutions goes back to the Morrill Act passed when Lincoln was the President. This act offered "a grant of public land" to each state to finance the establishment of educational institutions devoted to serving the public need. The act particularly stressed the

teaching of agricultural and mechanical arts. While the need for research for discovering the secrets of successful cultivation remains essential under all circumstances, what is the good of knowledge that cannot be applied? Hence the emphasis on proper distribution of the fruits of research, a branch of activity in which we have lagged woefully behind. Not to speak of the United States, which has one of the finest agricultural extension services in the world, even an otherwise backward country like Jamaica has developed one, through agricultural societies run on co-operative lines, with very little of state intervention, which others, much more advanced in other respects, may well envy.

The more interesting aspect of these land-grant colleges is not their service to agriculture, but the manner in which they came to play such an important part in transforming agriculture. All public institutions in the past, churches and ancient seats of learning, derived their sustenance from grants of land, the revenues from which were the means of their survival. Did these 'land-grant' institutions of modern America also trace their origin to the same traditional source? It sounds rather strange.

How Many Have Overdrafts ?

HOW many people in this country try operate a bank account? And how many of them, again, enjoy the favoured position of having or hoping for an overdraft? It was pointed out in these columns some time ago that current canons of credit assessment employed by the banking system was a serious obstacle to the spread of democracy in industry, since overdraft facilities were restricted to some 30,000 favoured individuals in the case of each of the big five of our banks.

The analysis of the personal deposits of 198 scheduled and non-scheduled banks in December 1949, published by the Reserve Bank some time ago, seems to suggest that this was a gross exaggeration rather than an under-estimate. Actually, the total number of persons who enjoy overdraft facilities in the entire banking system would hardly exceed the figure we suggested for each one of the big five.

The total number of bank accounts standing in the name of individuals, whether for demand, time