

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY AND LIVESTOCK SECRETARIAT

By A. C. MATHUR

(Imperial Council of Agricultural Research)

THE U.N.R.R.A. is made up of 47 member-nations. Each contributing nation provides funds based on its national income for the year ending 30th June, 1943. India is one of the member countries and has contributed relief to the peoples of other lands. It has already made one contribution of Rs. 80 million to U.N.R.R.A.'s work and a second contribution of Rs. 20 million has been voted by the legislative assembly.

The first task of the U.N.R.R.A. is to provide relief; to distribute food, clothes, and medical supplies. In the war-devastated countries, due to the breakdown of the veterinary services and to emergency slaughter of animals for food as well as to the actual destruction of livestock by military operations, the number of the livestock are halved, quartered and in some places almost wiped out. Livestock, as we know, plays a very important role in relief and rehabilitation as it provides food and clothing, power for planting and reaping the crops and aid in maintaining fertility.

To facilitate the provision of such relief in the south-west Pacific area there has been set up an International Veterinary and Livestock Secretariat by U.N.R.R.A. The Governments of the following countries are members of this secretariat. Australia, China, France, India, Netherland East Indies, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom, U.S.S.R., and United Kingdom, U.S.S.R., and United States of America, and in addition the Commander-in-Chief, United States Armed Forces, Pacific, and the Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia are also members.

In order to facilitate collaboration among Far-Eastern Governments in connection with international epizootic control and regulations governing such controls, each of the member governments was requested to appoint a veterinarian to confer with representatives of other Governments, at a meeting held at Sydney, Australia, on the 14th to 17th December 1945.

Dr. F. C. Minett, D.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., Director, Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, was appointed representative of the India Government.

After each representative at the Conference had described the chief livestock difficulties which confronted their country the conference considered the following 'Notes on Agenda' which had been prepared by a Veterinary Advisory Group composed of eminent veterinary specialists. The notes are as follows:—

1. Functions of UNRRA SWPA International Veterinary Secretariat—

- (a) Exchange between countries of information on Epizootic Diseases:
 - (i) Statement on incidence of virus, bacteriological, protozoal, and parasitic diseases in member countries.
 - (ii) Exchange by monthly bulletins of information regarding incidence of infectious diseases.

- (iii) Re-establishment of publication of monthly statistical bulletin, based on information supplied by contracting countries as was carried out by the International Bureau of Epizootics in Paris before the war.
 - (iv) Transmission by cable or telegram of the occurrence for the first time in the reporting country of scheduled diseases, or of extension of these diseases into areas previously unaffected.
 - (v) Nature of common *pro forma* on which the monthly report should be submitted.
 - (vi) Exchange between contracting countries explaining the method of veterinary organisation in force, the qualifications and type of training undergone by their veterinary officials, the relative strength of their veterinary personnel as contrasted with their human and animal populations and the methods of control adopted within their territories for controlling infectious diseases.
 - (vii) Desirability when transmitting information concerning infectious diseases of inclusion of maps or diagrams showing extent and distribution of particular disease in the reporting country.
 - (b) Acceptable internationally of health certification:
 - (i) The purpose of health certification.
 - (ii) Schedule of diseases covered by health certification—(a) Infectious, (b) Other.
 - (iii) Nature of certifying authority.
 - (c) Exchange of information on manufacture and marketing of biological products:
 - (i) Preparation of a list of biological products manufactured by member countries.
 - (ii) Methods of standardisation and control of biological products.
 - (iii) Provision for regular interchange of information.
 - (d) International movement and transfer of livestock-quarantine, inoculation, etc.
 - (e) Animal Meat and Animal Products:
 - (i) Import and export of meat.
 - (ii) Import and export of animal products other than meat.
 - (f) Exchange of administrative, research and other workers and provision of post-graduate educational facilities.
 - (g) Provision for loan of trained technical personnel to countries requiring assistance in an emergency.
 - (h) Possibility of allowing any contracting country to despatch temporary missions or establish permanent veterinary officials in any of the other contracting countries.
- ## 2. Organisation for UNRRA SWPA International Veterinary Secretariat—

- (a) Temporary organisation under UNRRA Administration.
- (b) Permanent organisation under control of United Nations.
- 3. Relations of UNRRA SWPA, etc., with other Regional Groups or countries.

To be sub-secretariat of International Office in Paris.

Following a full discussion the conference adopted twenty-seven Resolutions covering all items on the agenda and incorporating details of information required to be completed, for transmission to the secretariat, by each member country. The Veterinary Secretariat was made responsible for the collection and dissemination to member states, of information in regard to all aspects of the livestock indus-

tries of member states, including the incidence and control of diseases and the breeding and feeding of livestock.

The collection and dissemination of information as far as it pertains to India is being undertaken by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and the Veterinary Secretariat in Sydney is disseminating to member countries all useful information which it gets from time to time. Accordingly the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has received a list of contagious diseases prevalent in the Philippines, Netherland East Indies and New Zealand. A copy of these lists may be had on application to the Secretary, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, New Pusa, New Delhi.

CENTRAL NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR INDIA

A PLAN for the early establishment of a Central National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology in Delhi, has been completed by the Special Committee appointed by the Government of India for the purpose.

The Committee of which Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, was Chairman, has recommended that the Museum should comprise a Directorate and five Departments, namely, (1) Art, (2) Prehistoric Archaeology, (3) Historic Archaeology—Buddhist, Jaina, Brahminical, Muslim, (4) Numismatics and Epigraphy and (5) Anthropology—cultural and physical. There will also be a Circulating Department, a Library and a Chemical Laboratory.

The need for such a central institution has been keenly felt in this country since 1912, when the Government of India approached the Secretary of State for the establishment of an Oriental Research Institute in India. This need was repeatedly stressed also in subsequent official reports.

Finally in 1945, the need to establish a Central National Museum was expressed in a Resolution submitted to Government by the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, and was supported by the Standing Committee of the Legislature for Education. The Government of India accepted the recommendation in principle and appointed a Committee of 11 members, under the chairmanship of Sir Maurice Gwyer to frame details. The terms of reference to the Committee included the functions (powers, etc.) of the Museum, general administration, internal organisation, site and building.

The main aim of the Central National Museum is to present to the world the material contribution of India to the sum total of human civilisation. To achieve this the Museum will have to maintain a thoroughly representative collection illustrating the arts, crafts and cultures of India down to recent times; and at the same time museum technique and museum

service in India will have to be raised to the high international standard.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee have, therefore, recommended that in the first stage of the scheme a highly trained nucleus staff consisting of a Director and two Keepers may be appointed, and the Keepers be sent on a carefully planned foreign tour which should include a detailed examination of the construction, administration, methods of display, etc., of museums in Great Britain and America.

The function of the Museum will be two-fold: to further research and to offer guidance to laymen. The Committee have laid special emphasis on the importance of selecting a suitable Chief Librarian, who will be competent to guide staff and approved research students and scholars in regard to published material in all branches of the Museum's work.

It has also recommended the appointment of five guide lecturers, one for each section, who will give a series of popular lectures both for schools and for the general public.

The creation of a Circulating Department is another feature of the scheme. The main purpose of this Department (modelled on a similar department in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London) will be to prepare and send out classified loan collections to towns and educational institutions.

On the analogy of other institutions of the kind, the Committee have recommended that the museum should be controlled by a Governing Body including representatives of appropriate Government Departments together with non-officials representing various special interests. The Governing Body should be autonomous, subject only to such conditions as the Government of India may attach to their block grant.

The Museum will be located in Delhi, and the Committee has chosen a site for it. The whole scheme will be worked out in three distinct stages and is estimated to involve, when complete, an annual expenditure of nearly eight and a half lakhs.