

TRUCIAL STATES COUNCIL

Development Office

Round-up of News for the Month Ending 29th January, 1970

1. General

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 12th February. Items on the agenda included the Trade School Building Programme for 1970, the proposed protection work and future management for the Mileiha Agricultural Scheme, the policies for Marketing of Agricultural Produce and the Management and Control of the Ajman Water and Electricity Undertakings. The meeting was broken off before decisions were made on any of these items, though the tender for the construction of the Dhaid Health Centre was awarded to Consolidated Contracting Co. in the sum of ODRs. 426,258.95 - 180 days, out of seven tenderers.

Arrangements were however made at the meeting for members of the Committee to visit development schemes on 19th and 20th January by helicopter, by courtesy of the R.A.F., and four members, Sayyid Saleh Farah from Abu Dhabi, Sayyid Abdullah Al-Amin of Ajman, Sayyid Mohamed Ibrahim Obeidallah of Ras al Khaimah, and Sayyid Rashid Humaid of Umm al Qaiwain, availed themselves of this opportunity. On the first day, members flew first to Mileiha, where they saw the agricultural area, the power house which operates the pumps for the scheme, the area susceptible to flood damage, and the senior staff house which is nearing completion by P.W.D. direct labour and is of the same pattern as that completed by contract eighteen months ago. After overflying Dhaid, Nabgha, Manama and Masafi, in all of which there have been extensive drilling operations in connection with the Water Resources Survey, members landed at Dibba when they saw the progress being made on the low cost houses being constructed by P.W.D. direct labour both at Husn Dibba and Fujairah Dibba, the Power House and Water Supply Scheme; the only contract work being carried out in Dibba is on the 40 bedded hospital, which has been showing disappointing progress recently and whose roof is causing anxiety, and on the staff houses which have not yet been started by the contractor.

From Dibba to Khor Fakkan members travelled by road and were able to inspect the various sections of this under construction. At Khor Fakkan a visit was paid to the Fisheries Building Project (P.W.D. direct labour), the office building nearing completion and a start having been made on the slipway and cold store. From Khor Fakkan the party flew down the line of the roadway from Khor Fakkan to Fujairah and then to the bridge construction work on the Wadi Ham and the road works at Bithna. The return journey took in flights over Muna'i, Hatta, Masfut, Fili and the Buhays/Jabel Fayya area, at all of which the Development Office has been active, mostly on Rural Water Development Work.

On the second day, 20th January, the party overflew Limaha (the source of Umm al Qaiwain Water Supply), Ichin, Hamraniyyah, the Sayh Fahlain Water Scheme, the Ras al Khaimah Water Supply source at Burairat, and up the coast as far as Sha'm before returning to land at Ras al Khaimah. Here, visits were paid to the new Hospital, where there has been bad delay in completion of the building, to H.H. the Ruler and to the new Trade School, which was opened in September last;

the party then travelled by land to Digdaga, where they saw the recently arrived herd of Freisian cattle, which has already produced nine calves and an average quantity of 20 gallons of milk a day, the Damascus goats, which are being built up into a herd for distribution to individual farmers, and the gardens. Finally, members flew to Umm al Qaiwain where they inspected the Fisheries Building, which has been occupied, the Power Station and the Clinic.

At every stage members had an opportunity of being able to compare the merit of direct labour against contract work, both on the grounds of cost and of completion time.

## 2. Personalia

H.H. the Chairman of the Council visited Iran between 17th and 22nd January.

Dr. Mansoor Ali Khan has been appointed as Superintendent of Ras al Khaimah Hospital, and Dr. Mevis Khan as Lady Doctor. Mr. A. D. Hurst, Entomologist, and Mr. C. Yewdall, Stockman, have recently arrived on appointment to the office of the Agricultural Adviser.

Sayyid Abdallah al Mazrooi, Assistant Director of Development, has been transferred to the Public Works Department, on secondment, and Sayyid Mahmoud Sawwan to Development Headquarters as Administrative Assistant (Publicity). Sayyid Said Salim Shaksy, Asst. Director, Development, returned from leave at the beginning of January.

Mr. R. G. Rae, Director of Works, and Mr. R. D. Bass, Electrical Engineer, have left for the United Kingdom, accompanied by the Director of the Ajman Municipality, to expedite materials for several of the Development Schemes. Sayyid Mohamed Abdulaziz, Asst. Agricultural Adviser, is visiting Jordan, the Lebanon and Egypt to collect seedlings and investigate agricultural training possibilities.

Other visitors from overseas have included Dr. D. E. Faulkner, F.A.O. Regional Animal Production and Health Officer, Dr. D.N.F. Hall, Fisheries Adviser to the U.K. Ministry of Overseas Development, Dr. J. A. Storer and Dr. Amo Meschat, F.A.O. Fisheries Advisers, Mr. P. Durran, Veterinary Adviser to the U.K. Middle East Development Division.

## 3. Fisheries

The Council's Fisheries Research Vessel, m.v. "MAJID" has recently been in Dubai for setting up of its Purse Seining equipment, an Anchovy Seine net having recently arrived from Gundry Netting, Bridport (U.K.). The vessel then left for Khor Fakkan to start fishing trials with this equipment, accompanied by two members of the supplying company.

Recent fishing off the Ras al Khaimah coast has suggested that there are small sized prawns, suitable for canning, to be fished in commercial quantities there; an established fishing company now operating in the Gulf has shown interest in developing this resource.

#### 4. Cooperatives

A meeting was held at the Umm al Qaiwain Municipality on 25th January to urge the formation of a Fishermen's Cooperative. The meeting was attended by approximately 20 of the principal fishermen from among those who fish both within the creek and also in the open sea, by the Director and Assistant Director of the Municipality and by the Council's Fisheries Officer, Sayyid Mohamed Said al Harthy, and Cooperative Officer, Sayyid Azmi al Dajani. Although there had been hopes that the Umm al Qaiwain fishing community might form a fruitful starting point for Fisheries Cooperatives, with a State Loans Scheme in operation and the recently opened Council Fisheries Office able to provide guidance and assistance, the response was disappointing.

#### 5. Malarial Survey

The Report on the Malaria Survey carried out in the Northern Trucial States in March and April 1969 has been received. The Survey was undertaken by Dr. A. R. Zahar, W.H.O. Regional Entomologist and Mr. M. Adra, W.H.O. Technical Officer, who spent over a week on the East Coast based at Khor Fakkan and a somewhat lesser period in and around Ras al Khaimah, assisted by members of the Council's medical staff; a total of nearly 3000 slides was taken.

The general findings were that on the East Coast malaria is widespread, in the Ras al Khaimah area rather less so, and of uneven distribution in the mountain areas. Malaria control about the whole area should be established under a unified public health service and the organisation might consist of a Malarialogist as Director and Medical Entomologist as his Deputy, assisted by two laboratory technicians, two sanitarians, two entomology technicians and four insect collectors. Its function would be:

- (a) The further delimitation of malarious areas;
- (b) The collection of epidemiological data and the correlation of these with meteorological data in order to delimit the transmission season, vector prevalence and survival, breeding habits and reaction to insecticides;
- (c) The conduct of trials of different methods of control;
- (d) The planning and organisation of control activities;
- (e) Training, which would preferably be carried out in Dubai;
- (f) The supervision and evaluation of control methodology;
- (g) Assessment of results.

To assist in the work, diagnostic centres should be created in existing hospitals and clinics, and in certain cases expanded, but as an integral part of the overall health organisation.

Experience in some schools in the Trucial States has already shown that the mass use of curative drugs for preventive purposes is likely to cause development of resistant strains to the malaria parasite. Preventive drugs must therefore be used with great care without discouraging the use of such measures.

The possibility of reducing malaria by mechanical means, i.e. by filling in unused wells, covering wells in use and storage basins etc. and by biological control through mosquito parasites, predators and larvivorous fish, should be examined. In the meantime oil, which is economical, and other larvicides could be used.

Every use should be made of effective health education, since without the interest and cooperation of the public preventive measures are largely ineffective.

The report is to be submitted to the Trucial States Council with the proposal that an Anti-Malarial Unit should be set up, and provision for this has been included in the Budget of the Council for 1970. In the meantime the small unit established locally for the Survey has continued its activities by treatment of certain wells and collecting blood-slides in selected area on both the East Coast and in the Ras al Khaimah area.

The annual cost of the unit has been assessed at BD55,000, which would include the salaries of the Malariologist, Medical Entomologist, Sanitarian, Senior Laboratory Technicians and junior staff and also 4 Landrovers and other minor capital expenditure necessary to establish the Unit.

#### 6. Major Works Programme

It has not been possible to make a start on any of the Major Works in the 1970 Programme, since no decision on this has been made by the Executive Committee. Work has been continuing on the completion of 1969 projects, many of which were due to be carried over into the New Year. The last of the 1969 projects, on which until recently little progress had been made, was that for a clinic and an 8-class room school on Abu Musa Island, for which seven tenders were received on 26th January, and these are now being examined.

#### 7. Veterinary

The Report of the Veterinary Officer for December 1969 shows that during the month 1,541 goats, 53 sheep, 37 camels, 10 hens, 47 cows and one deer were treated. He visited the following places during the month:

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
<u>Ras al Khaimah</u>	
Jezirat Za'ab	15
Mazra'a	6
Salahizah	4
Ras al Khaimah	23
Khadijah	15
Nakhal/Araibi/Mo'amourah	7
Khauran	3
Sabeet	9
Rams	1
Haramla	11
<u>Umm al Qaiwain</u>	
Umm al Qaiwain town	2
Falaj al Mo'alla	9
Nabgah	1
Ajman	2
Dubai	2
Sharjah	13

The Veterinary Officer reports that it is very evident that the epidemic Contagious Caprine Pleuro-Pneumonia among goats is spreading in several areas, but that affected animals are responding to treatment excellently, particularly those that have been bred locally; shortage of trained staff has hindered the effective combating of the epidemic.

The poor rains and consequent shortage of green herbage has been another problem, since the vitamins existing in the green food stuff can help the animal in resistance to the disease.

8. Finance

The balance of the Development Fund held in Deposit and Current Accounts as on 28th January was £58,308. The first instalment of the Abu Dhabi contribution of BD 2½ million, promised for 1970, is now awaited.