



## IN THIS ISSUE

A ROUND Table on International Approaches to Problems of Undeveloped Areas was held November 19-20, 1947, in connection with the Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund. Nine of the papers presented at that round table were made available for publication and appear in this issue. They will also appear shortly under another cover as part of the proceedings of the Conference.

The introductory paper, "Summary of the Demographic Background of Problems of Undeveloped Areas," is presented by Professor Frank W. Notestein, Director of the Office of Population Research of Princeton University, and Consultant-Director of the Population Division of the United Nations. The author cites the capacity for rapid growth as the common demographic characteristic of undeveloped areas, emphasizes the importance of demographic factors in economic planning, and suggests several ways in which an international demographic agency, such as the Population Commission of the United Nations, might contribute toward the ultimate achievement of a balanced modernization of undeveloped areas.

Professor Henri Laugier, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations, urges a world inventory of natural resources in the next paper entitled "The First Step in International Approach to Problems of Underdeveloped Areas." The author acknowledges that this task is tremendous but not, he says, "an excessively large one if we reflect on the immense hopes which the peoples of the world have placed in the United Nations, and on the rapid progress which the underdeveloped countries could make if the natural resources dormant in their territories were exploited."

The paper, "International Approaches to Economic Development of Undeveloped Areas," was written by Dr. David Weintraub, Director of the Division of Economic Stability and Development of the United Nations. Dr. Weintraub discusses the underlying philosophy, the scope, and the techniques of the United Nations' efforts at promoting "the economic and social advancement of all peoples." Special attention is given to (a) the desirability of well-rounded instead of purely economic development; (b) the importance of helping countries to help themselves; (c) the adaptation of technologies to different levels of cultural development; (d) the creation of favorable atmospheres; (e) special trade measures; and (f) regional arrangements, financial problems, and demographic problems.

Dr. Leonard B. Rist, Director of Research of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, contributes a paper entitled "Financial Aspects of International Approaches to Problems of Undeveloped Areas." Choosing Latin America for purposes of illustration, he discusses the manner in which internal financial problems and financial relations with other countries bear upon general problems of economic development.

Mr. Samuel H. Thompson presents a paper entitled "Social Aspects of Rural Industrialization." An engineer with experience as a former Rural Industries Project Leader for FAO, Mr. Thompson believes that if rural industries are to contribute to the construction of balanced and viable societies in undeveloped agrarian areas, they should begin with existing resources, skills, and native leadership and be developed largely by the people themselves within the context of their own social institutions and cultures.

Dr. William P. Forrest, Assistant Director, Headquarters Office, World Health Organization, provides a stimulating paper "Health Aspects of International Approaches to Problems of Undeveloped Areas." The author traces briefly the evolution of international attitudes toward health from the first international concern over sanitation and a few communicable diseases to the broad scope of the philosophy underlying WHO.

Sir Raphael Cilento, Director of the Division of Social Activities of the United Nations, takes the long view in his paper "Underdeveloped Areas in Social Evolutionary Perspective."

He discusses the problems of these areas in relation to the universal quest of human societies for a balance between population and subsistence.

The two last papers of the series are devoted specifically to Puerto Rico. The first of these, "Puerto Rico's Population Problem: Research and Policy," was prepared by Dr. Kingsley Davis under the auspices of the Office of Population Research of Princeton University. The author discusses briefly the general demographic trends in Puerto Rico and describes several current research projects bearing on the population of the area. Among the latter is a study jointly conducted by the Office of Population Research of Princeton University and the Social Science Research Center of the University of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Rexford Guy Tugwell, formerly Governor of Puerto Rico and currently Professor of Political Science at The University of Chicago, presents the final paper, "Problems of Reconstruction in Puerto Rico." He discusses three main avenues of attack on these problems that he attempted during the period of his governorship. These included certain reorganizations in government, efforts at promoting industrialization, and efforts at promoting a sounder agriculture.