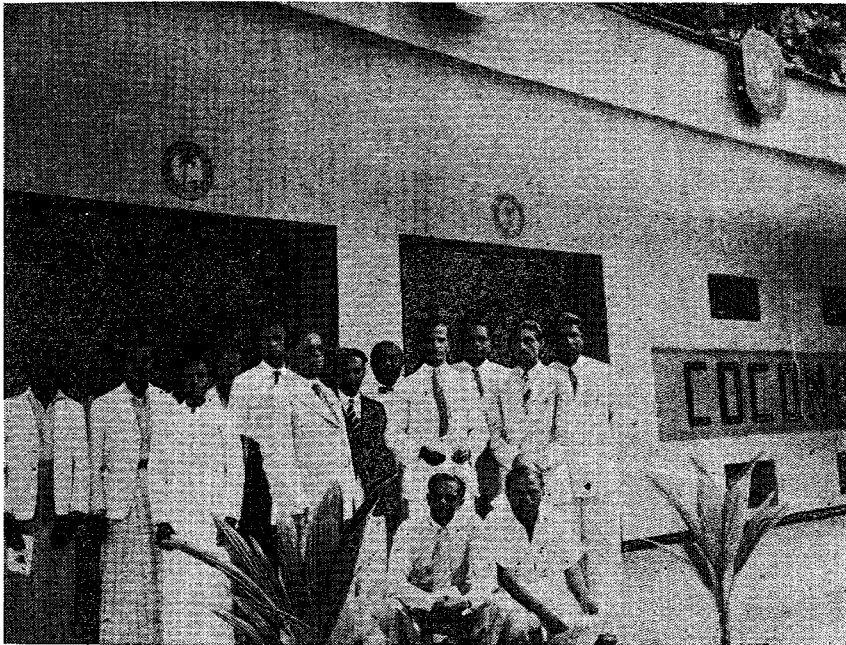


COCONUTS AT THE COLOMBO EXHIBITION OF 1952

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Advisory Field Officer.

MUCH has been written about the wonders of the Colombo Exhibition of 1952. The teeming crowds of visitors which grew in volume, week by week, right up to the closing day were the measure of its amazing success. Great credit is due not only to the few who conceived the Big Idea, but also to all those responsible for the intricate details of its successful organisation.



Officials of the Ceylon Coconut Board and the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon at the Coconut Stall.

Mr. S. A. de Silva, Secretary, Coconut Section, 2nd from right.

The section devoted to Agricultural Products and Industries included Coconuts, Tea and Rubber, and it was organised by a representative committee working under the able Chairmanship of Mr. R. Singleton-Salmon, C.B.E., M.P. Coconuts had a separate sub-committee with Mr. Thomas Amarasuriya as Chairman and the Coconut Exhibits were arranged by the Ceylon Coconut Board, with the assistance of the Coconut Research Institute.

The Coconut Stall was designed and constructed by Mr. Terry Jonklaas of Decorators Furnishers, Ltd., and the exhibits were arranged under the supervision of Mr. J. A. de Silva, Secretary of the Coconut Sub-Committee. Officers of the Coconut Research Institute were responsible for the exhibits relating to the agricultural side, and officials of the Ceylon Coconut Board were responsible for the display of the cottage, commercial and industrial products of the Coconut Industry.

The agricultural side included specimens of various varieties of coconuts and demonstrated the method of breeding hybrid varieties by the introduction of pollen, taken from the male flowers of one type of palm, to the female flowers of another type of palm. The Coconut Replanting Project, with its target of 15,000 acres per annum, was illustrated by sectional specimens of coconuts showing the development of young coconut plants in the nursery from the embryo stage to the mature coconut seedling and a large coloured map showed the distribution of coconut-growing areas in Ceylon and the location of the 23 coconut nurseries which have been established since the inception of the project. A diagram in colour illustrating the correct method of planting a coconut seedlings was also displayed. A realistic model of a coconut estate, made by Muhammad Wickramasuriya, demonstrated correct cultural and manual operation, with re-planting in progress on a part of the estate.

The 1,001 products of the Coconut Palm could not all be shown, but an interesting and representative collection was attractively displayed together with diagrams and a series of photographs, relating to the Industry. A "*Souvenir of the Coconut Industry*," a book containing a large number of interesting and informative articles and illustrations, and published by the Ceylon Coconut Board was on sale during the Exhibition. (A few copies are still available at Rs. 2 per copy).

Many enquiries from overseas visitors were received by our Officers on duty. They included people from Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, the Republic of India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos, the Maldivian Islands, Europe and the United States of America. We sincerely believe that contacts, so established, will foster and encourage world trade and in doing so will create employment and bring peace by mutual understanding.