

C-Show must bring in Rs. 3 1/2M to put govt. out of the red. (1952, January 9). Daily News.

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THE Government had to make Rs. 3 1/2 million to cover the expenditure connected with the Colombo Plan Exhibition. It was, therefore, their duty to see that the Exhibition paid.

Sir John Kotalawela, Minister of Transport and Works, who told this to the Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments yesterday, before handing over the stalls to the various Government Departments, appealed for the co-operation of every officer concerned in the work to make the undertaking worthy of an international exhibition.

He further said that a sum of Rs. 50,000 would be forthcoming from the Commercial Section. A sum of Rs 150,000 was expected from the amusement section and about Rs. 1,000,000 from gate collections.

COSTS CUT DOWN

Sir John said that the original plan was to spend about Rs. 5,000,000 on the work. Later, however, it was brought down to about Rs. 4,000,000 and finally to Rs. 2 1/2 million. This was a relative modification of the work.

The Exhibition, however, was going to be one of the finest of its kind ever seen in the East, he added.

There was a big task ahead of them and they must therefore put their best effort to see that it was carried out successfully.

COMMENDED

He commended Mr. T. N. Wynne-Jones and Mr. Arulpragasam for having the preparatory work carried out expeditiously.

The Minister of Home Affairs and Rural Development, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, said the handing over of the stalls marked the beginning of hard personal work on the Exhibition.

Officers he said should be prepared to sacrifice portions of both their leisure and duty hours for work on their particular allotments.

If they were not prepared to put in the required amount of work, then the Exhibition would not be anything more than a glorified carnival.

HIGH STANDARD

One important factor they had to bear in mind was that the international pavilions were going to be of a very high standard and it would be from that standard that their work would be judged.

The handing over ceremony was marked by the lighting of a brass oil lamp by Sir John, Sir Oliver and Mr. J. R. Jayawardene Minister of Finance. Milk-rice was served to those present by the contracting firm.

Almost all the permanent Secretaries and heads of Departments in Colombo were present, in addition to several other officers concerned in the work.

Immediately afterwards, several Departments started work on their stalls.