

Department of National Economy

Speech given by Mr Nguyen Dieu, Director of Economy for PMS at the meeting of the research and studies group of the PMS.

Industry - Industry in the PMS is placed in the hands of foreigners namely French and Chinese. Big factories which have many workers such as tea factory, coffee, rubber, cement, bricks, construction, match and electricity company etc belong to French industrials.

Among the companies and factories registered in 1953 which amounted to 65 in the whole PMS only 6 of them at Blao belonged to Vietnamese. Since then, due to the political events some of the companies either had stopped their ~~activities~~ or had been sold to Vietnamese.

At Djiring the situation has changed completely: only 3 out of the 16 existing factories belong to Vietnamese. In the last few years the French had hold some 37 companies and plantations.

The question of replacing foreigners in the operation of factories and plantation presents a serious problem. Only Vietnamese can assume this responsibility but since in the PMS the highlanders outnumber the Vietnamese (6 to 1) a new economic development program should be adopted to "reform" the agricultural methods that the highlanders have used up to now. They must be trained to live in one determined place instead of moving around.

Among the arts and crafts produced by highlanders weaving is considered as the most important.

Concerning the development of this profession (according to means and facilities) it can be done in three following phases:

First phase. Supply looms to highlanders and show them how to operate these looms.

Second phase. Replace these looms by japanese-made which can use cotton with short thread produced in the PMS. This type of looms give better results and operate much faster.

Third step. Replace the cotton grown in the country by those imported because the latter produces good quality. Try to spread the cultivation and use of this cotton then buy modern looms to work with it.

Commerce/ Beside the export of a small quantity of tea to North Africa, green tea, to Cholon and vegetables to Saigon there is practically nothing in Dalat which can contribute greatly to the Commerce of the PMS. It is only a center a consumption. Only Dalat and Banmethuot are the big centers which have many stores. There are some 32 professions registered in Dalat among which hotel keeping occupies the most important place.

Agriculture: Among the plants grown in Dalat tea occupies a large area (4.600 hectares with a production of 3000tons) There are two types of tea: green tea and black tea.

If the cooperatives of production and consumption could

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be established the producers would make more height and thus encourage the plantation of tea. Plan has been made as to the establishment of factories of Chinese tea on the spot. Chinese technicians could be hired to train Vietnamese in the preparation of green tea which is up to this date bought from Chinese.

Coffee and rubber plantation belong to French. However in the last few years, the production has been decreased due to political situation in the country.

For rice, it occupies an area of 83.000ha. However this figure is only an estimate for the highlanders do not grow rice the way ~~x~~ the Vietnamese do. They do not grow it, in the same place but at different ones each time. This fact makes the control and registration work difficult for the agricultural services.

Since the supply of rice is not enough for the whole population it is desirable to encourage the plantation of rice. This fact could be materialized by granting land and loans to people who are interested in the cultivation of rice. It was also suggested that area of rice culture should be created by the Department of Agriculture and should be put into operation in the near future. The government must provide means to that private people could develop agriculture in the PMS in order to be self-sufficient in case of lack of communication with outside.