



New Roads Will Link East Coast Villages *Proposed Trunk Route May Not Need A Second Bridge*

BATTICALOA, Tuesday

GOVERNMENT plans to open up the Bintenne and Lower Uva by building a trunk road between Inginiyagala and Maha Oya may still succeed without the necessity for throwing another bridge across the Maha Oya.

The saving to Government, should this possibility materialise, would be around Rs. 600,000.

This alternative was first mooted by the Executive Engineer here, Mr. N. Nadesan, during discussions with the Minister of Transport and Works, Sir John Kotelawala, when the latter visited the Eastern Province last week.

The Engineer suggested that instead of duplicating the existing steel bridge across the Maha Oya, it would be possible to use the same bridge

if the new trunk road trace linking Inginiyagala and Maha Oya were begun one mile east (toward Batticaloa)—below the point at which the Maha Oya crosses the Batticaloa-Badulla road.

COURSE OF TRACE

The suggested trace would take in the backward villages of Nilobe, Pollebadde, Kurunduwinne and Mullegama and thence go on to Inginiyagala via Uhana.

Mr. Nadesan pointed out to Sir John that the length of the entire road would be about 30 miles.

Sir John, accepting the view, commented that the proposal had the advantage of making it possible to complete the road in a shorter time than if the construction of a bridge were involved.

The Minister told the Executive Engineer to proceed with investigations to trace the new road, which, incidentally, shortens the Badulla-Inginiyagala run by 60 miles.

ROAD TO PROSPERITY

Another road inspection that was on the circuit program of Sir John was the proposed Serankada-Manampitiya road.

This would open up vast tracts of undeveloped lands now under jungle, particularly when the Irrigation Department puts into execution the Maduru Oya Scheme and halves the distance between Polonnaruwa and Badulla.

A third road which has been planned will link Padayatalawa with Alutuwara and shorten the distance between them by

A part of this road which was taken over by the Public Works Department from the District Road Committee is already under construction.

ALL-WEATHER ROUTE

A fourth and perhaps the most important road that the Public Works Department will undertake in the Eastern Province is an all-weather road between Trincomalee and Batticaloa which will by-pass all the ferries.

It will branch off at Mankerni on the 28th mile post of the present road and, running through the big Agricultural scheme at Allal, cross the Verusal over the Irrigation Department silt-cum bridge that has already been built, and go on to Trincomalee through Thambalakaman.

While the road in mileage will be longer than the existing road along the coast, in travel time it will be only half because there will be no crossing of ferries.

The preliminary reconnaissance work on all these proposed new roads has been completed by the Public Works Department and investigations will begin early next year after the monsoon has spent its force.