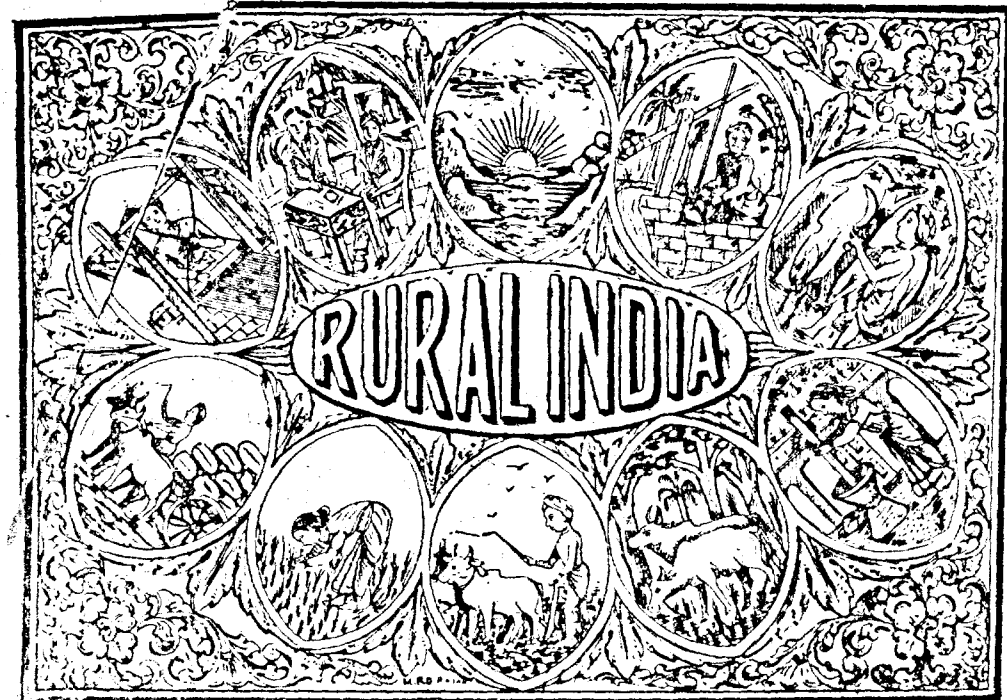




JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS FOREST PANCHAYATS.

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RURAL INDIA

Managing Editor :—A. Swaminatha Iyer, B. A.

Vol. V.

August, 1930.

No. 8.

A GREAT EXPERIMENT

or

THE SCHEME OF MADRAS FOREST PANCHAYATS.

(By the Editor.)

III



IN THE FIRST SECTION AN ACCOUNT WAS GIVEN of the origin of the Forest Panchayat Movement in this Presidency. In the second section, the working of the scheme which was started in 1914 up to the period ending 1919 has been described.

In 1920, Government decided to place Mr. D. G. Bles I. C. S. on special duty to examine the working of the existing Panchayats with a view to ascertain the reasons for their success or failure and to deal with the modifications required in the system and the methods by which it could be stimulated and controlled in the future. The report of Mr. Bles which was submitted through the Chief Conservator of Forests showed that in most cases Panchayats had attempted to carry out the obligation imposed upon them by their agreements and in some cases with considerable success (Para 42 of his Report) and that most Panchayats had realised their responsibility to their fellow villagers. Considering that the panchayat system had an educative value as it tended to promote communal action, Mr. Bles was of opinion there was every reason to believe that in course of time the Panchayats would regard the preservation of their forests as a duty not only towards their contemporaries but also towards their descendants (Para 48 of his Report). Finally he remarked that the Forest Panchayats needed not only supervision but also advice and help. "Under the existing arrangement these benefits are to be expected from the officials of the Revenue Department, and these officials have rarely the time or the opportunity

to give much attention to forest matters". (Para 66 of his report). The chief conservator of Forests, (Mr. S. Cox) who was in agreement with Mr. Bles's proposals and recommendations stressed the need of stimulating throughout the Presidency a sense of the value of arboriculture in a tropical country and opined that the Panchayat system gave an opportunity which ought not to be neglected. "A very considerable area of Panchayat Forests scattered through the Presidency is suitable for tree planting and improvement and if this work is carried out by the villagers themselves with a limited amount of help by Government not only will the practice spread but the villagers will begin to consider the forests their own and will take an interest which at present is absent in their conservancy. He added that "the income from the Panchayat Forests amounts nearly to half a lac of Rupees. I think there is justification for ear-marking a considerable portion of this income to the improvement of these admittedly degraded forests. Such action should at last remove any suspicion that the Department continues to raise revenue from the Panchayat forests without regard to their conservancy." Mr. Cox considered it essential that there should be a special staff of Deputy Tahsildars under a special officer whose sole duty it would be to stimulate, assist and control the working of the Panchayats. "The experience of the last four years seems to prove the necessity of relieving Revenue Divisional Officers of all responsibility for the management of Forest Panchayats. They are so hard worked and have such multifarious duties that they cannot give the necessary personal attention. He should be consulted by the special officer on all matters connected with the working of the system in his Division, but the real responsibility should vest with the special officer and the control in the District with the Collector who would have the assistance of the District Forest Officer when required. The Chief Conservator of forests will be the controlling authority, but it is obvious that the chief conservator would be unable directly to control the work of (individual) special officers without some more or less experienced administrative officers in charge of the special staff constantly to tour in the districts and be in close touch with the district Collectors and local officers". The work of the individual special officers would thus be coordinated and controlled.

Regarding the supervision of the special staff, the Board of Revenue was against the proposal to place it directly under its control as "It would be no more than a 'paper' control unless Collectors are to be intermediary controlling officers for which the Board doubts if it has time". The Government were averse from the alternative that these

areas should revert to the control of the Forest Department, "since to do so would revive and even intensify the difficulties and the friction which have arisen in the past. If again the areas are disafforested and treated as unreserved lands, past experience have shown that in a few years' time they will cease to be valuable to the villagers and meet with the same severe fate as the majority of the existing unreserved lands, i. e. will suffer more or less complete denudation and will cease to be capable of supporting so large a number of cattle as it has hitherto done." The denudation of these grazing areas would also tend to deprive the ryots not only of grazing but of leaves for manure and of minor forest produce, such as thorn for fencing which are largely used in many parts of the country by the villagers. Further, if the policy of granting on patta any area which may be fit for cultivation were adopted, the result would be to deprive the generality of villages of any benefit from those areas in the interest of a comparatively small number of the richer or more influential individual and to cause real detriment to and possible discontent among the general body of the villagers. Before coming to a final decision on this difficult question, Government was of opinion (G. O No. 774, Development, dated 7th June 1922) that a further effort should be made to continue the policy inaugurated in 1914 which had for its object the fostering of the Forest Panchayat movement, and with it, the spirit of Cooperation and self Government among the villagers interested. "The experience of the working of the scheme thus far gained has shown that the ignorance of the villagers, internal factions and jealousies and the absence of systematic and sympathetic guidance have been the chief obstacles to success. The Forest subordinates under the scheme are divorced from any connection with the Panchayat forests and all initiative in forming new Panchayats or in affording advice and guidance to existing ones had been left in the hands of the Revenue Divisional Officers who has neither the time nor in some cases, the inclination to take much trouble in the matter. Just as in the Cooperative Department, the initiative, and guidance imparted by the officers of the Cooperative Department specially entrusted with the work have been of the utmost value, so it is hoped that a valuable impetus will be imparted to the formation of new Panchayats and the improvement of the existing ones by the appointment of a small special staff.....whose sole function it will be to assist the ryots in this matter. It was found impossible.....for the Board of Revenue to undertake the duty of supervision. It is proposed therefore to appoint a special staff.....which will work directly under the chief Conservator of Forests." Accordingly a Deputy

Collector with experience of the work of the Co-operative Department with Inspectors of the grade of Deputy Tahsildars was sanctioned and the special staff was appointed in October 1922.

* The previous instalments of this article appeared at pp. 81-83 and 104-106 of Vol. V.



GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.*

The modern science of animal husbandry is based mainly on experimental research. The investigator establishes certain experimental conditions with a definite line of research in view and compares his results with those obtained in other conditions, in order to draw scientific or practical conclusions from the comparison. He frequently, however, comes up against the difficulty that in a given place several conditions (climate, etc.) cannot be modified, whereas for other conditions (feeding, management, etc.), the possibilities of variation are inexhaustible, and it is thus impossible to try out all the possibilities.

On the other hand, stock raising as practised throughout the world offers an immense field for observation and research under conditions of infinite variety, a field which hitherto has been insufficiently explored and utilised. It would moreover seem preferable to take advantage of the possibilities of observation already in existence rather than to create new ones.

Just as zootechnical experimental research advances by means of comparison, so geographic zootechnical research should aim at a systematic comparison of the results obtained from a systematic study of breeding conditions in different countries. Geographic studies will also provide a basis for the ecological study of stock animals, supplying data on the conditions and results of stock-breeding which could be elaborated in a manner similar to that already carried out in the case of agricultural ecology for the cultivation conditions and varieties of wheat (cf. G. AZZI, *Le climat d'influence dans le monde*, published by the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, 1927).

Although the importance of a geographic study of animal husbandry has been recognised for a considerable time, as is shown by the

(Sent to us for publication by the International Institute of Agriculture. Ed RIJ)

innumerable descriptions with geographic delimitations, there is still a lack of comprehensive comparative works and of a systematic elaboration of the zootechnical observations made throughout the world. But this is not surprising; for though the experimental worker is able to confine his activities to assembling data concerning a limited area, the geographic worker is obliged to collect documentation from often widely separated regions, a work which is difficult, if not impossible, under present conditions for an individual worker, or for a research institute in a single country, when geographic research is conceived on a world-wide scale. For the progress of such research the work must be facilitated, and the basic facts must be presented in a clear and summarised form. In this as in other branches of science, graphic representation seems the best method of attaining this end.

The International Institute of Agriculture has therefore undertaken to provide investigators with data in the form of an International Zootechnical Atlas, the first volume of which will deal with cattle.

Although the maps of this atlas will appear independently and in succession they will form a homogeneous whole, following a uniform plan and based on common principles. Their scope will be limited to the representation of two aspects of geographic zootechnics:— the distribution of breeds and the density of head of stock. For the present they will not represent stock breeding conditions (excepting altitudes), but a leaflet accompanying each map will contain an account of such conditions together with illustrations of the breeds indicated on the map. It will, however, in many cases be possible to compare the data of the zootechnical maps with those of historical, ethnological, meteorological, geological and soil maps.

Each zootechnical map will be in two parts, that is to say it will include (1) a principal map showing breed distribution and (2) a chart on transparent paper superposed on the former and showing the density of head of stock. On the principal map, which will indicate rivers and mountains, similar colouring will in general represent breeds and varieties similar in their aptitudes, while contrasting colours will indicate breeds and varieties differing in this respect.

On the transparent map the head of cattle will be represented by dots, each dot corresponding to a certain number of cattle, so that the density of this marking will represent the density of the head of stock.

The uniform plan of the maps will facilitate comparison and make it possible, when the regional maps are completed, to draw up a world map for each of the principal stock animals.

These zootechnical maps will supply a basis for studies of the geography and ecology of stock and will facilitate the solution of a number of connected problems thus encouraging the development of recent tendencies in the study of animal husbandry.

The numerous economic bearings of these maps will be considered in Part II of the *International Review of Agriculture*, the *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Economics and Sociology*

(S. T. in the *International Review of Agriculture*.)



THE INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.



IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT IN RECENT years more and more attention has been devoted to the sugar industry which next to cotton is the most important agricultural industry affecting the lives and fortunes of the agriculturists, in this Country. Under the auspices of the Madras Economic Association an interesting discussion was raised the other day by Mr. K. C. Ramakrishnan, Reader in Economics in the Madras University on the Sugar Cane industry in India. Mr. Ramakrishnan covered almost the entire ground of the sugar industry in the world represented by Cuba, Java, Hawaii, and some of the continental countries. The competition between the beet-root and the sugar-cane was fully discussed, and the advantages of the latter over the former emphasised as sufficient guarantee for the gradual extension in the area of cane cultivated in countries where the facilities for cane culture are favourable.

Coming to India, Mr. Ramakrishnan deplored the poor development of the white sugar industry in spite of the fact that India possesses the largest area under cane in the whole world, due to low yield of cane per acre and very poor sucrose content. The case for the development of the white sugar industry was enthusiastically advocated by him; he however, did not refer to the practical difficulties of the development of the industry.

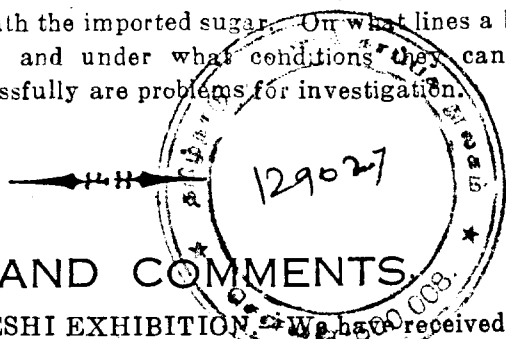
It will be noticed that India imports as the lecturer pointed out a fourth of its requirements. The 75 per cent production and consumption is purely as *gul* or jaggery with the possible exception of the quantity of white sugar produced by the few mills in the country. By nature and habit, Indians consume almost all the sugar in the form of

gul and the consumption of white sugar is confined to a small percentage of the people. They understand the food value of sugar which enters in their diet as *gul* while many reject the white sugar on sentimental grounds in the belief that bone is used in the process of refining. The difficulty in the development of the industry is purely agricultural. Sugar cane is a crop that occupies the land practically the whole year and water is a limiting factor in its cultivation and it is a serious problem especially as the planting season and early life of the cane synchronise with the severe summer.

Sugar cane is not a poor man's crop and to cultivate an acre of cane at least Rs. 300- or Rs. 400- are required although the amount may be realised later from the profits. Although sugar enters largely in his diet, the ryot does not need all the quantity that he produces for his consumption. More than 95 per cent he sells and it is a money crop to him in places where the conditions are favourable, just as cotton, jute, oil-seeds are, in other localities. Thus in the scheme of economic farming sugar cane has a definite function to perform. It is not possible therefore to disturb this adjustment and ask the ryot to grow sugar cane in large areas in preference to other seasonal crops. It is also essential to sound a note of warning against the method of one crop system. An agricultural country like India cannot afford to make experiments in imitation of the west and other industrialised countries as any fall of the market conditions of the world would adversely affect the ryots. The problem of sugar industry should not be confined to cane alone. There are, particularly in South India, palm trees from which *gul* is manufactured and the Sugar Committee itself have found that the palm jaggery has a bright future as it yields more sugar, and less of molasses. Therefore in any scheme for the development of the sugar industry the palm trees as an extra source of material should not be ignored. It is interesting to recall in this connection the Memorandum presented by the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association to the Tariff Board. Among other things, they deplore that nothing has been done by the Government in the nature of the improvement of the cane cultivation by providing adequate facilities for the cane growers. The Sugar Committee report is practically shelved and while the Government are enquiring and collecting information, countries like Java are forging ahead, and they urge that import of foreign sugar be gradually restricted so that in due course the Indian sugar industry may stand on its own legs.

In the observations we have made, we are not to be understood as against the development of the cane industry in all possible ways. In fact the yield and the sucrose content of the cane have to be increased

and greater quantity of gul produced. The sugar committee itself has set its face against small factories as they have all proved a failure being unable to compete with the imported sugar. On what lines a big-sized factory has to work and under what conditions they can be expected to function successfully are problems for investigation.



NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ALL INDIA SWADESHI EXHIBITION. We have received the following for publication from Mr. A. H. Kulkarni, Propaganda and Publicity secretary of the Bombay Presidency Youth League:—

It has now been decided that in the "All India Swadeshi Exhibition" which will be held in the third week of October next, all the exhibits will be 'classified according to the commodities'. This will give facility to the public to make their choice from the products exhibited, and also give an opportunity to the manufacturers to examine and make comparative study of their own and others products with a view to enhance the value of their stuff whenever necessary.

We therefore expect that all the Manufacturers, Industrialists and Traders will not fail to extend their active support by taking special interest in the Exhibition. Any suggestions which would directly contribute towards the betterment of their own industries and of the country at large will also be gratefully received.

The one supreme aim of the Organisers is to see that every one must know what things are manufactured in India, and keeping this end in view, they will not spare any efforts in this direction.

It is hoped that no Manufacturer or Industrialist will fail to take advantage of this opportunity.

From experience and close study, the Organisers have found that generally no systematic efforts have so far been made to bring the products of the manufactures before the public eye.

SOUTH INDIAN POLITY Among the most striking features of the ancient and mediaeval polity of Southern India were the management of local affairs by the people themselves and the richness and stability and the cultured fulness of the rural life of the country. In his address to the Madras University, Prof K.A. Nilakanta Sastri brought out this fact fully and stated that no serious attempt

had been made to study the structure of rural institutions and the details of administration. Few would be led to expect, from the current writings on the subject, that there was any evidence on rural institutions other than the celebrated Uttaramallur record. In reality, however, a great many other inscriptions furnish data which, if analysed and co-ordinated, would yield a comprehensive view of the classes of villages, the constitution and functions of the sabhas, their relations as between themselves and with the central administration and similar matters. The continued vigour of the village institutions of South India mitigated for many centuries the evils of a weak central Govt. Conversely it is permissible to argue, a strong central Govt. had the inevitable effect of weakening the village institutions.

RURAL BENGAL. The Bengal Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee's report has been issued and the considered opinion of the members is that the outstanding features of rural Bengal are that 83 % of the people are engaged in agriculture, which is spread over, 86 per cent of the area available for cultivation and that there is very little room for further expansion. The pressure on agricultural land is very great, 6 millions of cultivators are farming 31 millions of acres and the produce of agricultural farms is so small that it can hardly keep the agriculturists and their families on the bare necessities of life.

Providing further banking facilities for them and making cheap credit available for them will not by themselves be of any avail, unless means are found to increase the produce of the land by intensive methods of agriculture and so secure for them a greater share of the value of the produce that the consumer has to pay.

The report states that the real problem in Bengal is to set up an organisation through which the risks of agriculture, as an enterprise, may be so well distributed that long-term capital may flow into it and the dearth of which tells heavily on the agriculturist.

The report adds that in Bengal there is practically no thoroughly organised market for any agricultural produce, except tea the lack of which in the mofussil operates as a formidable obstacle in the way of cultivators realising a fair price for their crops.

The Committee suggests the establishment of licensed warehouses for the improvement of the economic position of the agriculturist.

RURAL CIVILISATION. As long as man and his domestic animals have stomachs they need to be provided with food and more and more food as they have no tendency to multiply, and steps are being taken to fight against insanitation and disease. So rural need is

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world need and rural civilisation is world civilisation. All the science and ingenuity of man will be required to take part in this civilisation. More and more irrigation and reclamation schemes have to be evolved and facilities of transportation provided to link the area of production with the area of consumption. In the search for areas of production even the great Sahara has not been overlooked.

Convinced that under the great Sahara desert lies a sheet of water which, if brought to the surface could turn the desert sands into the richest granary in the world, with two wheat crops a year, the French Government is sending scientists into Africa to study the possibilities of irrigation.

There are many dried river beds in the Sahara and scientists are convinced that the 1,544,000 square miles of desert was once a populous area and that only the drying of the rivers through the choking of wells caused the death of all vegetation.

Before any wells are dug the Government insists that a map be drawn showing the exact location of the underground water so that new drilling will not drain the wells of existing oases.

The fourteen principal oases in Southern Algeria feed about 700,000 Arabs. In recent years, however, all have reported a noticeable reduction in the flow of natural wells. Many wells known to have existed within a hundred years have disappeared and scientists believe that this is due to infiltration of sand.

If the map of the reported hidden waters is made and wells sunk it is believed that the desert could provide all the cattle and wheat needed in Europe.

Italy is also contemplating a land reclamation scheme costing £ 12,000,000.

The money will be spent on road-making, the draining of marshy land, bridge-building, irrigation schemes and the laying-out of new aqueducts.

More than 90,000 workmen are regularly employed on the reclamation work, which will be continued for at least another twelve years. When complete it will change the character of Italy, providing a network of roads, new farming land and a most complete system of irrigation.

CO-OPERATION AND RURAL CREDIT. The following extract from the Presidential address of Mr. V. Ramdas Pantulu to the Madura-Ramnad Co-operative Conference will be read with gratifica-

tion. The movement has provided the rural population with a fairly large volume of capital, mainly local, which now aggregates in this province to roughly Rs. 10 crores, at reasonable rates of interest. Capital collected by the cooperative banks is entirely utilised for the benefit of the agriculturists, artisans and small traders of the locality. Wherever the movement has taken firm root, the general level of interest rates has gone down and to that extent non-members of co-operative organisations have also benefited. This must have naturally resulted in considerable savings to those whose borrowing operations are thus rendered humane, savings which would otherwise have run into an unproductive channel. The system of rural credit which in the main, is made to rest on a self-governing structure, has also afforded opportunities for "practical training in business matters and acquisition of a sense of independence." We agree with Mr. Ramdas Pantulu that these are no small material and moral gains, but if the movement which now hardly touches more than a fringe of the population should benefit the rural population it needs to be consolidated and augmented considerably.

RURAL SERVICE. Thanks to the work which is being done by the Y. M. C. A. and other bodies in their several Rural Reconstruction Centres, rural service by which we mean service to and work among the villagers has of late claimed deserved and prominent attention. We have perused with interest the proceedings of the Y. M. C. A. Rural Reconstruction Conference in Maruthangadu and Mangad in South Travancore. These Conferences are intended to show how villagers might unite to free themselves from squalor, disease, poverty and ignorance and find solutions for the problems which they are confronted with. These cover all aspects of rural life, e.g. village communications, drinking water supplies, marketing of local products, primary education, correcting insanitary conditions, putting down drink etc. There is a great deal by which the villagers by proper organisation can help themselves without looking to extraneous help and the method of self-help demonstrated by the Y. M. C. A. Rural Reconstruction Centres is a way to well being and prosperity open to all villagers.

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Rural service offers quite a wide field of opportunities for village work suited to the inclination and capacities of the workers. It is the spirit of the service that counts. We want our prospective workers to enter upon their task in a spirit of humility and with the feeling that it has been given to them to be of some help to a brother or sister

who needs help. In fact it is the scout spirit that we want the rural worker to cultivate. Big opportunities come but seldom but small opportunities for service come all day long and create the habit of service. So let every opportunity, big or small be grasped to do a good turn.

THE RURAL PROBLEM. The rural problem is not solely confined to the village though predominantly it is so. A correct appreciation of the problem consists in the realisation of the interdependence of the city and the country, the mutual interests of the country and the city. It is being increasingly recognised now-a-days that the prosperity of the countryside is matter of prime concern to the city, because the city receives the food supply from the country and the rural population being mostly agricultural are really the suppliers of food to the city. Land also produces the raw materials for the industries and the rural people being the tillers of the soil also supply the materials to the industries. This is one aspect of the rural problem which we may describe as the city aspect. There is also the country aspect of the problem. Agriculture is not merely the production of food crops for consumption but of industrial crops also for the manufacturer and the world markets. In other words, modern agriculture is based upon the idea of markets which are found in the city. Moreover, as the standard of life of the farmers rises, their wants would also increase. Further, the city depends on the country for the influx of fresh blood, for the supply of the human power. Boys and girls both in the country and city should be trained to have the conception of this interdependence of the city and the country, of this dual aspect of the rural problem. While the education given to the village children should be such as to fit them for their avocations and surroundings, the education given to the boys and girls in the city should be such as to fit them for the lives in the country. Thus city and country would make a contribution to the common life and to society and civilisation in general.

THE TONIC EFFECT OF THE COUNTRY SIDE. An Italian doctor attributes cancer to the modern noise nuisance of congested cities. He bases his theory on the experiments conducted over a period of 15 years and claims 36 per cent of cures. Noise he maintains is one of the chief causes of nerve disturbance and therefore cancer can be cured by long treatment imposing absolute quiet and rest, from the hubbub of the modern city conditions.

BUS TRAFFIC IN THE RURAL AREAS. In view of the enormous development of bus traffic in the country and the consequent in-

crease of accidents, it is necessary that stricter control should be exercised over the motor buses plying for hire. The Coimbatore Dt. Board has on the recommendation of the sub-committee appointed by it framed rules in respect of the following matters, namely selection of routes, restricting the number of buses for each route, selection of applications for license, regular hours of starting from fixed points in each centre, limitation of speed and the fixing of maximum charges. One of the suggestions of the sub-committee approved by the Dt. Board is that buses crossing each other on any road should stop and exchange signals and the two drivers should sign each other's log book. Regarding the charges, per mile, per passenger, the maximum should be fixed at six pies in lieu of 0-1-3 and 0-1-0.

The restriction of the number of bus routes and the selection of applications should be decided by a committee consisting of the Dt. Magistrate, the President of the Dt. Board, the Dt. Superintendent of Police, the Dt. Board Engineer and two members of the Dt. Board who should be elected each year. It is desirable that other Dt. Boards should follow the wise lead of the Coimbatore Dt. Board.

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More and more, the use of the automobile is advancing throughout the world. A recent survey shows that there are more than 30 million motor cars in the world and the registrations have shown a steady advance since the close of the war, and there are indications that business is turning to the automobile in increasing numbers. Engineering tests have conclusively established that it costs more to operate an automobile over a poor road than over a good one. They also have established that where there is heavy vehicular traffic, the highest type of the roadway is actually the cheapest. To receive reports on such tests and to have the opportunity of discussing the many problems which arise in the administration and construction of the high ways and streets a Permanent International Association of Road Congresses was organised in 1903. The sixth Congress of the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses is to be held in October this year at Washington, and India among other countries, over 60 in number, will be officially represented at the Congress, which promises to be one of the largest international meeting ever held.

COOPERATION IN TRAVANCORE. A gratifying feature of the Cooperative movement in Travancore is the increase in the number of women workers from 19,736 in the year (1103 M. E.) to 23,893 during the current year. (1104 M. E.—1923 29). This is evidence of considerable literacy in the state, the education of women and girls receiving

as much attention as that of men and boys. Cooperative enterprise it is well known follows on the wake of education. Unlike what is noticed elsewhere, there is a fall under arrears in the Central Bank which shows that debtors have a proper appreciation of the obligations they are under for the due discharge of their loans within the stipulated periods thereby placing the societies in funds to meet fresh applications for loans. We find that there was an all round increase in the loans issued by the societies for various purposes but as usual the largest portion of the loan transactions was for the discharge of prior debts. It will be within the experience of cooperators that those prior debts must have been contracted not altogether for productive purposes as may be judged from the fact that loans for cultivation and agricultural purposes have been considerably smaller during the year under notice. Thus the real purpose of the cooperative movement has yet to be appreciated.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN MYSORE. With a view to provide minor industries, chiefly cottage and rural industries, the Government of Mysore have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 16,000 for the grant of loans during the current year at the rate of Rs. 2000 for each district. Loans not exceeding Rs 500 will be granted on suitable securities for any of the following purposes, viz the purchase of raw materials the purchase of tools and machinery, for employing Inspectors in special cases and for other purposes legitimately connected with small industries. Interest at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent will be charged from the date of disbursement of the loan and the time allowed for the repayment of the loan will not exceed three years.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE INDIAN FARM JOURNAL (published quarterly) Editor G. Krishnamoorthy (Published by the Indian Agricultural Syndicate, Teppakulam, Trichinopoly S. India) Subscription Rs. 3 per annum. We have received the opening issue of this new quarterly Journal devoted to the Farm. From the Editorial Foreword, we gather that the Journal will deal with the agricultural industry, gardening, planting, forestry, poultry rearing, cattle breeding, cooperation, etc. The promoters of the Journal hope to make it an agricultural miscellany—a handy encyclopedia of information on the subjects mentioned above. The opening

issue contains much interesting matter on a variety of topics. We wish our contemporary a long and useful career.

REPORT OF THE RAMAKRISHNA MUTT CHARITABLE DISPENSARY FOR 1929. This charitable institution which came into existence some five years ago has been rendering medical help to the suffering poor without distinction of caste or creed. That the institution has been supplying the crying need of the locality will be evidenced from the fact that there has been a very rapid increase in the daily attendance of patients, which rose from 5109 in 1926 to 30,932 in the year under notice, patients coming even from such distant places, as Saidapet and Royapuram. The institution is in urgent need of a habitation and funds for the maintenance of the dispensary and its workers and the President of the Sri Ramakrishna Mutt and Mission, Swami Yatheswarananda appeals for help from the public. The Institution, particularly after Dr. M. S. Krishnamurti Ayyar M.B.C.M., F.R.I.P.H. (Lond.) took charge of it, has grown in popularity with the poor and the suffering public and we have no doubt that the President's appeal will meet with a generous response.

THE EXPECTANT MOTHER AND HER BABY by Budh Rajh Chopra M.B.Ch. B (Edin) W.Green & Co. Limited, Publishers. Edinburgh; Price Rs. 5-10-0.

We owe an apology to the author and the publishers of this useful little manual for the delay in noticing it in our Journal. The book is intended primarily for parents but students and practitioners will also find much valuable information in it. During recent years, considerable attention has been devoted to the question of the proper age for marriage which has a direct effect on the health and longevity of the progeny. And those who pleaded for advancing the age of marriage and consummation in consideration of the health of the progeny will find much confirmatory material in Dr. Chopra's book which gives useful advice regarding the health of the parents before marriage, age at marriage and the importance of physical exercise as part of the education of girls etc. The condition of the expectant mother and the care necessary at the time of labour, the care of the new born, the feeding and weaning of infants, and the common ailments of childhood are all described clearly in a simple style. The book should prove valuable to Indian homes where unfortunately the barber midwife still holds sway and much ignorance prevails as to the pre-natal care

of the mother and the rational treatment of the mother and her new-born which is the cause of much avoidable suffering and misery and even death in many Indian families. Dr. Chopra's excellent manual should find a place in the library of every Indian home.

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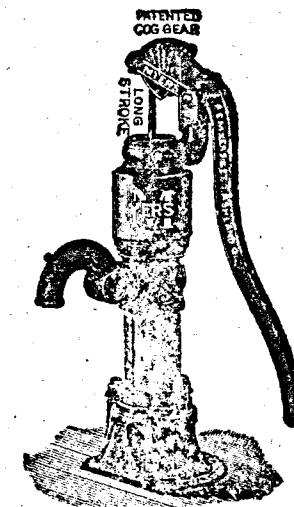
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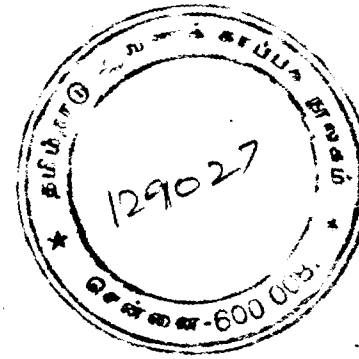
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