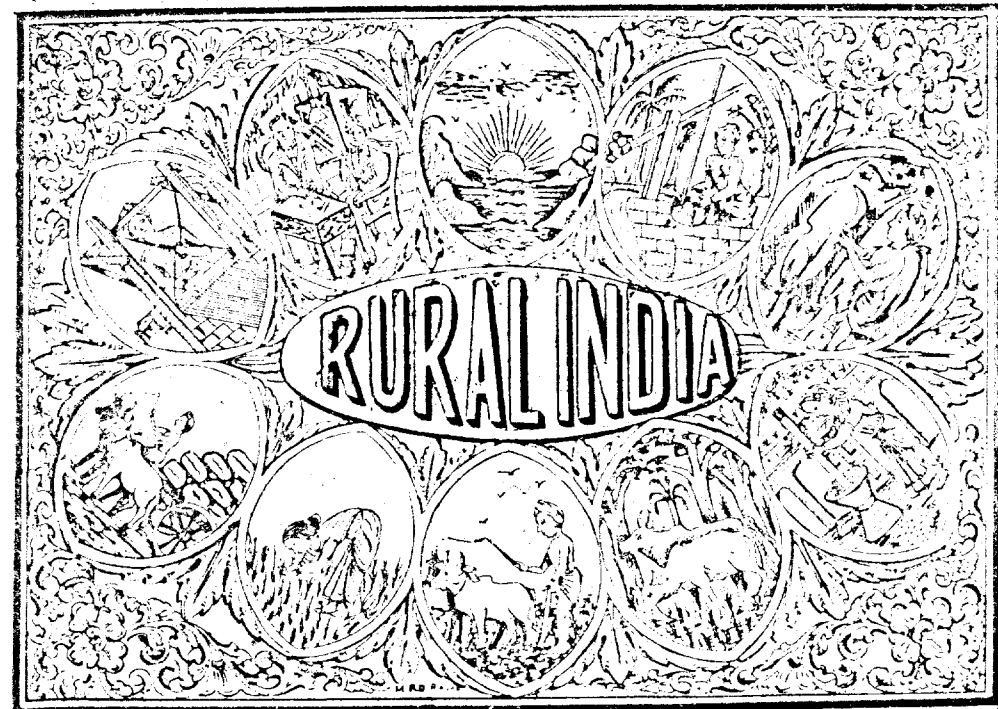




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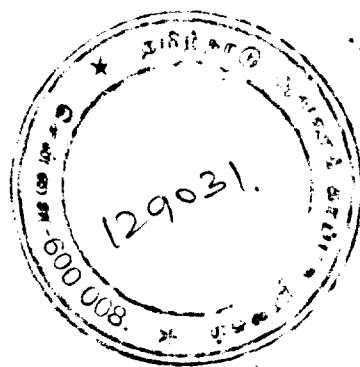
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Madras.

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RURAL INDIA

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

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No. 1

GOVT'S. FOREST POLICY*

14 MAR

By R. D. Richmond, Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.

IT IS NOT EASY TO FIX A DATE AS THAT ON WHICH Forestry was first regarded seriously in this Province. A Forest Department was first, formed in 1856, but for a very long time before that date the forests of Southern India were of considerable importance in connexion with the supply of teak for the Bombay Naval Shipbuilding Yards and the Gun Carriage Factory. It was in 1811 that the decreasing stocks of oak in England first led to a search for a substitute for the building of ships at war. There was considerable opposition by the shipbuilders of the Port of London, who anticipated loss to their business, but so far as the Indian yards went, teak won the day. To make the decision the easier some genius christened it "quercus indicus!". Malabar and the Anamalai hills provided considerable quantities but as time went on, and no thought having been given to the future, teak became hard to obtain and it was this increasing difficulty which led, in the forties, to the commencement of the famous Nilambur teak plantations in Malabar at the far-sighted instance of Mr. Conolly of the Civil Service. These plantations probably now constitute the most valuable forest property in the world—they are constantly being extended, but the limits within which this is possible are in view. Plantations are, however being formed in a number of other places.

Great credit is due to the few officers, recruited from a variety of sources, who carried on the work of the Department in its earliest years. The earliest of them was Dr. Cleghorn, an Assistant Surgeon, the first Conservator of Forests in Madras. Considering that there were no roads, nor buildings in which to halt, nor amenities of any kind, it is wonderful what they were able to accomplish and they laid the foundations very solidly. I have said that they were recruited from all sources. One of the most famous of these old timers was Jago, a

*Address given to the Madras Rotary Club.

soldier who joined the Department as a subaltern, finally attaining the rank of Colonel without reverting to military duty. Practically the whole of his service was spent in the Nilgiris where, apart from periods of relaxation spent in Europe, he hunted the hounds. Another with a claim to immortality was one Turnbull who, in 1868, established it as a fact that cobweb pills were a certain cure for malaria and infinitely more effective than quinine. Unfortunately he felt an irresistible urge towards Europe in the following year, taking with him Rs. 33,000 of the tax-payers' money, and has not been heard of since, so that any further researches he may have made into a cure for what is the greatest scourge and handicap to forestry in this country have been lost to us.

In 1871, the first trained officer joined the Department; in 1881 a Forest Act, the need for which had been felt for a long time, passed into law. The British race is notoriously antagonistic to forests, as is perhaps in keeping with pioneers. In Australia, in the Colonies, when one sees the struggles the pioneers must have had to clear the ground to keep it clear in order to earn a living, it is easy to appreciate this point of view. And those at home have not been brought up in sympathy with forestry. In the British Isles no questions of climate arise: the rainfall is ample and distributed, the streams are perennial, while needs in respect of forest produce were cheaply and conveniently met from Europe and it was only as a result of the war that forestry became to be regarded seriously. Thousands of acres a year are now being planted.

It was not surprising then that those in charge of the administration of this country should have lacked enthusiasm in framing a forest policy, nor that they should have been disinclined to go to the lengths to which they were urged. And it must be clear that when restrictions are being imposed, where none existed before, and if forests are to be preserved there must be restriction on their use, there must be some compromise, some consideration must be shown towards those who had been in the habit of helping themselves freely, to what they wanted. Perhaps too great consideration has been shown; but, however, this may be, the fact remains that a forest conscience is of slower growth in India than it is in other parts of the Empire which have adopted a forest policy long after India had done so. It seems well nigh impossible to convince those who are most vitally concerned that forests are essential, that they must be wisely used if they are to persist and that some duty is owed to posterity in this regard, in spite of posterity's notorious neglect of the present generation. More years ago than I care to recall, I was attempting to argue with a ryot on

this matter—his complaint was that he was not allowed to take what wood he liked from where he liked, to burn the forest yearly and to pasture his cattle and goats in it without restriction, and I suggested that were he allowed to do so there would be no wood or pasturage for his grandson. To which he resorted "And if I do not have fuel for a cooked meal to-night there will be no grandson." I have not yet discovered what my answer should have been.

As indicative of the direct value of forests to a country it may be mentioned that the gross revenue so derived over the whole of India and Burma in 1926—27 was four and a half millions sterling and the surplus revenue was two millions. From the earliest days, the forests of Madras have paid their way. In sixty years, there has been only one in which revenue has not covered expenditure and the forests of the Presidency have, in some fifty years, produced a total net revenue of 252 lakhs. The surplus has never been very striking; Rs. 25½ lakhs in 1919—20 was the highest, when there followed a number of comparatively lean years; one reason for which was the considerable rise in pay and wages following the war. But in the last two years there has been a very marked recovery, to a surplus of over Rs. 15 lakhs and although nothing very spectacular may be expected, this surplus, 130 times greater than it was 50 years ago, will steadily increase, as will the value of the forests, not only as a money-making factor but as a many-sided and invaluable asset to the country.

Fifty years is a short time in the life of a forest, but in that period much has been accomplished. A property, degraded by centuries of misuse, has gradually been improved and is being brought to a condition at which it can be made the fullest use of. It is commonly supposed that with the increasing use of metal the consumption of wood decreases. Such is not the case. The world's consumption of wood per capital is higher to-day than it was thirty years ago. Much, it is true, is devoted to paper making—the increased use of paper is a sign of expanding civilisation—and a world shortage of soft woods is predicted on this account; but as countries develop and a higher standard of living is attained wood and more wood is required for better class dwellings and so on.

It is the duty of the forester to see that the property entrusted to his charge is made the fullest use of, to ensure that the people are able to obtain their requirements with the least inconvenience and, above all, to see that the principle of the sustained yield is not deviated from. The forest represents the capital, what that forest puts on in growth in one year is the interest, which alone it is permissible to remove.

But before it is justifiable to work a forest it is necessary to know what kind of trees it contains and what quantities, at what rate the trees grow, to devise the best methods of working with due regard to replacing the tree crop removed and to consider the difficulties of extraction and the prospects of marketing. It is only within the last few years that the staff, the means for doing this essential work, has been available, leading to the longest step forward yet taken in the development of forestry in the Madras Presidency. Similarly, steps have recently been taken to undertake sylvicultural research, to ascertain by centralised inquiry and experiment how best and cheapest to establish crops of the large number of different kinds of useful trees which occur—the teak, the rosewood, the sal, the sandal wood and a host of others. Some of you here may not be aware of the importance of the sandal tree to this Presidency. An insignificant tree, a parasite on its neighbours, it is responsible for an annual revenue of some Rs. 10 lakhs and, what with its ailments and vulnerability to theft, is a source of perpetual anxiety. Among other post-war efforts have been those towards utilising kinds of wood hitherto little used and working types of forest hitherto considered inaccessible—in fact research on the industrial side has been undertaken. Results, many of them of a negative nature have been obtained, much useful information has been collected, but the value of the timber extracted is too low to cover the cost of extraction and the class of intensive working involved by the use of machinery is unsuited to the hill forests of the West Coast. But a promising method of working is now being evolved and profitable exploitation is in progress. On flat ground the elephant will beat the machine while, on the hills, man power has established its superiority over other motive agencies. Saw milling by Government agency has been tried and abandoned: it is probable that such enterprises should be left in private hands.

Another development of the last few years has been the supply of Railway sleepers, the number so supplied increasing annually. Not more than 44 per cent. of the sleepers used on the 40,000 miles of India's railways are of wood (I believe the total number of sleepers is about 63 millions) and the use of metal is increasing, but there can be no doubt that the southern railways will always require wood to the full extent of the ability of Madras to supply it. Unfortunately a project to render the less valuable timber suitable for use as sleepers by preservative treatment came to nothing, a plan for the experimental manufacture of the ply wood, which is so largely imported, sharing the same fate.

The forests of the country are badly distributed: very naturally they are principally confined to the hills and to land unfitted for agriculture; costs of production are high, leads by rail-road are long and timber imported by water is able to compete successfully in many places with that produced locally. And many of the main users of wood fail to appreciate the fact that our own teak is, if anything, superior to that imported from Burma (to a value of some Rs. 80 lakhs a year) while a large number of the other kinds of timber are suited for a number of purposes to which the more expensive teak is at present devoted.

Apart from timber, the forests supply the population with agricultural implements, fuel, leaves for manure, and grazing. Last year 20 million cubic feet of timber and fuel were exploited and grazing, at purely nominal fees—as low as 3 annas per cow per annum in some cases—was provided for nearly two million head of cattle. With the denudation of areas excluded from reservation, and of the private forests, the demands upon the reserves become more and more intense and it is the aim of the Department to increase, so far as funds and staff permit, the productivity of the forests in its charge. The people must be afforded a legal means of obtaining what they require.

Something too, has recently been done to improve the marketing of the great number of minor products—gums, canes, tanning and other barks, flusses, fruits and so on—which the forests provide; while lac, the source of considerable revenue elsewhere, has now been introduced into several centres. But a great deal remains to be done. The mixed nature of the forests, the large number of species occurring and transport difficulties all operate to the disadvantage of forest industries such as match and pencil making and the manufacture of paper. It has been said that the bamboos of India and Burma are able to supply the world's need in paper, and it has been shown that an admirable paper can be made from this source. Arrangements have been made for the supply of paper to a private company in the Presidency and it may be hoped that paper making from bamboo may soon be a locally established industry.

If some stress has been laid upon the financial and direct aspects of forestry it must not be supposed that the indirect benefits are not of the first importance. Without forests, a country, particularly a tropical country, cannot exist. The reduction of countries to desert condition owing to the destruction of its tree growth has been apparent in many instances. The present desert of Sind was a forest country and a fertile tract at the time of the invasion of Alexander; there is evidence in the Mahabharata that now woodless and waterless tracts of India were formerly verdant and blessed with perennial streams. The

Emperor Baber hunted the rhinoceros over areas in the United Provinces which are now completely bare, cut into deep ravines and in which the water level has sunk to 100 ft. Here the restoration of the forest is being undertaken at very heavy expense to save the cultivation. In Asia Minor now a treeless desert, are to be found the runis of old irrigation works and traces of a long destroyed tree growth. Desert ruins of great cities testify to the once former prosperity of the now sterile sands of Tripoli. Immense sums are spent annually in the Alps on Engineering works to check erosion and its consequent evils, whereas the conservation of the tree growth on the slopes would have prevented such a state of affairs. Nor is engineering effort alone able to counter these disasters—afforestation must also be undertaken.

The effect of forests upon the water supply of a country must be obvious, as is their function in the regulation of the run off, the silting of rivers and the prevention of floods. Unhappily the results of neglect are slow in slowing themselves, but one is personally aware of the gradual and progressive silting of the Godavari mouths, of silted rivers being unable to contain their flood water, of a river used not a century ago for floating our teak on its way to the Bombay dockyards no longer possible for such a purpose: while the repeated washways of the Nilgiri road and railway in the last few years are due to one cause only, as is the repeated interruption of the East Coast Railway over a number of years. The forests of Madras protect seven million acres (and the consequential revenue) of cultivable land under major irrigation works alone. This aspect of forestry, and the need for afforesting important catchment areas, is generally overlooked and though its value in this regard is difficult to assess in rupees it is very great indeed. It is an aspect which is in many respects more important than finance and it is this which makes forestry essentially an affair for the State. The financial side is important—every forest must be worked to its fullest capacity and must be perpetuated, working must be on the most economical lines, the people must be provided with their requirements, but the other objects severed by forests should never be overlooked.

The area of reserved forests now left in charge of the Forest Department is 15,500 square miles; so that the average area in charge of a district or division is as much as 550 square miles, while some are of far greater extent. This is a more than sufficient task for any one man even if considerably less than the 1,700 square miles. I wandered round and round—unable to do much more—as one of my first district charges. Increases of establishment there have been, as a result of years of struggle, but the staff is on none too generous lines now and when one recalls how difficult it is to protect the small confines of our

own gardens it is easily realised what is the task confronting a small protective staff expected to prevent theft from over 15,000 square miles enclosed in 26,000 miles of boundary and in the immediate charge of only about 1,500 forest guards.

RAMA NAICK ENTERTAINS A GUEST

A Scene From Rural Life.

'By Bharadvaja'



IT WAS A FINE EVENING IN THE MONTH OF THAI the month which as the Tamil proverb goes holds out hopes for all. The sun was setting a crimson ball of fire. Rama Naick aged over sixty was sitting in the open front of his little hut of mud walls and thatched roof. The contours of his face, the shrinking sun-burnt skin, the untrimmed gristling gray beard and whiskers and the loose hanging of his biceps all conspired to make him look the oldest man living on the face of the earth. His back was turned towards the glory of the setting sun. Not that he was dull of soul to be wholly unmoved by such an attractive scene of Nature; but perhaps being quite ordinary it had little or no effect on him. His feeble arms encircled his knees. He was looking sideways at the roof of his hut that had been faithful to him through three summers and winters. His left cheek bulged out with the contents of a large quantity of tobacco while chewing which he had as pleasant a feeling as that of a three-year old child eating biscuits. His eyes now rested on the half-dried tank opposite his hut. This was the only source of drinking water in the village. "Alas! the water in the tank is already getting muddy. How do these wretched skies raise hopes in us only to disappoint. A few years ago, I had nothing to care. The tenancy under that Iyer gave us just what we required—one full meal a day. Poor man, he lost half his property in educating his sons and the other half was mortgaged to find money for his daughter's marriage. Since then I have not had enough land to till and earn my bread. This year the crops too are disappointing. How will my family live on till the year is out. God is great; in Him I trust." These and such like were the thoughts in which he was absorbed, till he was awakened by the tinkling of the brass-bells of the returning herd. The cattle raised a cloud of dust. But, however, even the filmy eyes of Ram Naick could see a double bullock cart driving along into the village. Perhaps it was the Revenue Inspector's. No. It was not his; for it was without a top. Whose was it? Ram Naick was burning to know. He called out to the cowherd saying,

"Hey, Whose cart is it, I say, that one behind you?" "Somebody's", replied he carelessly and went on whooping. The cart drew nearer and nearer, and much to the surprise of Rama Naick exactly towards his hut.

The visitor was his own brother-in-law. Apparently he had not realised the use of the half-anna postage to spare the Naick this surprise. He alighted from the cart amazingly fresh for a journey of twenty miles along a cart track an apology for a road. Five years had elapsed since he visited the village. Rama Naick spat out the tobacco, cleared his throat and went to greet his guest. To the housewife the visit of her brother was a matter for no common joy. Leaving off her work of preparing supper—that of adding fresh water to the cold rice and sprinkling a few grains of salt in it—she doubled herself at the threshold and cast eager looks at the guest. Inside was her sixteen-year old daughter wearing the saree which was a pongal gift to her mother. She had a strange feeling of elation at the coming of the uncle.

It was now moonlight. The guest was given water to wash his hands and feet. A mat woven with palmirah leaves was spread on the cleanly swept open front of the hut. This served as a seat for the guest. The host was standing with a tattered rag for a loin cloth—just enough to cover his nakedness. Entering the hut with unusual vigour, he exchanged significant looks with his wife. Both of them were happy at the thought of having offered a fitting reception to the guest without letting him see for himself the inside of the hut. A small mud dish, with a little castor oil and a twisted piece of rag for the wick, served the purpose of a light which was lit up in honour of the guest.

The situation was very trying for the old pair and had to be very cleverly handled. They took stock of the provisions they had. Half a measure of husked rice, quarter ollock of salt and two dried chillies were all their store. All the old pair's earnings at the harvest had been sold to meet the creditors' demands. The family depended mainly on the housewife's earnings and partly also on the charitable disposition of their creditors. Cash on hand was only half an anna that which the daughter had earned that day at the thakli. The guest was comparatively well off. He owned two acres of wet land, a pair of bullocks and a cart. To treat him according to his dignity was no easy problem to the host.

The wife went out to bring a pot of water. Immediately, Rama Naick went out to find provisions. The wife returned and not finding her lord surmised what he had done. The bronze plate, the only metal ware they had was missing. She had not a doubt that it had gone to

the pawn-broker's. That was being preserved as a relic of ancestral preoperty and regarded as sacred for its old associations. Before she could fully recover from the shock, the Naick returned with things necessary for that night's supper. All except vegetables could be procured. Even the hen appeared to have conspired against them, for she laid no eggs that day. But the wife would somehow manage. Rama Naick went to the Brahmin street to take a loan of two plate leaves on promise to return a basket-ful of green banian leaves. The guest went out to renew old acquaintances.

In the joy at the success that attended his efforts the Naick quite forgot that there was no fuel for the oven. It was perhaps the wife's business to find it. To go out at that late hour to gather dry sticks was out of the question. She was too sensitive to go a borrowing for it. An idea struck her. Quietly she walked to one wing of the hut where the wall had left a crack. She drew out two palmirah leaves and a piece of rotten bamboo stick from off the low projecting end of the roof. With these she lit up a fire and in half an hour supper was ready. The guest was asked in and served.

The visitor had learnt from his village friends the real circumstances of the household of his sister. After supper she was dragged into conversation. Sly questions were put to her. In answer to how she got on she would say no more than "By the grace of God we are pulling on". With sorrow for her suffering and admiration for her fortitude he went up to his host saying, "I hoped to find your son."

"He is in Madras earning his living as a gardener. Now and then he goes to see us.", replied the Naick.

"But why do you not ask him to stay with you. I am sure he would be of help to you in your old age."

"He has somehow caught a fancy for town life. I am glad that he is able to support his wife and two children."

After this the guest slowly turned the conversation to the marriage of his sister's daughter. The purpose of his visit was to see if the girl would be match for his son and if Rama Naick was in favour of an alliance with him.

BACK TO THE VILLAGE.

By 'Visvamitra'

Back to the village, bag and baggage
Take to the plough, land and tillage
Abandon thine fruitless job in the city
To enjoy in comfort, the rural beauty.

OF THE RECORD

14 MAR 1931

The din and dust, custom and costume
Thine hard earned income do consume
Hard you feel, to make both ends meet
Save the gold and silver in the pawn broker's street.

Youths of the century, dupes of the 'Varsity'
Observe thine village folk in their simplicity
Doing their daily toil, with perfect ease
In their fields of grain, maize and peas.

The simple farmer ere dawn of day.
Rises refreshed from his couch of hay
And sweats and toils all day long
To make his plants hardy and strong.

The busy wife, that keeps the farmer's house
With love and affection for her labouring spouse
Taking a bowl of Ragi gruel for his meal
Is soon by her lord working his weal.

Under sun and rain the labouring twain
Work in sweat or pain until the golden grain
Is cut and threshed and taken home
In carts of bullocks in froth and foam.

With grain and cow, cattle and sheep
And hen and eggs that they keep
Lead a life of health and plenty
With the whole village in proud fraternity.

CO-OPERATION OR COMPETITION.

That the Co-operative movement is a great social and economic discovery for the progress of humanity is coming to be more and more widely recognised. And to this recognition no small credit is due to the International co-operative Alliance which is an all-world institution to which are affiliated not less than seventy federations of thirty-two countries with about 75,000 societies and a total of more than forty million members. The central aim of the Alliance is to work for the substitution for the present competitive regime of private enterprise, the co-operative regime organised in the interests of the community as a whole and based on material assistance and self-help. Presiding over the Silver Jubilee of the Bangalore City Co-operative Society Dewan Bahadur M. N. Krishna Rao Officiating Dewan of Mysore referred to the work achieved by the International Co-operative

Alliance and the immense potentialities of the movement. The rather narrow outlook which characterised the beginning of the movement is long past. It has passed beyond the stage of the period when the benefits which might accrue from Co-operative purchases and sales or the returns which might be derived from capital invested by what is popularly known as the elimination of the middle man. The co-operative principle is now sought to be applied to a solution of world problems and for remedying the ills which afflict mankind. This hopeful feature of the movement was elaborated by Mr. Krishna Rao who said that it will, if properly understood and directed, be the means of promoting universal peace and goodwill and help to establish the co-operative commonwealth of the whole world.

Every community consists of three classes, producers, distributors and consumers. The social organisation as it has developed so far tends to emphasise the separateness of the interests of these three classes which has brought about a condition of unfettered competition. In order to minimise, if not for removing this conflict of economic interests, it has to be recognised that what is good for all is good for each. Co-operation is divorced as much from competition as from socialism. Individualism if allowed free play would result in unbridled competition with all its attendant waste and friction while unqualified socialism on the other hand would stunt human nature by removing all incentive to individual initiative and enterprise. The social organisation which would make for real progress would therefore aim at harmonising the interests of individuals with that of the communities and as rightly pointed out by Mr. Krishna Rao, the object of co-operation is to build up such an organisation which will be characterised by harmony rather than by conflict of economic interests, by transcending the bounds of narrow and conventional interests. It is given to every one, however humble, to take part in this great endeavour inspired by the noble example of the Rochdale Pioneers aiming at "the substitution for the present *competitive regime* of private enterprise, the *co-operative regime* organised in the interest of the community as a whole and based on material assistance and self help."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

"PONGOLO PONGAL" 1931. In the words of the heading of this paragraph we wish the Forest Panchayatdars and all our readers a happy and prosperous Pongal which nearly synchronises with the New Year 1931 with the advent of which we by the grace of Providence are enabled to begin our sixth volume. Frows and favours

we have had from quarters least expected. We have survived the one and utilised in a full measure the other to our best advantage. An event of importance during the last year so far as the Forest Panchayats are concerned was the appointment of a Committee to consolidate the rules and orders regarding the Forest Panchayats into a Standing Order on the subject. The final draft of the Committee is with the Government. The usual Conference of Forest Panchayats was held and important resolutions were passed at the Conference having for their object the improvement of the status of Forest Panchayats and enhancing their usefulness in the rural economy of the country. The resolutions adopted at the Conference are almost the same as those adopted at the previous Conference held at Ongole under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu. They were formally, in due course submitted to Government whose orders are eagerly awaited.

LORD WILLINGDON. After Lord Ripon, Lord Irwin has won the universal respect and affection of the Indian peoples. And this undoubtedly is due to the personality of the present Viceroy who has brought to bear on the discharge of his great office genuine love, imagination, high character and sincerity of purpose, and it will not be easy for any one, however able and versatile to succeed such a great and good Viceroy. The appointment of Lord Willingdon who brings to his great and difficult task the quality of statesmanship and the grace of friendship and practical experience of the working of Dominions will be generally welcomed and is a happy augury for the future of the country.

NEW YEAR HONOURS. The K. C. S. I. conferred on Sir Norman Marjoribanks, Chairman, Madras Service Commission is in recognition of his long and distinguished services ending with the acting Governorship of this Presidency. Sir Norman is an able, knowing and conscientious officer and understands the ryots and their needs and he has always taken a sympathetic interest in their welfare. The Dewan Bahadurship conferred upon Mr. V. Bashyam Ayyengar senior District and sessions Judge who recently acted with distinction as a Judge of the High Court and now represents the Madras Presidency in the Legislative Assembly is well deserved as also the similar distinction conferred, though belated on Mr. N. Swaminatha Ayyar, Officiating Chief Engineer for Irrigation. Dewan Bahadur N. Swaminatha Ayyar's administration of the Irrigation Branch of the Public works Department has been characterised by conspicuous ability and single minded devotion to the needs of the ryot population. We hope he will

soon be in permanent charge of the Irrigation Branch of the P. W. D. as the Chief Engineer. We offer our congratulations to the recipients on the honour which they have so well merited.

HOSPITABLE INDIAN VILLAGE. Mr. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Advocate-General gave expression to a nice sentiment at the anniversary celebration of the Annadana Samajam when he said that the rural economy of the Indian village which was a self-sufficient unit in the early days was intended to make provision for the poor and the helpless. Every house holder was expected to look out before he dined and see whether there were any people waiting for help and succour. And no villager, however poor would deny a morsel of food to the hungry man. This feature of the Hindu Society operated against state provision in respect of pauperism and poor relief in the same manner as in the West in spite of the general poverty of the people and their low standard of living.

Another nice sentiment neatly expressed was in respect of the family unit in which the individual owed a duty not only to himself but to a number of people around him who constituted the Hindu family. This is a conception foreign to the sentiment of the highly materialised West in which the individual is everything and the family nothing. The Indian family unit trained individuals in the value of self sacrifice and the duty which every member of the family unit owed to the other members. Under the impact of Western Civilisation this beautiful idea in the Hindu system is in danger of being destroyed and a new order is evolving which is a mixture of the undesirable aspects of both the West and the East, neither the robust individuality of the West nor the spiritual background of the East in which the individual feels he is a part, a necessary part of the family unit with definite duties and responsibilities.

THE AMERICAN ARCOT MISSION which is doing useful work for rural uplift has established an agricultural farm at Katpadi in the Chittoor District, which was visited by the Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur B. Munisawmi Nayudu who formally opened an Agricultural Institute in connection with the farm. The Institution has imported high class fowls from America and is maintaining a large poultry farm. The aim of the Institution is to encourage villagers to keep improved poultry as a cottage industry as a supplemental source of income. It arranged a poultry exhibition where White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds and other valuable varieties were shown. Much

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credit is due to Mr. P. M. Goopalakrishnan who is in immediate charge of the farm and the Institution and to Mr. Devalois, Principal of the Institution.

SOME LINES OF DEMONSTRATION WORK IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES. We have always perused with interest and in the hope of obtaining useful suggestions, the reports on District demonstration work of the Department of Agriculture, Central Provinces and Berar. One useful line of work which might well be adopted by the Departments of Agriculture systematically in every Province is the active help of the Department in keeping buyers in touch with the producers. This is and should be the function of every state department of Agriculture. We are told that in respect of ground nut for instance, the department assists by keeping Bombay buyers in touch with the supply. Another important line of activity is the encouragement given for the establishment of private cattle breeding farms. There are many breeding herds of cows in the Province but for want of good bulls, systematic breeding is not practised. The establishment of Government breeding farms in some localities while it has its use cannot effectively, solve the problem of improving the indigenous breeds of cattle which owing to neglect and want of enterprise are deteriorating.

AGRICULTURE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES. A new feature of the working of the Department of Agriculture in Central Provinces and Berar during the year ending March 1929, a report regarding which we have perused with interest was the introduction of the Cinema outfit showing films of agricultural importance on cotton, wheat and cattle improvement. The first show was inaugurated on 25th January 1929 in the Agricultural Institute, Nagpur, and was attended by His Excellency the Governor, Members of the Legislative Council and a few prominent malguzars. The outfit was taken out for demonstration in 19 centres in Nagpur and Wardha districts, and the shows held were attended by about twenty-two thousand people in all. The cultivators found the films interesting and at the same time gained knowledge as to the methods by which improved agriculture could be carried out. The cinema lorry carries samples of improved seeds, manures and a few implements. Demonstrations of these items were generally arranged during the day and attracted a large number of cultivators to witness the same.

Another interesting feature related to the practical demonstration of agricultural improvements. During the year, whenever possible, an agricultural assistant accompanied the Deputy Commissioner when on

tour in his district and demonstrations and lectures were given on the advantages of improved implements, seeds, manures, etc. This scheme has been highly successful where it was possible for the agricultural assistant to accompany the Deputy Commissioner for a fairly long period uninterrupted by other pressing duties.

LOAN TO AGRICULTURISTS. The present system of accounting prescribed in the loans rules is complicated. Government are of opinion that it should be possible to simplify the rules while still providing the Finance and Account authorities with the information they require. They have accordingly appointed a committee with Mr. C. A. Souter, I.C.S., Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement as chairman (1) to consider the possibility of simplifying the procedure relating to the payment and recovery of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the maintenance of the necessary accounts and (2) to devise measures to ensure more prompt collection without undue harassment of the borrowers. The other members of the Committee are the Accountant-General, Mr. C. F. Brackenbury, I. C. S., Collector of Chittoor, Mr. A. C. Woodhouse, Collector of Nellore, Mr. Javad Husain Sahib Bahadur, Collector of Chingleput, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar M. L. C and Dewan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar, is Secretary to the Committee.

INDIAN VILLAGES. In an interview which Mr. S. T. Woolf had with Rabindranath Tagore published in the *New York Times Magazine*, the poet expressed himself as follows:—"At one time our villages were in close contact with the manifold culture of India. They were cherished and served by all capable persons with the best that their minds produced. Today they are fatally neglected. They are fast degenerating with serfdom compelled to offer to the ungrateful towns cheerless and unintelligent labour for work carried on in an unhealthy and impoverished environment." How true.

THE TRUE REASON AND THE RIGHT REMEDY. Prof. S. K. Yagnanarayana Ayyar of Madras, the Veteran cooperator, speaking the other day in New Delhi, traced the growth of the Co-operative Movement in India and deplored how from the beginning, it suffered from being purely an organisation for relieving the indebtedness of the agriculturist by providing money at interest lower than that of the usurious money lender and completely ignoring the causes of the agriculturist's indebtedness. There was no attempt made to increase the productive capacity of the ryot or even to provide him with cottage industries during the off-seasons. Indeed, though the authorities copied

the German model for the movement in India, they neglected the most essential sides of rural life. And the result was, that the Banking Committee and the Townsend Committee had recently to bear witness to the fact that in certain provinces, far from relieving the agriculturist of his indebtedness, the movement had actually added to it.

This pre-natal defect of the movement was really the Government control in everything in its organisation, propaganda, registration and audit. The co-operative movement must be absolutely independent of Government control; and a clear statement to that effect was due from the Government who must fix a time when it would be so. Once this was done, it would be easy to carry the movement through all the stages of rural life, for example, by co-ordinating agriculture on co-operative principles, by introducing improved methods of agriculture, by marketing his produce without the interference of the middlemen. This would mean the removal, in the first instance of illiteracy from the rural areas. The progress which the co-operative movement had made in Denmark was due to the fact that compulsory primary education had been introduced fifty years before the Act was passed in England, and a revolution in the rural life of India was possible if there was compulsory primary education in India.

RABIES AMONG JACKALS. According to the latest report of the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, a serious situation arose in Ootacamund and several tracts in the Nilgiris District due to a wide spread prevalence of rabies chiefly among jackals. The origin of the outbreak has not been traced. It is reported that many instances occurred of jackals rushing into village houses, and even along the high roads and attacking persons. This is a new menace in villages and the only remedy apparently is to destroy the affected jackals as we deal with affected dogs by offer of reward.

THE ECONOMIC USE OF THE RICE HUSKS. Italy where the cultivation of rice is extending rapidly is energetically tackling the profitable disposal of rice husks. By a process of dry distillation a liquid which represents about 60 percent of the original weight of husk can be easily obtained. Its main constituents could be separated and used. The carbonaceous residue which is of low density might also be of value. The ash which forms 15.17 percent of the original husk consists mainly of silica, lime, potash, traces of iron, manganese, and aluminium. It is suggested that this ash might be used in the glass industries. It is further suggested that bacterial decomposition of the husks with the fermentation of alcohol and the lower fatty acids might offer another method of profitably utilising the waste material.

CANE PULP AS FOOD FOR ANIMALS. W. P. Naquin, manager of Honokaa Sugar Company, Hawaii, describes in the Hawaiian Planters Record, (Vol. XXXIII, No. 4,) the feed now being used for the work animals of that plantation. This feed is composed of dry, screened bagasse molasses and soya bean oil meal in the proportion of 100-100-50. No other feed is used. It is used at the rate of three pounds for each hundredweight of live weight of animals per day. The results are reported to be entirely satisfactory, the animals showing a slight gain in weight since this mixture has been put into use. The cost of this new feed amounts to about 25 cents per animal per day, the average saving being close to \$ 50 per animal per year.

DEPRESSION IN AGRICULTURE. The worst disaster that has befallen the ryots during recent years is the collapse of the groundnut market. The crop was badly affected during the growing season and when it was fit to be gathered it was affected by phenomenal rains rendering harvesting impossible. The comparatively small crop that has been gathered does not fetch anything like the price which was got last year, the prevailing price for groundnut shell is 10 to 13 marakals or 30 to 39 Madras Measures for rupee, while the price last year was five Madras measures a rupee. The harvesting of groundnut and transplanting of paddy synchronised and owing to the ruling high prices labourers preferred in the past to gather the groundnut crop as a marakal or slightly more was easily got as wages. This quantity would fetch from the village buyer 4 to 5 annas for a woman cooly. The same quantity fetches now six pies. Coolies prefer to work in the paddy fields transplanting seedlings, thereby earning a couple of annas. A large extent of groundnut crop has consequently been left unharvested. Groundnut harvest comes in timely to pay the Govt. Assessment and to meet the heavy pongal expenses. The ryot has not the wherewith all this year to pay either the Government dues or to meet the Pongal expenses. The fall of the groundnut market is sudden and complete and it will take years before the ryot recovers from the position he has been reduced to without warning. We are glad to note that an influential and representative deputation of persons interested in the groundnut industry waited upon H. E. the Governor who has sympathetically viewed the situation and promised to devise measures for improving the tone of the market.

The slump in groundnut is not the only reason for the present depression which is as much due to the present reduced rates of every agricultural produce. The attention of Government has been drawn to the serious situation resulting from low prices of agricultural produce. The revenues on agricultural lands were fixed with reference

to the rates of production which prevailed in the market, a number of years back and in view of the present low rates cultivators will not be able to pay their land revenue. A recommendation has been made by a resolution proposed for the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly that the reduction of the rates of land revenues be favourably considered and all possible facilities and relief given to the cultivators so that they may be able to carry on their work without loss.

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The observations we have made above lead to the consideration of the question whether the Government and the State Departments of Agriculture should not devote to the study of Agricultural economics as much attention as they have been doing to the scientific and technical side of agriculture. The fall in the prices of agricultural produce has brought prominently the urgent need for making agriculture the predominant industry in this country, a paying proposition. Scientific knowledge and research alone on which rightly so much attention is bestowed cannot help the farmer in the present depressed condition of the agricultural industry. The business of agriculture involves the application of scientific knowledge to agricultural practice *with the object of securing decent living and profit*. The agriculturist needs the help of both the scientist and the economist. While the translation of scientific knowledge into agricultural practice is the work of the scientist, the attempt to secure a profit is the concern of the economist. To illustrate, the scientist advises the application of say, concentrated manures such as groundnut cake, along with farm-yard manure, green manure etc. to increase the yield. The economist desires to know whether by the application of valuable and concentrated manures which certainly will increase the yield, the return will be commensurate with the cost. While he appreciates increased production and improved quality, the agriculturist as a businessman has an eye to profit to secure which by reducing the cost of production and securing adequate marketing facilities, the economist should endeavour. Today, the agriculturist stands in urgent need of help, advice and guidance in regard to the profitable production and disposal of his produce. Unless he is helped in this direction, the present low prices will lead to inefficient cultivation and diminishing returns, the economic effect of which on the future of agriculture is sad to contemplate. We would earnestly request the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the departments of Agriculture and the Universities, to devote special and urgent attention to the economic aspect of the agricultural industry in this country.

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Presiding over the Agricultural Section of the Indian Science Congress, Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, who represented India at the biennial meeting of the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, also referred to the recent depression in agriculture in this country due to the fall in the prices of agricultural produce and stated that never was there a greater need for improvement in the efficiency of agriculture than at present since low prices could only be permanently combated by that means. In promoting such an increase in efficiency, rapid dissemination of scientific and technical information he considered was an important feature. The present world crisis in agriculture had brought about clearly the interdependence, of different countries on each other and the need for much more accurate statistics of production and consumption of agricultural commodities than exist at present. Sir Vijayaraghavachariar referred incidentally to the work of the International Institute at Rome which recently succeeded in organising a special census of agricultural production which was carried out throughout the world and the results of which are now being compiled. As the outcome of this compilation, the Institute will work up the relative economic data which the survey has made available and see what general deductions are possible which will be a guide to the study of agricultural problems in the future.

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ZAMINDARI RYOTS' CONFERENCE. It was a thoughtful and suggestive address which Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu delivered as President of the conference of Zamindari ryots which was opened the other day at Tiruttani by the Chief Minister the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur B. Munuswami Nayudu. Of the 46 million acres of cultivated land in the Presidency, 19 million acres are held on zamindari tenure under the Land Holders. So the area held by zamin ryots is considerable and their wellbeing is and should be the concern of not only the zamindars but of the state as well. While ryotwari tenure "with its periodical settlements based on no legal sanction" is bad enough, the position of the tenants under the zamindars is worse, with no principles on which the existing rents are based, with irrigation sources in a worse condition than in the Government ryotwari tracts, and the other disabilities mentioned in Mr. Ramadas Pantulu's address. The economic weakness of the Zamindar has been repeatedly adverted to in these columns and we agree with Mr. Ramadas that unless the zamindar realises his position and status in the rural economy of the country and endeavours to become a modern land holder who could make some contribution to his country's economic needs and the tenants try to become thrifty and

self reliant, and both join hands in friendly rivalry and contribute their best to their common good, there is no hope of salvation. Above all both the zamindars and their tenants and their friends and well-wishers must endeavour to have the mutual relationship of the land holders and the tenants definitely determined leaving no room for doubt and uncertainties as now.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE FIRST ALL ASIA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE. LIBRARY SERVICE SECTION:—The December issue of the *South Indian Teacher* contains the papers received for the Library Service Section of the First All-Asia Educational Conference held during the last Christmas week at Benares. The papers are grouped under three heads. (1) those that deal with Library science in general. (2) those that deal with Library Association and with the Library Movement in particular countries, and (3) Reports of individual Libraries. Under class one, are included papers regarding the development of the Library Movement in America, China, Germany, Great Britain, Japan and the Philippines, besides relating to the development of the movement in India and in some provinces, viz., Bengal, Madras, and the United Provinces and in the enterprising States of Baroda and Mysore. The Library Movement is a powerful factor for the spread of literacy and the interesting papers which the Editorial Committee of the *South Indian Teacher* has with commendable promptitude published should prove highly useful. The efforts that are being made to spread knowledge and the many problems connected with the development of education through the library are highly suggestive and instructive. The publishers of the *South Indian Teacher* deserve the best thanks of the public for bringing out this valuable collection of papers.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE MADRAS GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION. *The Journal of the Association. Vol V Issue Nos. 2 & 3*, publishes the proceedings of the first conference of the association held at Coimbatore under the presidency of Rao Sahab T. S. Subrahmanya Ayyar, M. A., L. T., Retired Vice-Principal of the Teachers' College. A number of papers being a series of studies of the Coimbatore district from various points of view were read and discussed at the conference and they are published in the issue of the Journal under notice. The Association proposes that at the annual conferences, studies of the particular region where the conference is held should form the main programme of work of the conference. This is a good idea and it is the only means of studying particular regions.

As many as fourteen papers are published and among them are papers on the physical geography and geology of the Coimbatore District, Meteorology of the Coimbatore district, Agricultural Geography of Coimbatore and a paper on the cattle of Kongunad by the Editor "Rural India". These should prove useful and interesting to the readers of "Rural India."

THE GRAMANI OR THE VILLAGE COUNCILLOR:—A monthly magazine devoted to the study of Village Self Government and village civics in India. The organ of the Gramani Association, Civil Station, Nagpur (C. P.) Annual Subscription Rs. 5, 8 Shillings Foreign.

The word Gramani occurs in Vedic literature and means a village alderman. He represented the brain and the heart or the will and the strength of the village—the ultimate unit of the nation. The aim of this new Journal is to restore this "gramani" or the village councillor to his old position as the village leader. It is the ambition of the publishers, a laudable one, to enable the Gramani to become a living encyclopaedia of information in the field of reconstruction of the Indian village.

THE MADRAS CO-OPERATOR. Issued every month in two languages. Published by the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank Limited, Madras. Annual Subscription Rs. 2; single copy annas four.

The object of this new Co-operative Journal is to discuss problems connected with urban co-operation and the promoters propose to mainly concentrate attention on the state of affairs in the Co-operative societies of the city of Madras.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE, POONA. The Bombay Provincial Local Self Government Institute, the first of its kind in India which was started in 1927 has issued a Quarterly Journal which will have articles written by authorities in various subjects of interest and importance in the field of local self Government. Items of interest concerning the Local Bodies and their doings will be published as also civil court decisions on Municipal matters besides those discussed in the Legislative Council. Space will also be devoted to the discussion of problems relating to engineering and public health.

THE LONGIVITY. Triplicane, Madras. Issued under the auspices of the Free Hahnemann Dispensary, Madras.

We are told in the Editorial "Foreward" that the prime object of starting this magazine is to diffuse a knowledge of scientific medicine and the means to secure and retain good health. The journal will seek to spread a knowledge of sanitation and hygiene among the masses of the people whose ignorance has been the cause of increasing and preventive mortality. Dr. G. R. A. Acharaya who is a well-known medical practitioner and who as the chief medical officer of the Free Hahnemann Dispensary has done valuable public service is the Editor, and that is a sufficient guarantee of the accuracy of information and soundness of advice that will be conveyed to the public through the pages of the Journal. We wish our contemporary all success.

THE CITIZEN OF INDIA. A monthly Journal devoted to art literature and science. Editor Mr. C. R. Ramachandran, B. A. Vellore.

North Arcot. Annual Subscription Rs. 4. single copy six annas.

The variety of matter and the get up are good, and we hope the same standard will be maintained.

INDIAN POLICY HOLDERS REVIEW. This is the title of a new Journal which it is proposed to publish on behalf of the Indian Policy Holders Protection League. The following particulars have been sent to us about the League by the Honorary Secretary Mr. S. Gowardana Rao B. A., Mungala House, Bezwada.

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To furnish free of charge, valuations of Life-Policies, purchase values of Life Interests and expert advice as to the most suitable policies for the insurable interests at different ages, and amount of proposed premium.

THE HEALTH. The special New Year number of this useful periodical marks the commencement of its ninth year and contains many interesting and instructive contributions. The opening article by Dr. Frank Noronha, Superintendent Mental Hospital, Bangalore, illustrates the truth of the old adage that "A healthy body and a healthy mind go together." Meat eating versus vegetarianism by Dr. G. L. Saxena and "Vegetarianism. *versus* fruitarianism" are useful contributions to the food problem. "Health News and Notes" at the end deal with varied topics of interest on health.

THE SCHOLAR ANNUAL, 1930. We owe an apology to the enterprising publishers of the Scholar for the delay in noticing the attractive Annual number which they have produced and on which we congratulate them. The publication of the annual number synchronises with the beginning of the sixth year of the Journal which has consistently endeavoured to place before the reading public choice and elevating literature. The Annual number is full of interesting matter containing short and crisp articles contributed by well known writers on a variety of topics which should prove interesting and instructive to readers of all tastes and capacities. The illustrations, are of high artistic value especially the beautiful reproduction of Chaitanya's first vision from the brush of the master artist of Bengal and of the figure of the Goddess Laxmi of Tiruvadi, Tanjore Dt. which is a representation in sculpture of the best icon of the goddess based on the traditional orthodox school of the south.

THE INDIAN REVIEW. The special December number of the Indian Review is replete with articles of topical interest. It opens with an appropriate message from Mr. George Slocombe of the *Daily Herald*. Sir Ross Barker gives some interesting memories of Lord Birkenhead. There are also a number of interesting articles on a variety of topics including a delightful German drama in one act done into English by Dr. Har Dust Sharma, M. A. Ph. D. and "Foods" by the well known American writer, Mr. Upton Sinclair.

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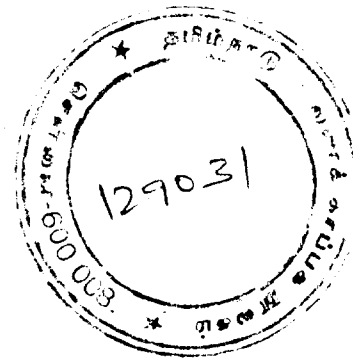
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