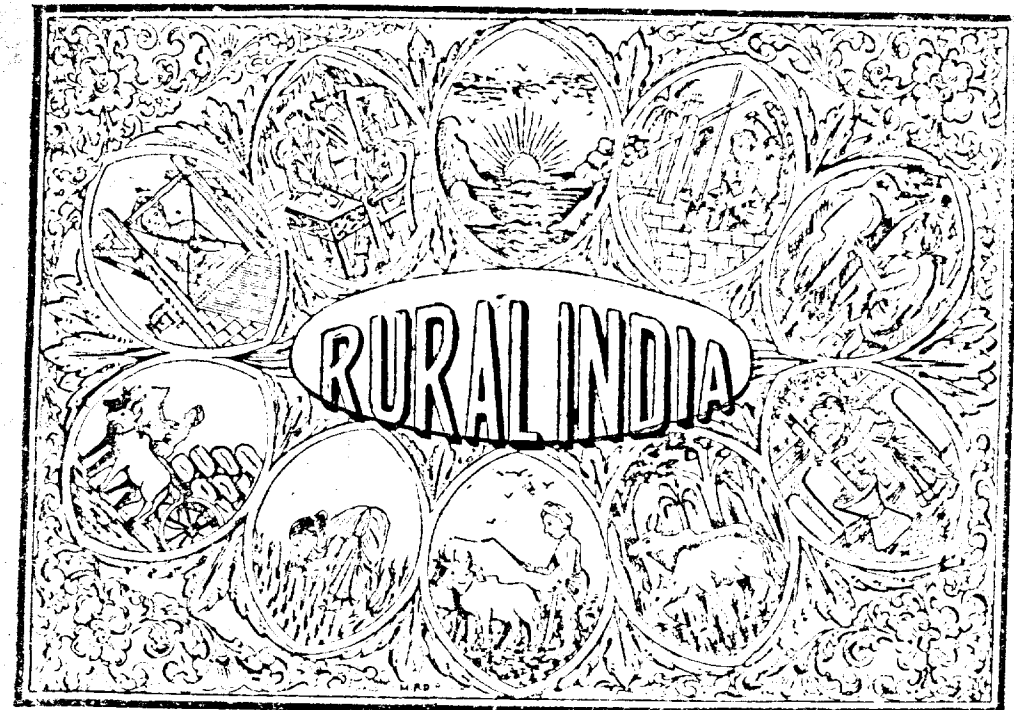


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A RURAL PHILOSOPHY AS A NEW EIRENOCON.

By K. S. Ramaswami Sastri B. A., B. L., District Judge.



THE RAISING OF THE AVERAGE STANDARD OF comfort and refinement in a community depends on the organisation of the community and its powers of self-protection against other communities in the world. The standard of life is low in India and China but is high in England and America. Capitalism has not ruined these lands; nor has its absence benefited the former. In fact, a capitalist is only a borrower who labours with his mind as his tool. Socialism, if it is to abolish capital will take away incentive as well. The only effective regulation of life which will protect civilisation and godliness is a social system which admits the principles of co-operation and division of labour and which condemns luxury and vanity and replaces these by love and reservation. Economic collectivism regulated by the state in the interests of the nation as a whole was the ancient Indian ideal, and even to-day it stands superior to all other systems that have been tried and suggested elsewhere in the world. Mr. Joseph Bibby says well, "What we need then, is a new socialism, one which is constructive, rather than destructive, which makes its appeal to the self-giver and not to the self-seeker, not to one class only but to all, which appeals to the higher and nobler instincts of our nature and not to the lower and baser, which instead of seeking to pull down those who are above, strives to raise those who are below."

Though property as an institution is deep-rooted in human nature yet the ideals prevailing as regards its acquisition and application will have a different ethical quality at different times according to the prevailing conception of human values. Though the ideals of Socialism and the ideals of Bolshevism have no real effectiveness and will not have a permanent hold on the human mind, yet the ideals of economic justice and harmony dominate and will increasingly dominate the minds of men, as man rises in the quality of his ethical life. The endeavour must be, and will be, to rate man above the world, and God above man and the world, and to realise the factors of an ascending

scale of degrees and values, until in a richer and more comprehensive experience the unity of all of them is visualised and experienced and realised.

I do not think that man will or can ever go back to the days of pure agriculture or barter. Manufactures and money economy are the hall-mark of human ascent in intellect and man cannot, and will not give them up. But does it follow from this that food crops should be lessened and the commercial crops should be maximised or that agriculture should be driven out by manufactures or that money should become the measure of nobility in life? That would be a dreadful disaster for the world. We have to devise a social and economic and political system wherein agriculture will balance industry and human values will temper capitalistic exploitation, and wherein the elements of order and progress will be wisely and harmoniously combined.

What Bacon well called "the Sabbathless pursuit of fortune" has been very much in evidence in western industrialism. Though England was and is poor in food supply and in the higher metals, she was and is very rich in iron and coal. This fact gave her a great advantage in the economic race for wealth. Her political expansion and her industrial inventions completed her success. But soon Germany and America followed close upon her heels and the other western nations also began to take part in the race. They erected high tariff walls and stimulated production to the uttermost. To use the vivid words of Mr. George Peel, they "turn the rare luxuries of yesterday into the universal necessities of to-morrow and constantly raise the standard of living for all the peoples of the globe". The rate of production was quickened with feverish energy and reckless haste, bringing about economic dislocations at home and exploitation and impoverishment abroad.

But such monstrous over-production cannot endure for ever. There must come a time when the impoverished remainder of the world cannot buy and the over-producers must refrain from over-production for the most obvious of reasons that the remainder of the world can simply not buy at all. Over-prosperity of one nation or a few nations and over-impoverishments of other nations cannot be a stable order of universal economic life. International resentments and rebellions will follow. Nay, the rich nations themselves will feel and realise that glut and gluttony are not ends in themselves. An ever-increasing, over production at home and an ever-decreasing under-consumption abroad will be the cause of an extremely unstable social, economic and political equilibrium all over the earth. Further as sure as night follows day, the rich over-producing nations will feel the inward corruptions of luxurious life. The remedy will be not in the direction of imperial preferences or imperial co-operation but only in

the direction of national simplicity of life, adjustments of national production and consumption on a harmonious basis and international co-operation. There is no use in disguising the fact that modern empires have been built up for industrial expansion and exploitation. Mr. George Peel has well said: "On the loss of the United States we felt it vital in face of the general animus of Europe, to build another Empire in the place of the one which we had forfeited. Our precise nature was not sheer desire of territory, a sentiment never entertained by any cabinet, and by scarcely any of our statesmen. Our real motive was the fear, that once a foreign rival occupied a given territory, our trade would be hampered, our traders handicapped, and the demand for our goods limited. This has been the inward impulse which has forced such immense annexations upon a series of unwilling Governments. Primarily, we formed the Empire as an insurance of our business. The Empire in this practical sense, is demand". We must remember that other enterprising nations will seek to build up similar empires simply to have "demands" and it was such an attempt that brought about the German menace and the great War. The West has not learnt the lessons of the war at all. The nations are all re-arming again and even the old cant about democracy has given way to the new cry for Fascist Dictatorship and what not. Once again it is the old war of sense and soul. It is evident that humanity must yet shed tears of blood before it can learn the lesson that simplicity of personal physical life and the seeking of the welfare of all in a spirit of cooperation and mutual service is the only guarantee of personal happiness as well as of international peace.

The truth is that the time is now come for a little stock-taking by man in the value of ideas. He has been observing and experimenting and producing and fighting and making himself a universal nuisance and has not yet learnt to pause and ponder and possess his own soul. In agriculture and industry he has come to regard himself as a maker. He "assumes the God, affects to nod, and seems to shape the spheres". He must learn a little more humility. In agriculture and in industry he merely brings things together, nature does the rest. Besides such humility; he must learn to respect human values. We must go by the average man and not by economic statistics alone. The so-called richest countries are really among the poorest, because they contain a much larger percentage of paupers than other lands. The average income of each nation is a test. But if the average is on the basis of a few millionaires and multimillionaires and a growing class of unemployed paupers, it is a delusion and a snare. Further, if the Gospel now admired is the Gospel of get-rich-quick, and if men do not scruple to ruin other peoples, that evil spirit will not operate beyond the frontiers

alone but will come home to roost. Nay the new Gospel has led to shoddy work and adulteration gilded of course by advertisement on a colossal and grandiose scale. Political economy, that "dismal science" as Carlyle well called it—screams for competition. But what are the results of free competition when men are really unequal despite orations about equality? Misery, blank misery all round.

National prosperity consists of a diffusion of prosperity among all and of concentration of prosperity in big capitalists and bold speculators. That nation is the most prosperous which has the least number of paupers and which has no glaring inequalities of wealth. That nation is the happiest nation which has the least number of unhappy men and women and which provides not only coins and banknotes as objects of search and attainment but also literature, art, science, philosophy and religion. That nation is the best nation which has the least number of immoral and athiestic individuals and has the largest number of ethical and wise spiritual men and women. Ruskin has well said: "What is chiefly needed in England at the present day is to show the quantity of pleasure that may be obtained, by a consistent, well administered competence, modest, confessed and laborious. We need examples of people who, leaving Heaven to decide whether they are to rise in the world, decide themselves that they will be happy in it, and have resolved to seek—not greater wealth, but simpler pleasure, not higher fortune, but deeper felicity making the first of possessions, self-possession, and honouring themselves in the harmless pride and calm pursuits of peace".

What follows from all this? India has been designed by God as one of the great feeders of the world and must and will remain Rural India. She has at the same time to receive her ancient and now dying industries and bring into existence new industries as well for the satisfaction of modern industries. She has by a wise investigation to settle which industries alone shall be on the basis of factory production and will and must have all the other industries on the basis of cottage industries. In fact if the economic department of the League of Nations can and will decide that such and such a nation shall, with due regard to nature's gifts, have factory production only in such and such industries, and regulates universal industry on the basis of mutual goodwill and service, strikes and lock-outs and class wars and international wars—which are all now due to egoism leading to mutual exploitation, which in turn leads to mutual extinguishment—will cease for ever. But that is yet in the land of poet-dreams. India cannot and will not afford to rush along the paths of large-scale production in respect of all industries and to raise commercial crops and to manufacture on a large scale the things now dumped here and to enter into the arena of

universal competition where janissaries are already marching with drawn swords and clinking heels. She cannot and will not start poisonous industries or hug the products of such industries. It is through rural reconstruction and co-operative societies and cottage industries that she must work out her salvation and work in course of time for the economic salvation of the world. The Indian village has however to be vivified and made a nucleus of pleasure and refinement in addition to its being a nucleus of power and productivity. This can be done only by letting fall on it the magical rays from the Aladdin's lamp of Electricity. In our Presidency, a stupendous effort is being made to broadcast cheap electric power. Vivified villages and garden cities, vitalised by agriculture, and cooperative credit and non-credit societies, and cottage industries, populated by inter-dependent and harmonious social-groups, broad-based on the bed-rock of a pure family life and yet aspiring towards the super-social ideals of renunciation and love and service—these will be the doctrines of the Rural Philosophy of Rural India who will be the teacher and inspirer of the coming Rural universe.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS. THE BURDEN OF DEBT.

By M. V. Jambunathan, M. A., B. Sc.

IN ESTIMATING THE BURDEN OF DEBT IT IS well-known that several criteria have been adopted by various investigators. The most common of these methods has been to express the total secured debt as a multiple of the land revenue of the mortgaged land, but it must be submitted that this fails to express the burden of the debt, for it only measures, if anything, what may be called the mortgageability of the land. As an illustration: K. G. owning 3.62 acres and paying in all Rs. 27 as land revenue borrowed Rs. 500. on the mortgage of 1.35 acres (on which the land Revenue was Rs. 12-) and subsequently increases his debt to Rs. 1,000. by furnishing a further security of 1.35 acres (on which also the land revenue was Rs. 12., or 2.70 acres in all liable to a land revenue of Rs. 24. on the whole. The burden of debt expressed as above—namely, as a multiple of the land revenue of the mortgaged land, would remain in both cases 41.7 (whether obtained as 500 divided by 12, or 1,000 divided by 24), whereas the burden of debt, from K. G.'s point of view, undoubtedly has doubled. It must thus be conceded that the term mortgageability is more appropriate for this measure than the burden of debt. Passing on, it has been alternatively suggested that the burden may be measured as a multiple of the land revenue on the entire property owned by the debtor. In this way, K. G.'s burden would have increased, as it should, from 18.5 (i.e. 500 divided

by 27) to 37.0 (i.e., 1000 divided by 27). For the entire village of Dodda Ganni, for a total debt of Rs. 23,200, or rather the secured part of it (registered and unregistered), the land revenue paid by the debtors (whose debts are "secured" ones) amounts to Rs. 980. Thus the debt bears a multiple of 20.7 to the entire land revenue. A moment's consideration will show that even this second criterion fails to measure the reality of the burden. Obviously what is to be taken as the basis is the yield of the land, rather than the assessment that has been imposed on it, for, this latter, however scientifically it may have been ascertained by settlement officers, must remain necessarily hypothetical. It is recognised that these two are related in a very variable manner, the money income tending to increase in terms of the land revenue with the lapse of time after settlement. From the point of view still, of severity of burden, the income from the land will vary also according as the debtor is an agriculturist, or is merely a non-cultivating owner. Thus it would appear to be more appropriate to express total debt, and not merely the secured debt, as a multiple of the entire agricultural income of those in debt. But it is not an easy matter to estimate this agricultural income, and the difficulty indeed had led other investigators to adopt measures for which statistics could be more readily available from some official records. By careful and detailed investigations, it has been elsewhere calculated that the entire income from agricultural sources of the 76 families in debt in Dodda Ganni is Rs. 11,200, and the burden of debt furnished by this measure is 2.1. Satisfactory as this measure appears to be, it must still be admitted that this overstates the severity of the burden, because the agricultural income is supplemented, though in a small measure in many cases; but yet not to an insignificant extent, by income from sources other than agricultural. In the village, for these 76 indebted families such supplemental income amounted to, Rs. 2,500 so that it is only true to say that the entire income of these families amounted to Rs. 13,700, and it was on this that their total debt of Rs. 23,200 was impressed. In this ultimate analysis the measure of the burden of debt turns out to be after all the simple ratio, total of all debts divided by total of all incomes of those in debt, amounting in Dodda Ganni to 1.7. This, after all, is the measure of the true, real and necessary burden, *qua* burden, and the other three methods in common utilisation discussed above appear to needlessly complicating the basis of assumptions while at the same time really obscuring the issues involved, and even leading to unreal conclusions.

To sum up:—The first measure, viz. the debt's multiple of the land revenue of the secured land measures only the mortgage-ability; The second measure, viz., the debt's multiple of the land revenue of the entire property of the debtors only measures in terms of the Settlement Officer's hypothesis:—

The third measure, viz., the debt's multiple of the agricultural income, ignores supplemental incomes.

The justification, if any, for the employment of any of the above measures, lies only in the case with which the necessary data could be obtained from ready records, both for the debt incurred and for the resources on which they may rest. It may again be emphasised that facility should not be allowed to override accuracy, and that the difficulty of obtaining both the total of all debts and the total of all incomes of those in debt should be faced and got over by intensive investigation.

(to be continued)

SOME FACTORS WHICH AFFECT THE EFFICIENCY OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.



AN INVESTIGATION ON THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT of labour efficiency has recently been made at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, under the direction of Doctor Seagor, M. B. C. M. We are indebted to these notes to the Doctor's account of the investigation based on observation of the diets of East and West Indian labourers on sugar and cocoa estates and also the extent of disease incidence among them. (*Tropical Agriculture, Vol. VIII, No. 2*). It is a well known fact that a labourer doing muscular work should have a diet containing at least 120 grammes of Protein and anything upto 100 grammes of fat, and a goodly percentage of both of these should be of animal as well as of vegetable origin. These amounts with a backing of about 500 grammes of Carbo-hydrates with good vitamin and mineral salt content should produce from 4000 to 5000 calories per individual per diem which is about the heat energy and tissue repair standard required. The staple diet of the labourers under investigation consisted of rice, wheat flour, Irish potatoes, salt-fish, sugar and pulses (peas and beans), while the supplementary diet included meat, milk, vegetable oil, bananas, mangoes, sugarcane, fats and eggs. The main articles of diet, namely, rice, wheat flour, salt-fish, and Irish potatoes are all imported. The rice which comes mostly from the East is preferred owing to its lower price, but is not always a well conditioned diet from the point of view of food value. Salt-fish has poor nutritive value whilst Irish potatoes are considered to be not so good as locally grown roots and tubers. It is stated that labourers showed a great tendency to buy tinned foods. But these foods which have been sterilized and preserved by superheating or by drying had lost considerable amount of their nutritive value. The milk, used was mostly imported tinned-milk—a partially defective food. The East Indians, eat less rice than in India, but make it up by taking white flour which is not so good as the 'atta' of India, and eat too little in the way of pulses. Ghee is expensive and they eat far too little animal fat replacing it by a certain

amount of coceanutoil. Thus the diet contains altogether too much starch and sugar, too little of animal or vegetable protein and is highly deficient in fat especially of animal origin. A very large percentage of labourers showed marked heart and blood vessel deterioration as to handicap them seriously and to shorten their expectation in life. Hookworm, malaria, with enlarged spleen and bronchial asthma, have been noticed to be prevalent among them.

The factors that determine the out-put of work by agricultural labourers are extremely complex. Their physical handicaps arising from poisoning by disease and the lessened energy and stamina, and resistance to the invasion of diseases due to deficiency and defective diet certainly lowers their physical capacity and indirectly diminishes their mental urge to work. Climate has an important bearing also. The difficulties of the psychological examination of the subject are very great because it is not always easy to gauge the true mental attitude of an individual towards his work. For example, the tendency on the part of a labourer to work just as long as he earns an amount on which he can subsist without work, a tendency which is found to be almost universal. So while the physical aspect of the subject is complex and important, the psychological aspect is not less so and much can be done to increase the efficiency of labourers not only on the material side of sanitation and treatment but also by instilling habits of better living among them. Suitable educative measures calculated to change the mental attitude of the agricultural labourers are also necessary. The late Royal Commission on Agriculture in India on a consideration of the evidence placed before them did well to have laid particular stress on these latter aspects, with a view to increase the efficiency of agricultural workers in this country.

LAND REVENUE AND FOREST POLICY IN THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The discussions on the Budget is the occasion when the non-official members of the Legislature bring to the notice of Government defects in the policy and working of the various departments of Government. On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, the Revenue Member for the usual grant for Land Revenue administration (reserved), Mr. Hameed Khan, moved a token motion for reduction and urged the need for a Land Revenue Bill under which the Legislative Council would have the power to fix the rate of assessment of land revenue. Mr. A. B. Shetty who seconded the motion, said that the Madras Government continued to take 50 percent of the net profits as its share of revenue from the land while the Punjab charged only 25 per cent;

and he asked why the Madras Government should not follow the Punjab in this respect, seeing that Madras was the most heavily taxed province. The Godavari Economic Enquiry Committee also had recommended that 25 per cent of the net profits was more than a fair share to the State.

Mr. M. A. Manickavelu Naicker said that, in view of the general economic depression, and the adverse effects brought about by floods in many districts, the Government must adopt a liberal policy in the matter of remission and postponement of kist collection.

Swami Sahajanandam said that the Revenue Department must take some pity on the ryots in distress and not demand their pound of flesh.

Mr. Rangaswami Reddi said that the ryot felt the land revenue administration to be very oppressive. The present methods should change for something better. He called the attention of the Government to the inequitable assessment on the entire survey number, even though only a part was cultivated.

Mr. Mahboob Ali Beg said that the land revenue policy was unsound and inequitable and it suffered from lack of certainty in regard to the basis as well as the rate of assessment, by which the burden of revenue was unjustly shifted on to the poor cultivator.

Mr. A. V. Banoji Rao said that it was urgently necessary to bring in a land revenue and resettlement bill to relieve the hardships of the ryots who were groaning under the weight of heavy taxation and the bugbear of periodical resettlements.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty said that numerous representations had been received narrating the great distress through which the agricultural population was passing but the request to Government to place assessment on a statutory basis had by now become a futile thing. Apart from this, there was a good deal of complaint in the matter of the collection of these rates. If a pie was enhanced in the rates of income tax a big hue and cry was raised but what about the unvoiced suffering of the inarticulate ryots for more than a century? During the last one or two years, the suffering had been most acute. In one of the letters he had received one ryot spoke of the extreme straits to which he had been driven and that he could not help thinking of running from his griefs leaving home, family and children. He then gave the gist of the representations he had received from different districts in the matter of the prevailing distress and read a Telugu letter from the agriculturists of Palakonda who stated that they had paid the third instalment of kist selling all they could spare and they had nothing which they could sell or mortgage to pay the fourth instalment of kist. If it should be insisted upon by the

Revenue Department, there was no other alternative they said than to leave their homes and emigrate to places which the members of the Legislative Council might be pleased to suggest. If these lamentations were true, what were the Government doing to alleviate their distress, or did they suggest that these complaints of agriculturists were made merely in order to get concessions from the Government? The Government, he said, ought not to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs: and it was surprising that they should continue to be irresponsible to the wailings of the agriculturists. Concluding, the Speaker appealed to the member of Government in charge of the subject to go to the villages and learn for himself the real conditions obtaining there. It appeared that the kist had been collected in most parts already. If so he was afraid there was not much hope left, but he appealed to the Government to give their best consideration to the condition of the ryots.

Mr. Arokiaswami Mudaliar said that the Government's land revenue system could only be characterised as iniquitous and barbarous. While in most of the countries of the world, the system of land revenue had given place to other equitable systems, the Government here went on with their old and barbarous system which purported to take 50 per cent of the income of the ryot. If the Government care for the interests and well-being of the agriculturists, and were solicitous of relieving their indebtedness and their distress, they must reconsider their land revenue policy. Government were practically collecting double the rates, having regard to the fall in prices. Even if remissions would amount to a crore of rupees, the Government should face the loss, in their capacity of custodian of the well-being of the people of this presidency. He hoped that his appeal would not be in vain and that Government would by their action deserve the confidence and trust placed in them by the people.

Mr. B. Pocker said it was well-known what the result would be even though the cut motion was carried. Not only the resolutions of this House and public representations had been flouted but even the suggestions made by the Finance Committee had been thrown to the winds. The Government did not seem to pay any serious consideration to the tax payer's condition at all. Otherwise, what justification was there for pressing on with resettlement operations at this time of fall in prices and general economic depression?

Mr. K. Koti Reddi said that the ryots had staked their all to pay the Government kist. Many ryots have not been able to realise even the kist that they paid on the land, let alone the cost of production. Not even the small mercy of postponement of remission of kist was available to the poor ryots. He hoped that the Revenue Member would

at least now consider and instruct District Collectors to stop further collection of revenue, pending the decisions of the Economic Enquiry Committee.

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Aiyar said that the need for land revenue legislation had been pointed out repeatedly on the floor of the House but the present Government seemed to take the attitude that it would be a matter to be left to the future Minister of Agriculture under provincial autonomy. Members of the House were responsible persons anxious that the administration should be carried on and not end in dead-locks. It would, therefore, have been better if the Revenue Member had taken them into his confidence and initiated a legislative measure. The entire land revenue was based on a fundamental fallacy that the State was the owner of the land and were entitled to half the produce. If under ancient Hindu rulers there was a land tax, he would ask was there then a salt tax, an income-tax, or profession tax or custom duties? In spite of protests of members of the house and the landholders the Government had been consistently enhancing rates of assessments in their anxiety to have more revenue and balance their budget. The assessment of land tax was based on an illusive factor viz. the average price of a previous period of settlement, which did not make allowance for a fall in prices but worked extremely hard during a subsequent period of a fall in prices. The rules of remission were extremely rigid and illiberal and the net result was that the poor agriculturist was the sufferer. A committee had thoroughly gone into the condition in two districts, Kistna and Godavari, but the Government picked holes in its report and gave it the go-bye. Again they professed sympathy with the distress in the province and appointed a committee whose terms of reference and scope were too narrow and utterly useless. Was that, he asked a fair way of dealing with the peasants? Why not judge impartially between the ryot and the Government and see to whose benefit the land tax worked and then give relief wherever necessary? If no improvement could be effected, he would appeal to them at least not to proceed with the resettlement operations.

Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiar said that it was very necessary that the view of the Legislative Council should be ascertained before enforcing resettlement rates. Times were hard and the growing poverty of each district should be taken into consideration.

The Hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell answered the criticisms of members in regard to the introduction of a legislative measure placing on the Statute book the principles of resettlements and vesting the Council with the power of fixing the assessment. He said that in regard to this

he had already explained the position of the Government and stated that it was a matter for the future Government to revise or retain the present arrangements. It was suggested that the present system caused undue hardship to the ryots and did not take the condition of the actual cultivator into consideration. But if that was to be done they had to make the land tax a tax on the landholder and not on the land. This would then be in the nature of income-tax, which was allocated to the Central Government, and would involve questions of the relations between the Central and Provincial Governments. The cut motion was carried and the demand under Land Revenue less Rs. 100 was granted.

FOREST DEMAND.

The Hon. Sir M. Krishnan Nair moved that the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 35,64,000 under the head 'Forest.'

Mr. R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliar moved to reduce the allotment by Rs. 100 in order to discuss the failure of exploitation of forests and fall of forest revenue. He said that in this presidency the forests no doubt formed a valuable asset but it appeared that for some reason or other, the forests had not been sufficiently exploited. The Government started a policy of exploitation by mechanical means. None of the methods adopted by the Government in this direction seemed to have given satisfaction to the Government as would appear from the last administration report. It would appear that the Government were as hasty in closing the schemes as they had been in starting them. The Government do not seem to have examined the schemes carefully before introducing them. The Government must solve the problem of exploitation of forests on sound lines. It was certainly an unreasonable attitude to take and say that no new exploitation scheme was possible for the Government to undertake. What steps were they going to take for transportation of forest produce? Had the Government examined the question of railway freights? In Madras forests there were some kinds of very good timbers, yet timber was being imported from Rangoon and other places. He did not understand why they should import timber when they had got such valuable forests. Was the Government so bankrupt that it could not devise means to increase the forest produce and make it a source of revenue? There was very little attempt made for research work.

Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiar asked what had been done in regard to the re-classification made sometime back for the handing over of some portion of forests to the Revenue Department and some others to village panchayats. This policy it seemed to him, had not been given

effect to. There was also a proposal to handover to the Revenue Department forest areas adjoining cultivated land. What had happened to this proposal? Further were they going to revise the rules in regard to grazing of cattle and give some more facilities by improving water and grass supply. The ryots and agriculturists near forests were sometimes put to great hardship in the administration of forest laws, particularly because of the power vested in the underlings. In fact several of them collected moneys sometimes in the name of the Government which never reached Government's coffers.

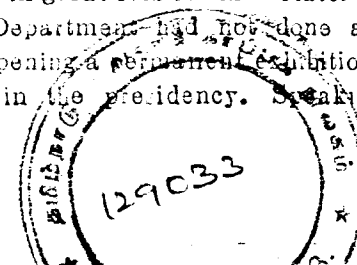
Mr. A. B. Shetty, in supporting the motion, said that one of the recommendations, of the Agricultural Commission was that when forest officers were appointed they should undergo a course of instruction in the Agricultural College so that they might be familiar with the point of view of the cultivator. He did not know whether the Government had considered and given effect to this recommendation. If this recommendation was given effect to, it would help the forest officers to change their angle of vision and view more sympathetically the needs and interests of the cultivators. South Kanara, he went on to say was one of the districts where the forests grievances were very keenly felt. The ryots living near the neighbourhood of the reserve forests in South Kanara were put to a lot of difficulties in the matter of removing manure leaves and fuel and people were being unnecessarily harassed by forest subordinates. He hoped the Law Member would look into their grievances and remedy the same.

Mr. Rangaswami Reddi dwelt on the difficulties of the ryots in getting manure leaves and the prohibitive rates charged.

Mr. Devadasan referred to the grievances of the ryots in Tinnevely district. The ryots there were not allowed to graze their cattle in forest lands. He did not know why the Government were not willing to accept the proposals of the forest department in this respect. Again the administration of the Forest Panchayats was not at all satisfactory to the people. What the ryots needed most was sufficient facilities to irrigate their lands and to get green manure.

Mr. Kondappa said that exorbitant rates were collected from the ryots for leaf manure.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar criticised the Government for lax supervision in the carrying out of the forest exploitation experiments which had ended in great loss to the State. He said that the Forest Exploitation Department had not done any good work and suggested the idea of opening a permanent exhibition of forest products in the various centres in the presidency. Speaking on the question



of providing greater grazing facilities to the ryot and lowering the rates for green manure, he said that the reserved forests were administered more in the revenue interests of the Government than in the interest of people.

Mr. Nachiappa Gowndar urged the necessity of declaring some of the reserved forests in Salem district as non-reserved areas to afford free grazing facilities to the ryots.

Mr. Satyanarayana Chowdri said that every relief that was possible should be given to the ryots. At least as a temporary measure the grazing fees should be done away with. He asked the Law Member to do something for which the agriculturists would be grateful to him in the administration of the forest department.

After the member in charge had replied to the criticism, the token motion was put to the House and carried. The demand under forest reduced by Rs. 100 was then granted.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND.

A Lesson to India.

Sir Horace Plunkett, the pioneer of the co-operative movement in Ireland delivered a very instructive lecture on "Co-operation in Ireland" under the auspices of the 'Indian Students' Union, London.

Sir Horace after reviewing the manifold difficulties he had to encounter in the early stages of his work, narrated how by slow but sure degrees, he came to win the first and the most essential thing, namely, the confidence of the Irish farmers. Having achieved this the rest was comparatively easy: the main structure of co-operation came to be built and spread almost by itself. The secret of success in social service and particularly in co-operation lay more in example and less in precept. Lectures and propaganda have their value, but only in proportion as they speak more of what has been achieved in the neighbourhood—not in marts—and are less in the form of sermons on the speculative principles of co-operation which are meant mainly for the class room.

While much has been done in India in the field of co-operation, compared to what remains to be done, the learned lecturer regretted it was almost infinitesimal. The civil service, which is mainly responsible to-day for the movement, suffers by the want of certain qualities, vital to co-operation. The pioneer, if appreciable success is to be gained, must spring from the soil itself; he must know the condition of the farmers; economic, social and psychological; in every detail, Sir Horace feelingly observed that if he were a young citizen of India to-day like most of his audience he would not blame anyone if co-operation was not making as rapid a progress there as would be desirable, but would go, live and work amongst the farmers even as he did in Ireland. Altruism he asserted though often it had to face discouraging results in the early stages, yet it must and does get its fruit ultimately.

Irwin-Gandhi Conversations.

RURAL INDIA hails with delight the successful termination of the peace talks between H. E. Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi and hopes that as the result of the

agreement there will be speedy recovery of the trade depression in the country, that the agriculturist will get better value for his produce and that a new era of peace, prosperity and happiness which the country stands in urgent need of will be inaugurated. Mention must be made in this connection to the patriotism and the statesmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, the Right Hon'ble V.S. Sreenivasa Sastri and Mr. Jayakar to whose untiring efforts in bringing about the negotiation, the country owes a deep debt of gratitude.

The Madras Economic Depression Enquiry.

It is understood that the Committee which was appointed by Government to report on the present economic depression in this Presidency have with commendable promptitude formulated their proposals which if carried out should go far to rehabilitate trade and agriculture. The first recommendation is that steps should be taken to see that adequate funds are made available to cultivators for the next cultivation season. This is necessary and urgent. Among the Committee's other recommendations may be mentioned the following:—(1) Increase of grant to co-operative societies to advance loans to the smaller ryots; (2) starting of local godowns for ryots by Government and co-operative societies; (3) encouraging the co-operative marketing of food grains by giving loans on produce; (4) the starting of co-operative societies on the lines of the Tiruppur Cotton Sales Society; (5) starting of Government ware houses, ware-house receipts being available as instruments of credit; (6) reduction on railway freights and the abolition of discrimination in rates; (7) increase of import duty on sugar. The recommendations regarding the modification of kist dates and those relating to the development of the vegetable oil and allied industries in the Presidency are timely and well-considered. The report in particular recommends that a permanent economic committee with a bureau of statistics in charge of a responsible officer should be set up.

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In this connection we invite the attention of our readers to the important address of Mr. Jamal Muhammad Bahadur, President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce on the present depression in trade and industry. Referring to the figures of exports and imports he said:—

I find that the value of foreign exports has fallen by 21 per cent. from 46 crores to 36 crores of rupees, the chief items contributing to the fall being groundnuts and castor seeds accounting for 4½ crores, raw cotton for 2½, and tanned skins and hides for 82 lakhs. There was deterioration in imports only by 17 per cent. from 27 crores to 22½ crores, the chief contribution being 180 lakhs in cotton manufactures, 42 lakhs in metals and ores, 39 lakhs in sugar, 33 lakhs in machinery and mill stores.

What are the chief adverse factors that handicap our exports? The outstanding factor is that unlike in the case of manufacturing industries, agricultural production could not be readily curtailed to counterbalance the diminished demand from abroad so that our oilseeds, grains, cotton, rubber, coir, etc., had to be sold at whatever price they would fetch. Sir George Schuster said in his last Budget Speech "in these times of bad world conditions and of general overproduction of the agricultural products on which India relies, she has been able to maintain the volume of her exports; it is a sign of general health in the economic condition which in spite of the diminished prices received, must on an impartial view be regarded as satisfactory."

Sir George evidently forgot that when faced with a falling market, groundnuts, castor seeds, rice, wheat, etc., are not the commodities which could be held off the

market to wait for better prices. It rather indicates the abject helplessness of the Indian ryot in having to export his stuff for what it fetches as an alternative to refusing to harvest his crop, which extreme step too has been known to have been practised during the current year in some places at least in the groundnut districts.

HIDES AND SKINS

The market for tanned hides and skins has been woefully affected. The persistent and remorseless foreign exploitation of our resources of raw materials and the terrible world depression are the causes of the sufferings of the Indian tanner.

GROUNDNUTS

Coming to the chief export product in South India, it is a pity to note that the inexorable Margarine Union of Holland has cut the groundnut prices to the bone by the sheer force of a dictating buyers' combine, who at the same time, thanks to the misplaced philanthropy of the Government of India, find in India a ready market for the unrestricted import of their vegetable ghee and other margarine products. In view of this combine of foreign buyers, and of the growing competition from substitutes like the olive oil of the Mediterranean region, the palm oil of Africa, the Peanut and soya beans of China and Japan, the Government of India ought to lose no time in conserving the vegetable oil industry of the country and developing the home market for its products.

The current year has shown to what pathetic condition the ryots' dependence solely on a foreign market has reduced them. There is a grave danger of dislocation in Indian agriculture, if oilseed cultivation gets to be discouraged, particularly in view of reports of vast extensions of cultivation of our alternative crops, viz., wheat in Russia, Canada, and Argentine, and rice in several countries like Spain, Italy, United States of America and Japan, which are not only making organised efforts towards self-sufficiency but rapidly establishing an export trade.

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During the discussions on the Budget in the Legislative Council questions were put by certain members on the economic depression in the Presidency in general and in particular districts. Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari asked whether it was true that ryots in Northern Circars were finding it difficult to find money and pay the Kists due for land-tax and water-tax. The Government stated that they realized the ryot was obtaining lower price in this year for his crops than in the last few years but that the condition of affairs was not peculiar to the Northern Circars. In answer to a further question put by the same Member, Government vouchsafed the answer that it was a fact that trade and agriculture in general had been adversely affected by the recent fall in prices. Mr. U. C. Subramanya Bhatt enquired whether it was a fact that there was acute economic distress in South Kanara owing to the fall in prices of the produce such as rice, pepper, cocoanuts, arecanuts etc. Government admitted the fact but stated that the condition was general and not peculiar to South Kanara and furnished a statement showing the price of rice and cocoanut in the present year as compared with the three previous years and added that similar figures in regard to pepper and arecanuts were not available. The decline in the price of rice is already known and the figures are not quoted here. As regards cocoanut the average price of cocoanut per thousand nuts in 1931 was Rs. 31/8 while the average in the three previous years 1928, 1929 and 1930 was Rs. 50/-, Rs. 46/4 and Rs. 37/8. It is a pity that the average prices of two important commercial products of the district, namely, pepper and arecanuts could not be made available to the public.

The new Registrar-General of Panchayats.

We are glad to note that Rai Pahadur N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Collector of Anantapur, has been appointed as Registrar-General of Panchayats. Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar was the first Registrar-General and did a great deal to popularise the Panchayat system in this Presidency. After his transfer to the regular line, not much of improvement was noticeable in the working of the Village Panchayats. We thank the Government and the Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Dewan Pahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu who is in charge of the portfolio of Village Panchayats for having taken this desirable step.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

The Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have been considering several research schemes as well as the question of the expansion of the Pusa Institute as a useful institution to carry out fundamental research of an All-India character. The Board is of the opinion that if Pusa created a proper research atmosphere, then instead of students from India having to go abroad, students from abroad would come to India. In regard to veterinary research, it has accepted a scheme in which investigation officers would be appointed to certain provinces, including Hyderabad, the N.W. Provinces and Baluchistan. Members were unanimous that there was necessity for the establishment of an enlarged Animal Nutrition Institute in India, but the discussion centred round the question where it should be located and the Board finally decided in favour of Dehra-Dun. The Board also considered the proposal for the establishment of a Central Institute for education and research in dairying in India. It was urged that the proposed Institute should conduct research in those dairy products which were indigenous to India, for example, sour, milk, ghee, and butter, and it rightly pointed out that the institute should not trouble itself with the problem of the manufacture of cheese, for instance, which did not form part of the Indian diet. The proposed Institute, it was urged should cater to the needs of the people. In conclusion, the meeting adopted a resolution pointing to the Government of India, the great scope there was for one or two central institutes of education and research in dairying. It also formulated a proposal for the establishment of a small course of six months for subjects dealing with the industry of milk and its development by small men or co-operative societies.

Malaria in Villages.

According to the report of Mr. K. Raghavendra Rao, special Malaria officer on Anti-malarial works in the Presidency furnished to the Legislative Council, the largest incidence of the disease occurred in rural parts consisting of non-union and non-panchayat villages and their hamlets. In the concluding paragraph of the report, Mr. Raghavendra Rao says:—"While past experience seems to indicate that malaria in the case of most municipal and union towns can be eradicated or at least brought well under control by minimum effort and at reasonable costs, the crux of the problem lies in the rural areas, where it is highly complex and forms a big stumbling block in the way of social and economic uplift of the agriculturists who constitute the bulk of population. The areas to be dealt with are extensive with numerous petty villages and hamlets scattered about. They often possess peculiar physiographical features and natural conditions of environment and to make them innocuous from mosquito and malaria would require the utmost resources in the form of money and men. Moreover, the anopheles mosquito in a natural state of freedom is so elusive and the parasite in man is so resistant that the attack on both in whatever manner it is carried out should be enduring for all time. It therefore follows that efforts made to

suppress or banish malaria and malarial disease should be well organized, fully controlled and judiciously carried out with great perseverance; and as I have often pointed out the main desideratum is an organization which will not only advise upon and execute anti-malarial operation but will carry out continued investigation and research which alone can help towards elucidating and solving many of the difficulties and perplexities which the problem of malaria is most often beset with. I may at the same time suggest that a malaria fund should be created from which suitable grants may be made to local bodies who need them most. A Malaria Board like the one which was constituted between 1911 and 1917 may be formed for the purpose of advising the Government from time to time on all matters pertaining to malaria and its control."

The problem of rural electrification.

Major H. G. Howard, Chief Engineer for Hydro-electric Development, delivered recently at Madras a lecture with the Hon'ble Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, the Revenue Member, Madras Government, in the chair on the subject of a "National Electricity Scheme", in the course of which he said that electricity was undoubtedly the greatest scientific discovery of modern times. Speaking with particular reference to Southern India, he considered that a national electricity scheme which would bring cheap light and power to the majority of the people must result in an economic gain to the country as less money would be expended on imports of coal and oil thus releasing capital for investment in other directions. Speaking of the problem of rural electrification he made the following interesting observations:—

"The subject of rural electrification is such an interesting one and so full of problems that it deserves special treatment. The ryot will probably gain as much as any other individual by the introduction of electricity. Special low rates are to be conceded to this class of consumer, which will render electric pumping an economic proposition and increase the value and productivity of the soil, while his electric lighting will cost him less than that of the town dweller. The Mysore Government are selling small pumping sets to the ryots on easy terms, and charging 15 annas per unit for power. The demand for these pumping sets has far exceeded expectations; the oxen displaced have been sold or put to other uses, the inefficient "mhote" scrapped and a profitable and increasing power load built up in spite of the many pessimistic opinions to the contrary."

Temperance movement in Anantapur.—Encouraging signs.

When people addicted to drink decide to give up the habit and reform themselves there is no power on earth which can prevent them from doing so. The other day, Rai Bahadur N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, the Collector of Anantapur received Mahazars from a group of 25 villages in Anantapur and Gooty Taluks praying for the removal of six toddy shops and two arrack shops opened in their villages and for declaring their villages a prohibition area. About eight hundred villagers came from long distances and through their representatives, Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, C. I. E., Chairman of the District Temperance Committee, Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi Dt. Board President and Vice-Chairman of the Temperance Committee and Mr. F. M. Smith an enthusiastic member and others met the Collector who heard the representatives and promised to recommend to the higher authorities to try an experiment by declaring the villagers to be "a prohibition area". It will be interesting to note that in one of the villages, Tarimela, the temperance movement was started some ten years ago by an enthusiastic worker, Mr. Subba Reddi who has succeeded in keeping

the village dry thus effecting a marvellous, social and economic improvement among the depressed classes. It is also note-worthy that the cause of temperance has the earnest support of the women belonging to the depressed classes, who are themselves total abstainers, but suffer as the men spend all their wages on arrack and toddy.

Forest Panchayats.

The subject of Forest Panchayats claimed the attention of the Legislative Council during the recent Budget session. The interpellations on the subject and the answers furnished by Government which we reproduce below will be useful to our readers.

FOREST PANCHAYATS.

Rates of grazing fee collected by Panchayats in Anantapur and Bellary districts.

143—

* 388 Q.—Mr. A. KONDAPPA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the rate of grazing fee per unit collected by the Panchayats in Anantapur district; -

(b) the rate of grazing fee per unit collected by the Panchayats in Bellary district; and

(c) the reasons for the difference, if any?

143 388—

A.—(a) Gudipad panchayat	...	...	4 annas.
All the other panchayats	...	...	8 "
(b) 1 panchayat	...	...	3 "
95 "	...	...	4 "
7 "	...	...	5 "
2 "	...	...	6 "
6 "	...	...	8 "

(c) The rates vary according to local circumstances and are fixed with the concurrence of the panchayats concerned.

Rules for the management of forest panchayats.

203—

* 137 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the draft rules for the management of panchayat forests have been approved by the Government and if so, the date from which the rules have taken effect;

(b) whether a copy of the rules will be placed on the table of the House; and

(c) if all the unanimous recommendations of the Committee who submitted the draft rules have been approved of by the Government, if not, the reasons therefor?

203 137—

A.—(a) & (c) The draft Standing Order relating to Forest Panchayats is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) The suggestion will be considered.

Grazing grounds for cattle in Bellary taluk.

250—

* 256 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of (1) bulls and cows, (2) buffaloes, (3) sheep and goats according to the latest census figures available in each of the following villages:—Shortriyam Dasapuram, Bannhatti and Gangalapuram, and Government villages of Tornagallu, Oddu, Nagalapuram, Lingadahalli, Malapuram, Kodalu, Chikkantapuram and Yerrabanahalli of Hospet taluk and Kuditini and Anginadona of Bellary taluk;

(b) the extent of area available for grazing in each of the above villages as (1) unreserve and (2) panchayat forest respectively; and

(c) the extent of area in each of the above villages fit for grazing but closed to the village cattle, being included in the military farm area?

250 256—

A.—(a) (b) & (c) The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

Grazing fees in Bellary and Kurnool districts.

473—

* 649 Q.—Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the rate of grazing fee per unit collected by the panchayats in the Kurnool district; and

(b) the rate of grazing fee per unit existing in the Bellary district?

473 649—

A.—(a) 4 annas by 4 panchayats

6 annas by 1 ..

8 annas by 20 ..

(b) 3 annas by 1 ..

4 annas by 95 ..

5 annas by 7 ..

6 annas by 2 ..

8 annas by 6 ..

The Madras Forest Act.

A Bill to be introduced by the Government in the Legislative Council to amend the Madras Forest Act, has been published in the Fort St. George Gazette. The objects and reasons of the Bill are:

Section 41 of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, which authorises forest officers and police officers to seize property in connexion with forest offences does not empower them to sell such property if it is liable to speedy and natural decay. Properties liable to speedy and natural decay can be sold only on a direction by the Magistrate under Section 46. But the articles seized in connexion with forest offences may be of so perishable a nature that it may not be possible for the officers to obtain the orders of the Magistrate for their sale in time under Section 46. It is therefore proposed to empower forest officers and police officers to sell perishable articles and remit the sale proceeds into the Treasury without previously obtaining the orders of the Magistrate under Section 46. The sale will, however, be subject to report to the Magistrate having power to direct the sale under Section 46. The Bill is intended to give effect to this proposal. We presume that suitable provisions will be made in this behalf in respect of presidents of Forest Panchayats who should be appointed forest officers to enable them to exercise these and other necessary powers under substantial sections of the forest Act.

A Fruit Research Station in the plains.

There is a fruit research Station at Coonoor in the Nilgiris. We understand that the establishment of a similar station at a suitable place in the plains is under the consideration of the Government who will also consider the desirability of establishing mango and orange gardens in the Chittoor District if any land-lord of the place is willing to offer suitable land and to meet the expenses involved. Our readers will remember that Chittoor (old North Arcot) is the home of mangoes and oranges. The famous "Malgoas" and "Satkudies" come from that District. The development of the industry in these varieties of fruits should we think be taken by Government without waiting for a land-lord to give land and to undertake to bear expenses. The opportunity afforded of firmly establishing such a deserving local industry should not be neglected. Improvement in the cultural side as well as instruction in the technical side of preserving and packing for export should be made available to the fruit growers in the proposed experimental gardens from which all information in respect of marketing of the fruits should be readily made available to the Fruit Growers. Special co-operative societies should be started for dealing with these special products of the District.

Waste products.

To the extent to which the waste products of the farm or the factory are utilised to that extent the success of the field or the factory will be assured. The shrewd manager of a farm or a factory will never lose sight of the wealth of material available in the waste products which should be turned to profit. We have repeatedly drawn attention to the efforts made in foreign countries to get the best out of the waste products of the farm and in previous notes referred to the profitable use of rice-husk and sugarcane trash. According to the *Scientific American* an investigation is in progress in Virginia to see if rayon or artificial silk could be manufactured from the peanuts (ground-nut) shells and it would appear that a product containing 90 per cent alpha cellulose could be obtained from peanut shells the requirements of good rayon materials being thus satisfied. In the United States of America, the utilisation of waste is one of the leading industries of the world. All types of waste are being used for one thing or another. All credit to the alertness and ingenuity of our American brethren. It will be many many years before Applied Science can render this help to the Indian agriculturist and the Indian manufacturer but should we not begin to set about on this business as advised by our distinguished countryman Sir. C. V. Raman the other day. Speaking of America we may say that no waste however unimportant is neglected. For instance, old shoes are salvaged and made into little leather novelties. Loaves of stale bread are gathered, dried, then ground into feed and used as food for chickens. These are but a few examples.

The following paragraphs in the Digest of the Operations of the Department of Agriculture for the quarter ending 30—9—31, will be read with interest.

Grazing Areas:—With frequent failure of rains during the south-west monsoon following a very hot and dry period of three to four months every year, it is difficult to raise sufficient grass for our cattle. The so-called grazing areas are full of shrubs and prickly-pear. Even the famous *beedus* and *kanchas* in the Nellore district are no exception. Large areas, unfenced and uncared for, lying on either side of the road are the property of rich landlords. A good deal of improvement is possible and is necessary, if cattle are to be better fed. In the first instance, the grazing areas should be fenced and the overgrowth of shrubs and prickly-pear removed. On the onset of the monsoon, such enclosures should be lightly ploughed or worked with

harrows to conserve moisture and encourage growth of grass. Wherever grass seeds could be procured it is desirable to sow them, so that there will be enough grass for at least six or seven months in the year. If there is an abundance of it at a certain period, the grass can be cut and converted into silage, for use later in the year. During the remaining months these areas will form an exercising ground for them. Forest Panchayats under whose charge large grazing areas exist at present, could do good work, if they turn their attention to this improvement. We would suggest that the officers of the Agricultural Department should in company with the Forest Panchayat officer inspect Panchayat Forests and formulate a definite scheme for improving grazing in their Panchayats forests and for preparing ensilage.

Cochineal insect and prickly-pear.—Cochineal is a small insect which has been introduced into this Presidency for destroying prickly-pear. In spite of the advantages of the prickly-pear as a good fence, it has many disadvantages. It has taken such a strong hold in the country that it has become a positive nuisance, occupying as it does, large tracts of cultivable land and tank beds. Ryots often bitterly complain that water in the tanks is often held up from free flow by the overgrowth of prickly-pear. This cochineal insect sucks the juice of the prickly-pear and eventually kills it. Ryots anxiously collect the dried up portions for fuel. This insect was introduced some two or three years ago in Tuticorin and it is now found in different parts of the country like Tinnevely, Coimbatore, Kistna, Guntur and Salem districts. Ryots can obtain this insect by writing to the nearest Agricultural Officers. When introduced, it needs very little attention.

Students and Rural Work.

Acharya Sir P. C. Ray addressing the students of the Schools and Colleges in Trichinopoly asked the students during the vacation when they returned to their native homes to open free schools for children and at the same time to talk to adult audiences turning the temples into temporary schools and the temple yards into play grounds. Bertrand Russell in his book on the Chinese problem had stated that the students in China were teaching more than 50,000 boys and girls in Peking which was as big as Bombay or Calcutta. He said he talked to the students of Dacca, the most advanced portion of East Bengal, where there were 11 high schools and two Intermediate Colleges to form themselves into groups of 7 and open classes to teach the masses beginning with the alphabet up to the standard of ability to read vernacular journals so that they might know what was going on in the world and at that rate the students would have to work only a couple of hours a week. He also told the students of Dacca that if they educated the people who were 80 per cent of the population, belonging to Muslim faith, they would know that the Hindus were doing their best to lift them up and bring them up to their own status and there would be no Hindu-Muslim quarrel. In the same way if the students in the three colleges of Trichinopoly and the high schools would divide themselves into groups of 7 and worked for a couple of hours each instead of wasting their time in the towns with their relations, if they mixed with the masses and lived among them and tried their best to raise them to their own level, the Brahman and Non-Brahman question would disappear in one day.

Middle class unemployment.

In opening an All-India Khadi Exhibition in Trichinopoly, Acharya Ray incidentally referred to unemployment among educated Indians and expressed himself as follows:—

The average Bombay or Calcutta graduate earns not more than Rs.25 per month, whereas in Madras the market value of a graduate is even lower. But the town-bred youth has a marked repugnance for rural life. It passes one's understanding how a young man often burdened with the charge of a family manages to live on such a bare pittance. If our graduate or under-graduate were to adopt village life, he could live more comfortably even on Rs. 25 per month, as he will not be tempted to take to the amenities, I had almost said the curses, of modern "civilised" life, namely cinemas, restaurants, races etc. Moreover, by living in villages, they will be brought into touch with the ignorant peasant folk, who are sadly in need of the first principles of sanitation and improved methods of agriculture.

The Late Mr. K. T. Paul.

We much regret to record the death from heart disease of Mr. K. T. Paul. He was a prominent figure in public life and was for a long time General Secretary of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A. in India. He took a keen interest in social, political and educational questions and was a delegate to the recent Round Table Conference to the discussions in which he made valuable contributions. His indefatigable labours in the field of rural reconstruction are well known to readers of "Rural India" to whom the loss of such a good friend and worker is irreparable. We offer our sincere condolence to Mrs. Paul and the other members of the bereaved family.

Farewell—Welcome.

"RURAL INDIA" bids a respectful and affectionate farewell to Lord and Lady Irwin on the eve of their departure home. In the most eventful period in the history of India, Lord Irwin has played a conspicuous part and strenuously sought to interpret the mind of India to England for the good of both. We confidently hope and trust that the noble Lord will strive to complete the great task he has undertaken and put the coping stone to the edifice he has raised. In this achievement Lord Irwin's personality, sincerity and high purpose will be requisitioned to their fullest extent and we have no doubt that success will be his and if we can forestall the verdict of history, his name will be writ large in the future history of India, as one of her greatest viceroys since the days of Lord Canning. We offer our best wishes to Lord and Lady Irwin and may happiness and good fortune attend them for many many years to come.

"RURAL INDIA" offers a most cordial welcome to the Earl and Countess of Willingdon, in fact welcoming back two old friends and well wishers of India. That at this the most critical period in the history of India Earl Willingdon has been called upon to take charge of the exalted office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India is a happy augury for the future of this country. It will be the proud privilege of H.E. to continue the great work begun by his distinguished

predecessor Lord Irwin and to help this great country to achieve the goal which she is yearning for and thus add another glorious page to the history of Great Britain's relations with India.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE NEW CIVILISATION. by Annie Besant, D.L. Theosophical Publishing House Adyar-Price Rs. 1-4-0. This little volume contains four lectures delivered at Queen's Hall, London, in January 1927 by Dr. Besant forecasting what the future civilisation of the world will be in the fields of religion, education and economics. Her handling of the subject is masterly. She surveys the forces that have given birth to the present civilisation and explains the character of the various departments of human life all the world over and indicates the lines on which the intelligent and thinking men should direct their activities to take part in the coming new civilisation which will be based on brotherhood and co-operation as opposed to competition as it is now. In the opening lecture entitled the 'Crumbing of civilisation', Dr. Besant has surveyed the forces that have given birth to the present civilisation and envisages the changes which are required in the great departments of human life if the new civilisation has to live and develop for the good of humanity. The lectures on 'Education in the new civilisation' and 'Economics of the new civilisation', are particularly illuminating and thought-provoking. Dr. Besant pleads for an education which will create a civilisation worthy of the human race, that is, a civilisation of comradeship in which all will be educated and trained in the paths of human life. Regarding the economics of the new civilisation, Dr. Besant would like that every industry is carried by Co-operative as opposed to individual enterprises, in order that the great national undertakings may be taken over by the people as a whole so that as great wealth is made it may come back to the people themselves. We would draw the attention of the educated men of the present day to these instructive lectures in the hope that they will be carefully read and pondered over so that they can contribute their share, however little it may be, to the building of the new civilisation.

ANCIENT INDIAN FASTS AND FEASTS. By Rai Bahadur A. C. Mukerjee M. A., I. E. S., Professor, Muir Central College. (Macmillan & Co., Madras, 1930.) Twenty of the more important fasts and feasts as observed by the Hindus of Northern India with which the author is familiar are described in the book before us. In their original form these essays appeared in the *Leader* and the *Pioneer* during the years 1913 and 1914. In bringing out this fourth edition the author has taken the opportunity of rewriting the essays with a view to giving them a permanent form. Some of the fasts and feasts described in the book are observed on this side of India also, for example, Makara Sankranti, Ganesha Chaturthi, Durga Puja (Saraswathi or Ayala Puja) and Diwali and the author's descriptive details of the observance of a fast or the celebration of a festival, although not exactly coinciding with the details familiar to the South Indian, will nevertheless be appreciated as giving an insight into the rationale of the fasts and feasts which as Sir Monier Williams has well observed constitute the religion of the Hindu in practice. That the original essays have run through four editions show that they have been found useful and interesting by large classes of the religiously minded Hindus for whom they are mainly intended. In the absence of authentic written authorities, the author has had necessarily to rely for his materials chiefly on traditions and personal experience and sometimes on folklore and conjecture. Perhaps in a future edition, the author who is a scholar

familiar with the methods of historical research will give references as far as possible to the sources of his information so that the value of the traditions with which are associated the more important fasts and feasts may be properly appraised.

I THE INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE. Vol. I Part I. II AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN INDIA. Vol. I Part I.

Issued under the authority of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

The first publication inaugurates the new series of publications in Agriculture and Veterinary Science, issued by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which will take the place of the "Agricultural Journal of India", the "Journal of the Central Bureau for Animal Husbandry and Dairying" and the Memoirs and Bulletins of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in India. These will be scientific Journals and will largely take the place of the Bulletins and Memoirs. The second publication is intended to be a general journal appealing to a wide circle of readers.

A new feature of the Indian Journal of Agricultural Science and its counterpart the "Indian Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry" will be the abstracts section and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, hopes that all important work in agricultural science published in India will be abstracted in one or other of the Journals. At present much useful and technical information is only published in the reports of the Agricultural Departments and of Experiment Stations and Farms where it is not easily accessible, whilst some scientific work of considerable interest to agricultural workers is published in Journals not readily available. By means of this system of abstracts, the publishers hope to keep agricultural research workers in India more fully in touch with the work what is being done by other investigations in the country.

PANDAVAS INCOGNITO. A Drama in Tamil by B. Ramamurthi Pantulu's Technical Superintendent, Sanitary Engineer's Office, Madras.

We who have had the pleasure of witnessing of Mr. Ramamurthi Pantulu's "Varudhini" in Telugu, staged in the Sugana Vilasa Sabha expected an equally good dramatisation of the Agnathavasam of the Pandavas and we are glad that our expectations have been more than realised. Though an Andhra by birth and education, the author is equally at home in Tamil and he has produced a high class drama in chaste exquisite Tamil affording ample evidence of his histrionic talent and fine artistic sense. We congratulate the author on his production.

SREE VIVEKANANDA SANDESAMU. published by Vyasa Kuteeram, Melupaka, Vizagapatam.

This is an address in Telugu read on the occasion of the Birthday celebration of Swami Vivekananda held at Sree Vivekananda Samaj, Markapur, Kurnool District. The author gives a short account of the life and teachings of the Swamiji in simple homely Telugu and the pamphlet should serve useful to the Telugu speaking people.

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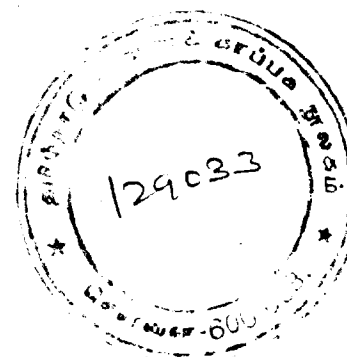
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