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THE
AGE PANCHAYAT
(A MONTHLY PERIODICAL)

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NANJANGUD SADVAIDYA

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RENOWNED AYURVEDIC MEDICINES

TONIC
for
LUNGS



For
YOUNG
and
OLD

AMRUTHAMALAKA THAILA

SREEKARA KASTURI PILLS.

GOROJAN PILLS.

NANJANGUD TOOTH POWDER

the rest of the world we should have been satisfied with explanations of a world-wide character. Even then, it would have been necessary to demand that such steps be taken by the Government to help the ryot out of the morass, as every other government was attempting to do. But the situation with us is different: Our ryot is economically incapable of resistance. He has not merely no capital worth the name to fall back upon, but he has a heavy debt hanging round his neck. Though the scale of taxation expressed in rupees, annas, pies per capita is often made out to be the lowest in the world, the Indian ryot is really the worst taxed man. The currency of the country has always been managed and the last change of the ratio between the rupee and the standard coinage of England is believed, in authoritative quarters, to have added $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the alreday heavy economic losses of the ryot. A reckless disregard of the claims of Indian trade and commerce has developed a ruinous policy of railway freights which to-day confronts agriculture, as it confronted industries earlier. More than all, the general administrative policy of the Government, the inflexibility of operations of revenue collection, is dangerously affecting the life of the people. The maxim of "my price at any cost" which high placed officials in local governments and the government of India have been unconsciously following has landed us in an unenviable position. Sir George Rainy was unable to consider the question of reduction in freights on account of financial stringency. Does it not stand to reason that, when the ryot cannot get his usual level of prices, or, any where near the old level of prices, he cannot equally be expected to pay the old rates of charges be it even for such a great purpose as the British Indian administration through the income of the railways.

Let us pause for a moment and examine the fate of the Indian ryot. Rice, wheat, cotton, groundnut and probably jute exhaust the most important part of the agriculturists' stock-in-trade. India, from an exporting country in wheat, was reduced to the paradoxical position of making large purchases of foreign wheat, especially Australian, in spite of the fact that good wheat crop was obtained in India last spring and the production was in excess of normal home consumption by 51,000,000 bushels. In regard to groundnut we examined the position a few months back and conditions to-day have not very much altered for the better. In regard to cotton, the Central Cotton Committee has recorded its verdict that cultivation of cotton has become an uneconomic proposition. One of the speakers

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at the Indian Chambers Federation pointed out a case where, due to the fall in prices, people were burning cotton seed instead of wood. This in spite of the fact that the acreage and the yield has decreased from year to year. To take the figures for Madras area the average acreage for the years 1924-25 to 1928-29 was 2,513,000. In 1929-30 it was 2,467,000. In 1931-31 it was 2,075,000. The production for these years was 414,000; 429,000; and 349,000 bales respectively. The position in regard to rice is much worse. Agricultural experts have been asking the ryot to give up raising rice and look to other crops to replace it.

We shall, for the sake of argument, admit that the general conditions in the world are responsible for all our ills. What does the government advise the ryot to do at this juncture? He cannot be advised to cut down production in any particular manner because all produce is on the same level so far as its economic capacity is concerned. He has no private means to capitalise his industry and take to manufacture of evolved agricultural products, nor has he been equipped technically for it. Therefore, the only solution under the circumstances appears to be to take from him the least that can be taken in the form of money. His produce is really inconvertible and therefore nothing convertible can he offer in fulfilment of obligations. The obligations must either disappear or must be reduced in quantity. If Mr. Walchand Hirachand asked at the meeting of the Indian Chambers Federation for a reduction in railway freight to the extent of 50 per cent, it was only with a view to wipe off a part of an obligation of this type. If in certain areas in the country to-day either remission of taxes or postponement of collection is urged, it is because that is the only way of contracting the obligations of the ryot. This demand for a cessation of collection of taxes needs to be understood in its proper spirit. We shall not be surprised if the government is called upon to shoulder the responsibility for suspending the debts or even cancelling the debts of the ryot by law.

The demand for prohibitive duties is equally in the interests of the ryot. It will not do for authorities like Sir George Rainy to tell us that so long as a certain commodity was reaching the world market at the world-price parity there would be no use in imposing a duty. With all the best intentions of men like Sir George Rainy, the whole world is not yet a family, nor have we the control over the production of the whole world. As long as we have to exist apart, we must make sure of our home markets, if we can do nothing

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more, and home markets cannot be maintained under acute circumstances like the present without drastic remedies.

There is yet a constructive side to making the position of the ryot easier. The government must cut its coat according to the cloth it has. People do not exist for governments. Governments do exist for the people. Therefore when the people cannot pay, the government must run on the minimum wage. There is no point in maintaining high levels of government expenditure, complaining of financial stringency in the same breath. The government must seriously set about examining every detail of expenditure and make a cut by half if, for years to come, we have to face the present depression which does not promise to end in the near future. Collection of land revenue, on the present scale, and with the present methods is an impossibility and under the stringent conditions the world has to pass through, and however deaf the government were hitherto to the constant agitation of the reformer, they must forthwith examine the question of land revenue policy and re-enunciate such a programme as will guarantee adequate relief to the agriculturist in case of unprecedented slump. The whole fiscal policy of the government must so change as to give the agriculturist in India the opportunity of utilising all the resources that are now utilised elsewhere and for the benefit of others.

There is still another aspect of the constructive side, to be mentioned. Under the unrestricted import and export policy of British administration, the ryot has been accustomed to use very many articles for which he has no capacity to pay, cloth being the most important commodity, not to mention luxuries like foreign foods, foreign foot-wear and foreign drugs. The government must now consciously launch upon a programme of a self-sufficient India, if they have to govern a living India in conditions of fair existence. The ryot should be taught to manufacture all necessities for himself, and find substitutes locally by his own toil, if possible, for things which he has to buy at enormous cost. Until this is reached, the position will be unhappy both for the ryot and the government, because the discontented incapacity of the ryot will find its reflex in an unwillingness to accommodate the government.

Editorial Notes.

The Government of Madras have been pleased to correct themselves. They have revoked the orders hitherto issued in G. O. No. 3361 L. & M. dated 21st August 1930. The residual ownership of public roads, choultries and markets has now been transferred to the village panchayat. All public roads, choultries and markets, according as they were maintained by the District or Taluk Boards respectively prior to 26th August 1930, are now classified as District and Taluk roads, as district and Taluk Choultries and taluk markets respectively. We are afraid that even this classification does not go very far. The position of the village panchayats in relation to the Taluk Boards in these matters has to be carefully re-examined.

Village communications are very bad at present and until panchayats are encouraged to take up village communication work briskly villages cannot make headway. We believe that the further consideration of this question is engaging the attention of the Government. We have hardly three months of time for plans to be made in regard to communications. By June our rainy season begins and by that time all local authorities should be ready to finish their work on communications. We hope that no time will be lost by the panchayats now functioning and earnest attempts will be made to put through village road programmes as speedily as possible.

Mr. K. Koti Reddi M.L.C. asked the Government to furnish information in regard to the steps that have so far been taken on the specific recommendations of the Malarial Officer in order to prevent the increase of malaria in the Presidency. In reply to the question the Hon'ble the Minister for Self-Government laid a copy of the report on the subject received from the special Malarial Officer on the table of the Legislative Council. It is printed as Appendix to the proceedings of the Legislative Council for 24th February 1931, on pages 57-67 and it was also stated that the report was just received.

As our readers may be aware, free distribution of quinine has been for some time the method employed to mitigate the ravages of

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malaria in about 10 taluks. Further extensions of this free distribution of quinine have been tardy in coming. So far as we are aware the Nandyal and Sirvel taluks of the Kurnool District have of late been added to the list. This is the only preventive work done and we are sure that it had its effect, but we must say, brisker steps should be taken even for this preventive work. It was practically after an active agitation of 2 years that Nandyal and Sirvel got the privilege of free quinine. A more thorough examination of this question should be made as a preliminary step in addition to all other work that may be done to prevent malaria.

The report of the Special Malarial Officer is definite in regard to rural areas including Union towns. He says, very much progress cannot be reported upon. As a typical matter for consideration we may refer to paragraph 13 of the report which deals with the letter written by the President of the District Board, Anantapur. It appears that he called for an informal meeting at Anantapur which was attended by the Collector, the Special Malarial Officer and a few members of the Board. This body of men were of opinion that unless the Government gave either the required technical staff at the head for advising from time to time, for controlling the operations, or liberal grants of money, the several taluk Boards themselves would not be in a position to take any steps to combat the disease. The Malarial Officer anticipates similar replies from other Boards and also foresees that they can and probably will do nothing towards solving the problem.

In a number of the detailed reports that the Special Malarial Officer prepared he laid emphasis upon a very important aspect of anti-malarial work. He advised that irrigation channels, more especially the numerous smaller distribution channels, should be kept free from undergrowth and decomposed matter. In the present report he does not refer to the work carried on in this direction, evidently because, in municipalities and other towns the work, to some extent, has been done by the special staff advised to be employed. In regard to the rural areas the question is still academical; because, no work has really been undertaken. However, we feel it necessary to urge upon the attention of the Government that even in this report large areas are reported to have the largest incidence of the disease in rural areas. They are all catalogued in paragraph 7. The Government in the Health Department appears to fight shy of coming into grips with the finance Member and with the Public

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Works Department. Eradication of malaria is certainly a matter of finance, and keeping irrigation channels clean may not be easy for the Public Works Department which aims mainly at making revenue. If we are to be saved from malaria the Public Works, the Finance and the Health Department must meet together in a liberal spirit and take careful steps to put the whole question on a real and practical basis without stopping at getting reports and recording them.

The Government of Madras contemplate making a rule in regard to the notification of the appointment of a temporary President of a panchayat. They consider it enough if the President of the Taluk Board affixes a notification over his signature in English and in the chief vernacular of the district on the notice board of the office of the Taluk Board and on that of the Panchayat concerned. Such of our readers as are desirous of making any suggestions on this matter should communicate the same to the Government before the 28th of April. For the information of our readers we may state that the power of the Taluk Board President to appoint a temporary president for a panchayat is very limited under the present Act. In every panchayat there is a Vice-President statutorily elected. If he is in office, or if he is not continuously absent for more than 15 days from the village, or is not incapacitated, he always functions as the President. Even for the election of the President he has to convene the meeting. The temporary president can only function when there is a vacancy both in the Presidents' and Vice-Presidents' offices, or when the Vice-President is continuously absent for more than 15 days from the village or when he is incapacitated. Even under these conditions absence of the Vice-president can always be rectified by return to the village. Therefore, really, a temporary president can be appointed only when the presidentship and vice-presidentship are vacant, or when the vice-president becomes incapacitated while there is a vacancy in the presidentship. The temporary president is appointed only to convene a meeting for the election of a president, and he ceases to be a president when the president or vice-president assumes office. The powers and period of office of the temporary president being so limited, we believe, not much need be made of the notice of such appointment. However, we hope that the Government will make it clear that the whole notification has to be in English and vernacular and not the signature only. With the present wording the latter interpretation appears to be possible.

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Mr. Provat Kumar Gosh of Calcutta sends us a communication on the question of nomination of members to Union Boards in Bengal. With the limited space at our disposal, we are unable to publish this communication. It appears that the Government of Bengal have been pleased to direct that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the number of members of each Union Board shall be appointed by the District Magistrate on the grounds that the electors are inexperienced and that such appointments are necessary for the due representation of minorities. Mr. Gosh complains that this due representation of minorities is honoured more in the breach than in the observance. He instances cases from his own district, where, from one village two members were elected and another member of the same village and curiously enough belonging to the same community has again been nominated. The Bengal Village Self-Government Act under which these nominations are being made came into force in the year 1919. With the experience that we have had with such nominations, which, happily for us, are now at an end, we are not surprised at the misuse of which Mr. Gosh complains. We are surprised, however, to find that in advanced Bengal steps should not have been still taken to put local self-government on an absolute democratic basis and to find such a retrograde provision as this, that a district magistrate is empowered to nominate $\frac{1}{3}$ of the number of members to a Union Board, i.e., a Panchayat in our parlance. To be speaking of equal status for us in the British Common-wealth at one end and allowing provisions of this nature to stand on the statute book at another are absolutely inconsistent and contradictory. No time should be lost by officials and non-officials in Bengal to bring local self-government there into a line with what obtains in our Presidency, if no more can be achieved.

ROUND LOCAL BODIES

The President of the Needamangalam Panchayat raises an issue. Destitute persons who die within the area of Panchayats are buried at the expense of Panchayats. But proceeds of articles, if any, found on the bodies are appropriated by the Revenue Department. The Panchayat is as much Government as, if not more than, the Revenue Department. All unclaimed property is forfeited to the Government. Under Sub-rule (21) Rule 5 of Schedule V of the Local Boards Act, the Panchayats are entitled to this forfeit property.

Village Service and need for "Village Panchayats."

BY MISS D. TICKELL,

(Municipal Councillor, Nandyal).

This is merely a brief record of a three months' attempt at village service on simple lines of rural reconstruction. It was a camping effort and, as such, had its special drawbacks and advantages. Our tents were placed within five minutes' walk from the village, on a path where all the villagers went to the river for water. The principal drawback was the temporary nature of the effort, but the supreme advantage of camp life is that it has no barriers to intercourse or intimacy. In addition to our sleeping tents and a cook tent, we had a large tent put up for industrial work, lectures, etc. All who would, might choose its shadow to rest in by day, and see the cottage handicrafts that were being carried on in it: might come when they would and sit round our tents and talk; could get simple medicines and hear addresses on health, sanitation, malaria, etc. Even at night villagers travelling would unyoke their bullocks and camp their carts near us for fellowship. Camp life helped immensely to make us the friends of the village in a very short time.

When we settled down and the village had got used to the strangeness of our adventure, the lines of work on which we proceeded were these:—

We taught simple handicrafts such as mat-weaving, basket-making and tape-weaving. To these, in the future, we propose always to add spinning—making this a basic occupation, and naturally the occupations will vary according to the raw material that each particular district can produce. Sewing was taught regularly to all who cared to learn; one of the principal ryots' houses being visited by our sewing teacher every forenoon, and each night from 20 to 25 young girls (many of whom had been doing coolie labour all day) came to our big tent and learned sewing there. In the two months that we were there, most of the learners learnt to cut out and sew their own jackets.

Our second line of work was Health work. In addition to having a supply of simple remedies in our camp, we did house to house health visiting, getting together groups of women and talking to them especially on Maternity and Infant Welfare subjects. We always found our visits welcomed and our words listened to, and the principal ryot of a neighbouring village asked me to take my trained nurse there in order that we might give such talks to the women of his village. This we gladly did. We also made a special point of getting friendly with the village midwives and giving them a little more knowledge of how to do their

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work. One day was set apart for a Women's and Babies' Day at our camp. A woman doctor and nursing Sister came out to us on that day and gave talks and weighed babies. This Women's Day was well attended.

Outside our camp we had a play centre for the children. Every day they played organised games there, and the elder folk came and looked on with much enjoyment.

The third line of work was that of educating public opinion through lectures and conversations on subjects such as Improvement in agricultural methods; Health matters; Education—especially Girls' Education etc. and together with this, we tried to give pleasure to the village by arranging for Kalakshepams, gramophone, etc. All these activities were carried on in the village itself.

And then came the great problem—how to give such work any permanent value, without which it would indeed be perfectly useless.

This was comparatively easy in the matter of the cottage handicrafts; teachers from the Board School, the Christian School and one from a near village, learnt the crafts in order to teach the children of their schools later. In the same way, the teachers' wives can, when they will, learn and teach sewing to the little girls.

To carry on the Health and Welfare work is a more difficult matter. We spent the last part of our time visiting the different castes and communities and urging them to choose five of their number as a panchayat that would deal with matters of health and sanitation within their community, and make the palem a cleaner and better place to live in. But this method is not sufficient. In the case of the more backward castes, it is very necessary at this stage, but, to unite the whole village in action and to act as an instrument through which all our social uplift schemes can be carried on, it is necessary to have a more important body that shall have the sanction and support of the Government. This can be found in the ancient form of government so suited to the genius of India, the village panchayat proper. If such panchayats are formed, there is great scope for the efforts of voluntary workers in keeping before the panchayatdars right ideals and practical means for the development and improvement of village life, and one result of my short experiment has been to inspire in me a vision of how greatly village life might be changed and helped by a widespread reversion to the panchayat system in a new India where panchayatdars, local Government officials and voluntary workers might work together.

Finally, I should like to record two things—the cordial co-operation of all local Government officials with whom I came in contact, and the readiness of the ryot to listen to us and to receive new ideas for the reconstruction and development of village life.

Report on the Working of Panchayats in the Cheyyar Taluk Board area for 1929-1930.

BY MR. T. M. AUTHIKESAVULU NAIDU AVL. P.T.B.

I submit the following review of the administration of Village Panchayats in the Cheyyar Taluk Board area for the year ending 31st. March 1930.

2. The work of organisation and supervision was entrusted to me and the Taluk Board for this year also. The work of organisation was for the first time taken up in 1925-26 and 52 Panchayats were constituted in that year. Since then, up to 1927-28, 202 Panchayats had been brought into existence in this area. Out of 429 main villages in this Taluk Board Area 277 Panchayats were constituted up to 31st. March 1930. Out of these the following five Panchayats have since been abolished either on account of faction or on account of inactivity of the panchayats.

(1) Kolapallore, (2) Tiruppanamur, (3) Kelapalayam, (4) Kothandavaram, (5) Veppembettu-Villivalam.

The Panchayats have been distributed as follows among the various firkas.

Cheyyar Taluk.		Wandiwash Taluk.	
1. Anakavoor Firka	... 25	1. Wandiwash Firka	... 25
2. Valkadai Firka	... 20	2. Desoor Firka	... 25
3. Melma Firka	... 23	3. Pernamallore firka	... 23
4. Cheyyar kusba firka	... 20	4. Nedungunam firka	... 20
5. Vembakkam firka	... 17	5. Salavedu firka	... 22
6. Perungattoor firka	... 19	6. Thellar firka	... 23
7. Dusi firka	... 15		
Total	... 139	Total	... 138

Administration reports for all panchayats except 36 have been received and submitted to the Registrar-General or to the Collector as the case may be. 73 Panchayats were under the control of the Collector.

The elections held every-where had given general satisfaction. They were generally held on the principle well recognised in all common affairs, of each important community being represented on the Panchayats. The contested elections were few in number. Election objection petitions were received in 8 cases and they were all dismissed. Adi-Dravidas had secured seats in 38 Panchayats by informal agreement. In a few villages where Muhammadans resided as a minority class, that community had due representation in 10 Panchayats.

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The present system of adult franchise without ballot boxes and voters' lists and consequently un-necessary election expenditure, worked satisfactorily and gave freedom to the rural population to choose the best among them.

The Statutory obligation of convening meetings every month was not complied with by some Panchayats. Several Panchayats met as many times as were necessary to transact their business. Attendance at the meetings that were held was generally good. Five Panchayat members were removed from office for continued non-attendance. No President or member was removed for any other cause.

Expenditure on office staff, accomodation, and management was practically nil. The small scriptory work needed was attended to by the presidents and the elementary school teachers. Out of 71 taxation proposals submitted, 48 cases were sanctioned and it is reported that the collections were made in all these cases. In most cases the presidents themselves did the collection work. In cases of persistent defaulters, the help of the village head-man was sought for. The village head-man, as usual, delayed the collection in some cases and consequently one panchayat had to loose Rs. 200 as it was not collected in time. Taxes were levied for various items of work such as repairs of fresh-water ponds, clearance of prickly pear, making of roads, Kudimaramath work, construction of school buildings and lighting.

The value in Rupees of work done in the various items is summarised below. The work was done chiefly by mobilising labour. 30 miles of roads have been laid out, 26 fresh-water ponds repaired up to date.

	1929-30.	Previous two years.
1. Repairs to fresh-water ponds ...	5400	12130
2. Repairs to supply channels to irrigation sources.	Figures not available. 4 panchayats did this work.	6450
3. Repairs to irrigation ...	—	1395
4. Road formation ...	3000	2270
5. Well sinking ...	—	150
6. Removal of prickly pear from public porombokes ...	250	2320
7. Construction of culverts ...	480	100
8. Constructing school buildings...	15050	4200
9. Miscellaneous works ...	—	50
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The Taluk Board in its resolution No. 32 dated 16-3-26 had transferred its revenue from (1) Fisheries, (2) trees on L. F. Porombokes, (3) Cart-stands, (4) License fees (5) encroachment penalty; and the amount foregone comes to Rs. 3,000 nearly for every year. The amount of contribution paid by the Taluk Board and Government is detailed below for public works.

1. Taluk Board. Rs. 962.

2. Government. Rs. 4,200.

In addition to the above nucleus of income created by the Taluk Board, the panchayats have attempted to augment their resources by the sale of cattle droppings at public porombokes, Vazhal grass, and the revenues accruing from Inam and Samudayam topos taken control of by panchayats. Taxes were levied by panchayats for specified purposes, mostly by requisitioning labour and they were only temporary. No permanent taxes were levied except in a few cases as toddy and arrack shops and ground-nut dealers.

Education. 65 schools were opened under Panchayat management in 1926-27. 83 in 1927-28, and 48 in 1928-29 making a total of 196 schools. Out of these, 6 schools were permanently closed. Orders sanctioning the revival of the two schools since opened are awaited. 5 more schools have since been sanctioned in the current year.

The total number of teachers employed in all these schools was 294. The total number of pupils in all the 190 schools was 8,436 at the end of the year. 16 schools have been specially provided for Adi-Dravida children. Adi-Dravida pupils were admitted in a number of schools. Out of 294 teachers who were on the 31st March 1930, 53 were S. S. L. C. holders, 162 above third form, 37 trained teachers and 22 exempted. Only 20 unqualified teachers remained at the end of the year and they have been since replaced. Thanks to the rigorous policy pursued by the Registrar-General of Panchayats this wonderful result has been achieved. S. S. L. C. holders do not stick up permanently and there had been changes in some schools on account of this. Unemployment of School-finals is beginning to be felt acute and it is hoped that more teachers of this class can be recruited to this profession. A night school with the 8th. standard is being conducted by the Taluk Board under competent Secondary Grade trained teachers and 86 teacher pupils, mostly Adi-Dravidas, get the benefit of higher education which would befit them to be qualified for Higher Grade Training. The proportion of trained teachers is no doubt inadequate as training facilities in this District are very limited.

Accommodation.—Out of 190 schools 56 schools are located in rented buildings and all other schools are housed in the buildings provided by the Panchayats either thatched or pucca. 16 pucca buildings valued

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between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 each were constructed up to 31st March and their total value came up to Rs. 19,000. 20 other panchayats have in the current year constructed buildings to a value of Rs 20,000. Accommodation in respect of other schools owned by panchayats, though thatched, is reported to be satisfactory. We can see ere long that all Panchayats construct neat tiled buildings if the Government are pleased to relax the order insisting on them to bear half the estimated cost. The discretion in fixing the contribution of Taluk Board funds with reference to the different localities may be left to the Taluk Board. After all, the Taluk Board and Government will not be in a position to bear the full estimated value of the buildings. Alienation of school-sites for all schools has been promptly attended to by the Revenue Department. All the schools have been recognised by the District Educational Council. With the advent of a very large number of Panchayat schools in this area, almost all the villages with a population of 500 and over had been provided with schools. The Taluk Board is preparing its way to introduce compulsory education in this area and has levied the education tax at the maximum rate. Proposals for introducing compulsion in selected areas will be shortly submitted to Government. The large wastage in the present system of voluntary education can be prevented by the central school system and compulsory education for which schemes are being prepared. It would be well if the Government is pleased to place the teaching grants given to Panchayat schools in the hands of the Taluk Board, or, the respective Panchayats which have been treated as Local Boards in the Amended Local Boards Act, in order that uniformity of policy may be pursued in making the existing institutions more efficient.

The ultimate policy of the Taluk Board is to hand over all junior schools to the control of Panchayats retaining only central Higher Elementary schools under its control. The Supervision of Board schools was entrusted to Panchayats and a good number of them took keen interest in the institutions. The power of granting casual leave to Board School Teachers was delegated to Panchayat Presidents and I am glad they have judiciously exercised the powers.

The Taluk Board with the consent of the Government sanctioned the employment of 4 Supervisors 2 to be paid from General Funds and 2 from the elementary education funds to look after both Taluk Board and Panchayat schools. Each Supervisor was placed in charge of 50 schools, both Board and Panchayat, on the average and in addition they helped Panchayats in many ways; for example in finding teachers, getting recognition, getting sites for school buildings, framing taxation proposals, seeking out sources of non-tax revenue, and making suggestions for village improvement and education of the villagers in civic matters. They were of considerable assistance in bringing schools up

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to standard, improving teaching methods and equipment and in the ensuring of regular payment of teachers' salaries. Their work for the last year was reviewed separately. On the whole their work was found to be satisfactory.

Libraries.—Five out of 300 Panchayats got only a grant of Rs. 110 though applications for grant were sent to the Collector by a large number of panchayats. In my opinion the starting of good libraries at least in villages where higher elementary schools have been started must take its first place in the education programme. Literacy can only be a means to an end and not an end in itself. In our present system of education it leads to no end as there is no literature on which the acquired knowledge of the pupils can be exercised. The very few boys that are turned out from schools lapse into illiteracy if they can have no means to brush up their knowledge. I would therefore emphasise this aspect of the question before the Board and Government for the rapid development of good libraries at least in important centres.

Sanitation.—50 Panchayats conserved the fresh-water ponds by putting up notice Boards. This itself had a deterrent effect in the conservation of drinking sources. 2 panchayats have successfully prosecuted the offenders and secured their convictions. The amount spent for the employment of watchmen came up to Rs. 300. 26 ponds were on the whole repaired by Panchayats at a cost of Rs. 17,500. Removal of prickly pear in public porombokes was also attended to by a few panchayats. Health celebrations were conducted by 103 panchayats and the amount spent was Rs. 389.

Tree-Plantation.—An appeal was issued to panchayats by this Office for plantation of trees on a day fixed for the purpose. The response was really gratifying in as much as 42 panchayats have reported that 6000 trees have been planted. The Taluk Board has also opened a nursery for the development of tree plantation in rural areas. Applications from Panchayats are forthcoming for plants and tree plantation will be intensively developed. The one special grievance of Panchayats is that the control over Poromboke lands such as Kulam and Battai which were vested in the Local Boards were transferred to the Revenue Department and their re-transfer to the control of panchayats, under G. O. No. 928 L and M dated 19-4-1924 is either made in very rare cases or not made at all. Even the margins of fresh-water ponds are held under the control of the Revenue Department leaving only the bed and bund of such ponds under the control of Panchayats. If the Poromboke lands that are now over-grown with prickly pear disfiguring the villages, are transferred to the control of the panchayats so that they may feel that they are their property, we might see are long that such porombokes are kept clean and planted with trees. As it is,

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they are no man's property and we see unfortunately a tendency on the part of the ryot to cut clandestinely the very few trees that are in them.

Lighting.—7 panchayats put up 78 lights and maintained them throughout the year. A sum of Rs. 284 is reported to have been spent on them.

Medical Relief.—A sum of Rs. 600 was contributed by Desoor and surrounding panchayats for the construction of a building for the Rural Dispensary at Desoor. With this contribution, the Taluk Board has sanctioned Rs. 2,700 towards the building which is nearing completion. Other groups of panchayats, where rural medical dispensaries have been located, are also collecting similar amounts and it is hoped that all of them will deposit the contribution before the 31st March.

Markets.—Minor markets that were controlled by the Taluk Board were handed over to Panchayats.

Irrigation.—A few panchayats obtained the sanction of the Registrar-General of Panchayats to enforce kudimaramath labour as a form of taxation for clearing the Athukkal and irrigation channels. There is nothing which had helped the panchayats to find favor in irrigated tracts so much as the discharge in an efficient manner of this customary irrigation obligation of ryots on their behalf. The panchayats have been deprived of this provision under the new Amended Act.

General.—The Registrar-General of Panchayats inspected about 50 panchayats in the current year and was generally satisfied with their working. The whole work of organisation was made by the members of the Taluk Board and myself. I acknowledge with gratitude the valuable assistance rendered by them. Before I conclude, I wish to place on record my appreciation of the services rendered by my staff especially by my Head Clerk Mr. C. Bhaskara Ayyar whose insight into and genuine zeal for the panchayat movement contributed not a little towards its success in this area.

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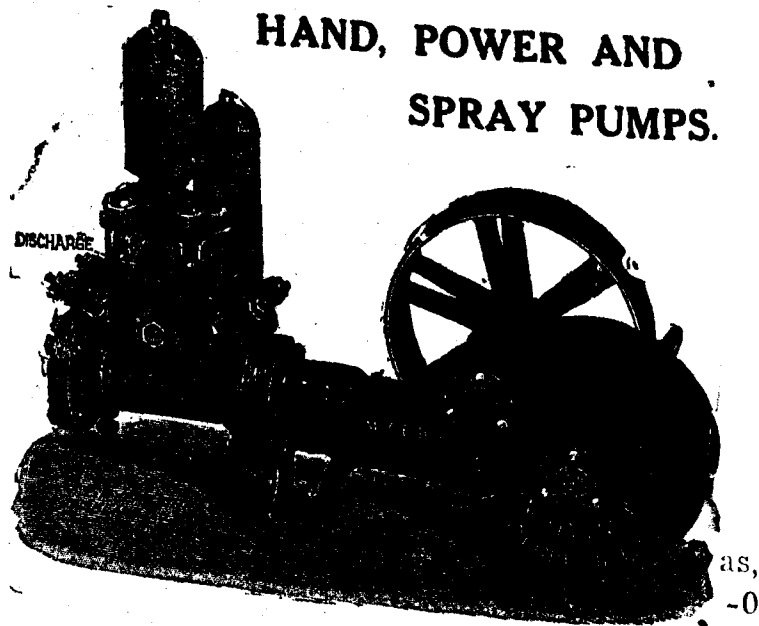
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ROYAPETTAH, MADRAS.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) To the Panchayats and Presidents of Taluk Boards.

The Editor of the "Panchayat" will be pleased to have short occasional notes from and about all the Panchayats now existing in the Presidency for publication in this Journal. Irrigation, Forests, Co-operative Panchayats and Panchayat courts and voluntary organisations doing arbitration work are all requested to send notes of interest. It is desired that the notes should be fairly brief and to the point, so that the Editor may be able to deal with the maximum matter in the minimum space without sacrificing clearness.

(2) To the Readers.

The Editor will always be pleased to hear from the readers any suggestions for the improvement of the Journal.

Any contributions bearing upon the Panchayats and their future in particular and all rural development in general are welcome. Contributors are requested to note that an article covering more than a thousand words may not be in form for this Journal. Contributors are also requested to note that they will please send their contributions in that language in which they desire them to appear.

(3) Please Note.

All copies for the Press have to be legibly written on one side of the paper. It will always be helpful if contributors note that quarter sheets of foolscap size make a standard manuscript.

OUR EXCHANGES.

We have very great pleasure in acknowledging with thanks the following journals sent to us in exchange.

The Gramani.	The Health
The Calcutta Municipal Gazette.	The Sadgope Patrika (in Bengali)
(Bengali) Palli Swaraj.	The Madras Co-operator.
(Maharatti) Poona Municipal	The Madras Local Self-Government
Rural India. [Gazette.	Quarterly.
(Tamil) Village Uplift.	The Samadarsani (Telugu).
(Telugu) The Sadhana.	The Koumodaki (Telugu).

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MAY 1931.

[No. 8.

Is Panchayat Rule the Rule for India?

The entry of the Indian National Congress into the realm of institution making in consultation with all the other forces in the country on the one hand and the British Government on the other, has given a new turn to the question of Panchayat Rule. Pandit Jawharilal Nehru, the retiring President of the Congress, explaining the resolution of the Congress cutting down salaries to a maximum ordinarily of Rs. 500 laid emphasis upon the necessity of constituting Panchayat Rule in the country. He is known to be a communist in outlook and therefore what he stated has given rise to some amount of adverse criticism and it has also brought into prominence the real issue of issues for India, as to whether the ultimate power of administration should be in the hands of the Village Panchayats and their representatives, or whether the administrative machinery of India should be so perfected as to make Village Panchayats but secondary organisations dealing with local administration, a polished hierarchy of officials being the means of general administration of the land.

World politics has tended, for over a century, towards what has been known as the "democratic state." Originally, the conception of democracy was the rule of majorities carried on through elected representatives by the vote of the largest number of citizens. This conception had its own limitations and, from time to time, has been attacked on the ground that democracy could not really be efficient in administration. The reply of democracy has been expressed by a slow but sure evolution of units of a local nature which, while maintaining the broad conception of rule by majorities, reduced the danger of mass majority over a large area tyrannising in the name of democracy less fortunate sections of the people either territorially or communally

situated. This tendency to local autonomy has resulted in some modern republics in the formation of strong communes as in Germany and Soviets as in Russia. If democracy should have any justification whatsoever for existence, this is but the logical evolution that must be expected.

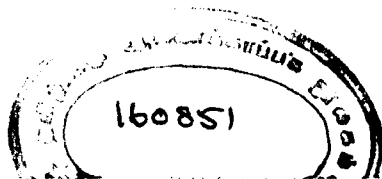
It is true that a large nation or a country state under modern conditions has come to be dominated by too centralised a system of administration. This is due, not to any inherent defect in the conception of democracy itself. It is mostly due to the economic conditions that have developed as a consequence of the rapid progress of scientific discovery and centralised production. The centralised system of capitalism, in economic development, has had its reflex in the development of centralised administrative machinery all over the world. We are free to admit this position in regard to many modern States. They are to-day paying the price of the undue development of centralised economic and political life. Signs of disintegration have long appeared and after the war, it has become clear that this system will no longer stand or prosper. Something that will make local units more autonomous and official bureaucracies less in evidence, is sought after by most of the states to-day and if socialism or communism, broad-based upon the will of the people to govern themselves, is advocated, it is to satisfy the search after that new something.

Happily for India, we have not yet that centrally developed economic fabric that all other modern countries have. Fortunately or unfortunately for this country, our industrial development has been kept very far away from modern turmoils and we have yet a state of affairs where acute centralisation need never arise either in our political or economic institutions. The moment we are able to establish democracy responsible to the people, we shall be in position to hand over most of the administrative power to the units which after all, must mean the Panchayats. Our country is vast and our interests are so different that at no time can we have the real administration of the land in the hands of centralised administration. Decentralisation has been all along, even in bureaucratic administration days, the cry of all competent men and we are sure that when democracy dawns on us, we shall be able to build ourselves not from the top, but from the bottom. If we lay the foundations which are necessary for such an edifice to-day, negotiations are going on between the people of India

British Government, we shall be owefully copying that which has made democracy a failure in the west. We have an additional advantage in the country to make real democracy at the bottom possible. Tastes and habits of this land have not so incorrigibly developed as to preclude a very much simpler state of existence than what obtains in other countries. The great success of the Khaddar movement is proof positive that we can return to a simplicity of life which will rule out the complex conditions of the western world. We must have the opportunity to develop in our own lines and we are sure we can give the world an example of a successful democracy spread over such a vast continent as India and affecting the lives of about 350 millions of people.

A peep into the past history of India will give us greater hope for Panchayat Rule. There are a large number of British authorities who have admitted that for very many centuries the Panchayat was the predominant factor in the administration of the country, the central Government merely acting for the purpose of defence as a protector and collecting its revenue more or less for that purpose. We do not contend that at any time in the history of India the central Government was the representative of the Panchayat, nor do we suggest that administrative questions that faced those central governments were so complex as they are to-day. But we do maintain that a really democratic central state, if aimed at in India to replace either the old autocracies or the new bureaucracies, can certainly be composed of representatives of autonomous local units and carry on the purposes of an All-India nature. After 150 years of British rule, with all its limitations, it cannot be said that we have not produced enough political consciousness in the country to get a proper central responsible government constituted to look after the interests of All-India Administration.

The economic interests of our country point unmistakably to the Panchayat as the only solution of good government in days to come. The poverty of our masses is proverbial; it is not really poverty in regard to food or raiment. Our villages can certainly feed and cloth themselves if they so choose without very great difficulty. The raw material necessary for existence is all raised in the villages. The so-called necessary luxuries may be wanting, but by co-operative effort, properly financed and guided by popular governments, it must not be difficult to provide the villager with the necessary luxuries also. Our poverty to-day is due to the fact that we are deprived of freedom to choose our own line of life; to



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adapt our production to our needs; to use such means of exchange as we consider is best suited for our purpose; to train our own men for our protection and defence, and save the huge waste that is being wrought by our military expenditure; to control the dumping of other countries' goods on our soil; and in fine, to rule ourselves. It is no exaggeration to state that granted freedom to settle matters for ourselves, as best as it suits our ancient civilisation to harmonise it with the modern tendencies of the world, we are sure we can develop Panchayat Rule as a much better instrument for people's good than the rule of either the Soviets in Russia or the communes in Germany; because, we know that with the ancient blood of democracy which runs in our veins, we have this great advantage of adjusting our needs to the wherewithal we can find and running economic life on safe and sound lines.

Ghandhiji's conception of the poor man's democracy for India with the abolition of the salt law, the prohibition of drink, and the establishment of an administration that shall run its highest men either on an honorary basis or on the basis of minimum allowances is not a mere dream in India and it will never be a mere dream, as long as any vestige of our ancient blood exists in us and the Panchayat forms the bed rock of Indian life.

Mr. Chapman Mortimer, propagandistic delegate to the European Association recently spoke at Ootacamund. He was emphatic that there can be no hope of peaceful settlement unless the just demands of the minorities and the millions of non-urban classes were fully met. May we point out to him and unto all constitution makers of India that Panchayat Rule is the only possible solution in the tangled conditions of this day. British democracy has already failed, Indian administrators protected by British wings have equally proved failures. A purely Indian bureaucracy is bound to prove a greater failure. The communal question which has baffled and is baffling the best brains of India would not be there in reality, if Panchayat rule can be established and pushed to its logical end. The self-contained community in the village would make adjustments absolutely easy and men thrown to live or die together on their own soil would find common interests very much greater than killing differences. As for non-urban classes there is nothing that can please them more than complete autonomy to work out their own salvation. Whoever should meddle with them, be it the urban educated Indian or the foreign exploiter, or the foreign bureaucratic servant, is really not

Editorial Notes.

As we wrote our first editorial we were conscious that the Hon'ble Mr. Diwan Bahadur Munuswamy Naidu had, in reply to an address presented by the public of Sriramapuram in the Chittoor District, explained his own ideal of a self-contained village India. An extract from his speech is given elsewhere under the heading Round Local Bodies. we refer our readers to the extract to understand the Minister's position clearly. However, we consider it a part of our duty to point out that Diwan Bahadur Munuswamy Naidu's definition of a self-contained village is at best partial. Pucca communication with the main road, a dispensary and a school of its own cannot make the village fully self-contained. Mr. Naidu as Minister is mostly in charge of these portfolios and it was but right that he spoke of them in the strain in which he has done. We are sure he has given these items of village life as typical of the power that the villager can possess and cultivate. The Local Boards Act of 1930 contains provisions under

(Continued from page 136).

their friend but their enemy. All these classes must be the servants of the non-urban classes and they must carry out the administrative policies dictated by the representatives of that class. To give that class the ultimate authority to settle its own affairs should be the aim of reforms. That would mean reaching the lowest unit in the non-urban areas for real administrative purposes and that unit can be no other than the Village and its Village Panchayat.

Whatever critics of political theory based upon modern experience may say in regard to the immediate results of establishing a country-wide Panchayat Rule in India, to our mind that appears inevitable for this country, if we have to progress definitely towards the rule of the people, by the people, for the people. If difficulties should arise, they have to be solved; if dangers are ahead, they have to be met. No fear of difficulties or dangers can set at naught the great objective that is to be gained in Indian administration and after all, when we remember that as democracy has developed from point to point, the deliberative functions of the peoples' representatives have occupied but a secondary position and the administrative functions have grown more and more apace, we shall be able to rise above political dialectics of the day, however important they may appear to mere theorists.

which the whole administration of the village may be handed over to Panchayats. We are conscious that Local Boards in our country, under which term the Panchayats also are now included, do not really possess inherited power. They are constituted under laws enacted by the Legislature for specific purposes with specific resources and limited powers. All the same, provisions in regard to the village panchayats are very much more liberal and they contain germs for a future which may well be born. Before we attain Swaraj and we have attempted to make the Panchayat the primary unit of Government, we request men in the position of Diwan Bahadur Munuswamy Naidu to exert all their influence to carry out every provision of the Act in practice and give the Village Panchayat the fullest power and scope that can be given under the Act.

We know it is an impossible task to move the bureaucratic side of the Government in whose hands even such an important development department as Irrigation is placed. But we are sure that times have changed and with a little pressure applied by strong men, bureaucracy must yield. Our conception of a self-contained Village India is fairly clearly described in the previous article and we have no doubt that the Hon'ble Mr. Diwan Bahadur Munuswamy Naidu agrees with us in thinking that ultimate political salvation for India lies through the development of full Panchayat Rule. We commend his appeal to the villagers and also to the Local Boards "to constitute as many Panchayats as possible with a view to see that each village has a Panchayat of its own which can safe-guard the interests of the villagers concerned" and also extract from the Government adequate attention "for the welfare and amelioration of the villagers."

We are glad that serious attention is being given to the question of direct connection that exists between co-operation and agriculture. At a Co-operative Agricultural Conference recently held at Nidamangalam (Tanjore District) on the 25th April, 1931, Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu presided. His speech drew pointed attention to certain fundamentals. He does not believe that co-operation by itself can be a panacea for agricultural ills in this country. He is perfectly right when he says "without a satisfactory system of landholding and a sound land revenue policy under which the cultivator derives an incentive to invest capital to improve his land as well as his methods of cultivation, co-operation can do little." He instances the great

handicaps in the way of Indian agricultural produce by heavy railway freights both on cereals like wheat and oil seeds. The freight on one maund of wheat is 6 annas from Australia to Calcutta whereas the freight from Layallpur in the Punjab to Calcutta is Rs. 1-3-3. Mr. Ramadas Pantulu also refers to the waste that occurs in India exporting much valuable fertilising material contained in oil seeds and thus diminishing the resources of the agriculturist in the greatest of the essentials for his country. Bone-meal mostly crushed in port towns is exported by sea out of India and imported artificial manures of doubtful value are being dumped. Mr. Ramadas Pantulu also holds that it is futile to expect an Indian agricultural policy from non-Indian directors and incidentally refers to some irritable remarks of the Director of Agriculture in Madras in his report on the operations of his department for the year 1929-30. While he holds this view in regard to the limitations under which co-operators have to work in the agricultural sphere, he does not however run away from the battle. He does believe that incessant effort on the part of co-operators for securing to the producer better price for his products and for creating for him opportunities for work of a congenial character to supplement his slender income from agriculture is essential. He has therefore dealt with the two important topics of the day, namely, Agricultural Marketing and Cottage Industries. Every endeavour, he says, should be made to reform our marketing methods drastically. There are numerous factors which impede the reform. Defective rural communications, difficulties of transport, absence of storage facilities, unfamiliarity with the processes of grading and preparation for market, practices like damping and adulteration, unsatisfactory system of weights and measures are some of them. But all these must be faced and solved. Apart from these impeding elements, the greatest essential of marketing, however, is finance, and Mr. Ramadas Pantulu is positive that rural finance in vogue in the co-operative organisations is not at present satisfactory. The financing of the agricultural and allied industries as such has not yet been recognised as the chief function of a co-operative credit society. Time has come for improving the current financial needs of agriculturists in an adequate measure and with utmost promptitude, Mr. Ramadas Pantulu points out how the recommendations of the Registrar of co-operative Societies in pursuance of the Textile Advisory Committee's conclusions for the formation of Primary Societies for weavers and the organisation of a bank and a central society for financing the

primary weaving societies have been thwarted by a bureaucratic government and how even the present ministry also finds itself impotent to withdraw the orders against the encouragement of Khaddar by co-operative societies. He instances the really wonderful remarks contained in the report of the Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee which was frankly against encouraging hand loom weaving as a subsidiary occupation, which holds that the assistance given to the development of cottage industries will tend definitely to detract from the efficiency of cultivation, for it then becomes part time occupation, and which asserts that the farmer is not always idle, only for the reason that there is no work for him to do, but that "in many cases he is idle because he will not do it." From these instances Mr. Ramadas Pantulu legitimately draws the conclusion that the present bureaucracy, at any rate in the Madras Presidency, is not in favour of encouraging cottage industries. He vehemently repudiates the remarks of the Committee on "the rank and file of the weaving class" and comes to the conclusion that in the case of some of the industries that still survive, they can be re-organised and revived if a national industrial policy is pursued. We are sure that is the only way to build up cottage industries in India, not only to find supplementary avocation to the agriculturist, but also to withstand foreign competition. We believe that Mr. Ramadas Pantulu means by national industrial policy, a proper organisation of an industrial corporation for aiding Indian industries and also a careful policy of encouraging co-operative marketing through lightening of such burdens as railway freights, insurance charges and the like.

We congratulate the organisers of the Nidamangalam co-operative Agricultuaal Conference and Mr. Ramadas Pantulu upon the new direction that they have given to the discussions of a co-operative conference and we commend this line of activity to other patriots interested in the cause of our land. World competition in agriculture as against us is developing day in and day out, and countries like Russia whose conditions of poverty, subjection and ignorance were yesterday as bad as ours, have made tremendous strides and shall be ere long in full conflict with us. It is time we recognise our duty and organise ourselves with all the limitations under which we may have to labour for the time being.

Draft Rules for the Conduct of Local Board Elections.

(A CRITICISM BY H. S. G.)

The Government of Madras have published draft rules for the Conduct of Elections to the Local Boards and have called for objections and suggestions. The Rules are all framed, it appears, with the Rules for the election of members to the Legislative Councils as the guiding lines. If the educative value of experience on the same lines is the criterion by which these rules may have to be judged, not much fault may be found with them. When every tax payer, or much better, every adult obtains the vote that must send his representative to the Local Legislative Council and to the Assembly, uniform procedure may be valuable. Even then, that uniform procedure may well be a much simpler procedure than what is suggested in the present Rules. Till that time, it is well that the Rules are made simpler, and simpler as the elections reach lower and lower of the bodies.

In the Draft Rules before us, the village panchayats are not treated as anything different from other Local Bodies. Voting by ballot under the present farcical conditions is reproduced. The same old balloting paper in the same old form No. IV with the same old details printed in English or in the chief vernacular of the place or both is prescribed for Panchayat elections as well. It is a great regret that this rule giving the option of language or languages to the prescribed authority indicates how little of thought has been bestowed on the question of elections to the Panchayats. We know that in the usual course, the ballot papers will be printed in the chief vernacular language of the area. But why make that contingent upon the will of the prescribed authority in the case of village panchayat one cannot understand. None has evidently thought about it. In a country where the literate population is not much more than 7 per cent what is the wisdom of printing names in type for vote by ballot except to defeat the very purpose? Why not print the very photograph of the man, at least for the Panchayat area? If a man is not seen in the Panchayat area, how can he be a Panchayatdar and work? To tell the voter that he should place a red pencil "Tilakam" on the forehead of his candidate leaving the others without it would conduce, in our opinion, to the best secrecy and entirely to satisfactory results. For the higher bodies, the Taluk Board and the District Board, a system of totemistic signs may be adopted. Candidate A may represent himself by a mango. B. may choose a cow. A red pencil Full Moon opposite these may be enough indication of choice. There is no particular art in the cross mark of to-day. It is best to prohibit all ink marks as that will minimise chances of invalidation.

Attention may next be drawn to the way in which results are expected to be announced even in the Panchayats. The whole paraphernalia of a returning officer's routine has been prescribed as in the case of other bodies for which votes are cast in several places. This is certainly unnecessary in the case of small Panchayats. Immediately after the polling, the officer in charge may open the box and declare results. There will be less of election petitions in that case and less of charges of the kind that the boxes have been tampered with.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

The method of notification of the election as per rule (2) is also not suited to Panchayats. Rather it is not sufficient. Affixing on the boards and in three places may not be noticed by the people at all, or it may be that interested candidates manage that these notices are destroyed out of existence. These affixed notices do not help the illiterate voters even if they do exist. The best thing to do is to announce these notices in the villages of the area twice over during the 30 days before the date fixed for the elections by tomtom. Why even in the case of Taluk Board and District Board elections this cannot be done, one does not really see. In addition to fixing notices on boards and other places, this must be done. In addition to the tom tom some other sound like the *Kommu* in the Telugu districts should be used as a distinctive sign of this species of announcements.

In rule (5) sub-rule (5) in regard to the refunding of the deposit made by the candidate, a candidate standing for more than one circle is penalised. His deposit is returned only in one of the wards, the other deposits being confiscated to the Government. This does not appear to be fair or correct. The Government need not make this a source of revenue. No forfeiture should take place except where the candidate has failed to get the minimum proportion of polled votes. If the Government wants to shut out a man from standing for more than one circle let them definitely make a rule to that effect. That would certainly be more healthy in its effect. According to the same subrule the refunding of the deposit money is made contingent on the taking of the seat by the elected member and it is postponed in the case of the defeated candidate, till the publication of the result in the District Gazette. The election, however, takes effect from the time of the declaration by the returning officer. It is not clear why the candidate's money should be held up so long without interest. With the declaration of the results the deposit must be available for refund.

Rule 19 in regard to women is insufficient in its operation. Why restrict special facilities only to women voters who observe the gosha system? Special facilities must exist for all women.

In Rule 32 (2) provision is being made for fresh election in the case of vacancies occurring in other wards or circles by a candidate choosing his ward after election, having stood for more than one ward or circle. Why fresh elections should be held one does not see. All who may be concerned know that elections are being held. Such as desire to stand have full opportunities to stand. If they do not choose to stand, it is their own folly. Therefore, when the man that stands in the list makes his choice, men next in the list by the number of votes they have polled in the other wards should be declared elected. The complication of further election should be avoided. As a matter of fact, the man who makes a choice of one ward or circle does no more than withdraw after election. The others therefore must have an absolute right after that and that right is what is stated in Rule 35.

A Plea for the formation of Joint Committees of Panchayats.

(BY M. R. RY. T. M. AUDIKESAVULU NAIDU GARU).

Local Self-Government has been described by a political philosopher as "that system of Government under which, the greatest number of minds, knowing the most and having the fullest opportunity of knowing it, about the special matter in hand, and having the greatest interest in its well working, have the management of it or control over it." Centralisation has been described as "that system of Government under which, the smallest number of minds, and those knowing the least, and having the fewest opportunities of knowing it, about the special matter in hand, and having the smallest interest in its well working, have the management of it, or, control over it. An immense amount of wretched misgovernment might have been avoided if all legislators and all voters had these two wholesome maxims engraven upon their minds." He says further, "The writers on political institutions have taught us that under local self-Government officials exist for the benefit of the people and that under centralisation the people exist for the benefit of the officials, that local self-government provides for the political education of the people and centralisation based upon the principle that every thing is to be done for the people, rather than by the people, creates a spirit of dependance which dwarfs the intellectual and moral faculties and incapacitates for citizenship, that the basis of local self-government is confidence in the people while the fundamental idea of centralisation is distrust of the people."

I have quoted at length the political maxims governing the administration of local self-government so that every man who is interested in it may weigh and consider them carefully with reference to the amended Local Boards Act of 1930.

In view of the fact that 9/10ths of the people in India live in villages, a system of village government is urgently needed to look to the civic amenities.

The village under the Local Boards Act has been treated as the unit of Local Self-Government. It has, however, to be recognised that there are many small villages in our country and therefore an individual village by itself is incapable of providing for local needs. As the Taluk Board into which villages are grouped for administrative purposes is much too large for a ryot to take an intelligent personal interest in local affairs, we have therefore to find out an intermediate unit which, while large enough to possess resources adequate to provide for local needs, will not be so large as to obscure that personal intimate interest.

Under Section 30 of the amended Act this grouping of villages by constituting Joint committees is possible. A thoughtful decentralisation of the powers of Taluk and District Boards to this body and pooling down the resources of the constituent panchayats of this grouping will make an excellent unit of administration to promote the living interest in the institutions and welfare of the villages generally.

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The Joint committee, or, the group committee may collect taxes and contribution of labour and utilise them for improving cart-tracks, drainage, water supply, irrigation, and provide for lighting or such other needs and amenities as their joint resources can supply. The duties of this Committee may be regulated by bye-laws made under the Act. Ordinarily every such union or group of villages shall have a higher grade primary and vocational school, a village hall or meeting place, reading room, library, agricultural co-operative societies and other social organisations.

While the Unions will be preparing programmes for carrying them out in all cases of capital works, the constituent Panchayats shall maintain them in good order. The rural development fund constituted in the District Board, provincial grants given for rural roads and water supply and any financial aid that may be given by the Taluk Boards and District Boards in addition to what the constituent Panchayats may supply by way of labour would greatly assist the work of rural reconstruction. What is wanted at present is a determined will on the part of the higher civic bodies to constitute Panchayats in all villages, to arrange for their grouping and to release their power and purse to these Unions. Will they do it? Let the representatives of villagers in Taluk and District Boards answer.

The XIX Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference.

The XIX Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference will be held at Madras on the 20th and 21st of June next, under the presidency of **M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar** B. A., B. L., M. L. C., of Coimbatore.

Each Central Bank, District Federation, Local Union, Non-credit Society and Urban Bank is at liberty to send two delegates; while unlimited liability societies are requested to send only one delegate each.

Boarding and Lodging arrangements will be made by the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union for the convenience of the delegates. The delegation fee has, as usual, been fixed at Rs. 2/- per delegate and the fees for Boarding and Lodging at Rs 3/- per delegate for the whole session.

In addition to deputing delegates to attend the conference each institution is requested to kindly make liberal donation as usual, towards the expenses of the conference and thus make it the grand success that it ought to be.

An Adventure with a Veterinary Surgeon.

By MR. V. SANKARASUBRAMANIAN, B.A., (HON.)

A few days back I had an opportunity to go to one of our villages in the company of a Veterinary Surgeon and as my experiences on that occasion may throw some light on the all-absorbing theme of Rural Reconstruction, I shall narrate them briefly. My veterinary friend was informed that there was some outbreak of cattle disease in a village near Madras and I accompanied him to have a glimpse of the life that our peasant leads in his home and also to get a brief spell of rest from the din and noise of the city. We took two bicycles and we galloped on merrily hoping to reach our destination in one hour and returning back to Madras by the evening. Inquiring our way by the passers by, we proceeded along till we had to take to a side track from the main road. But what was our surprise when the side track, after sometime, narrowed into a cart track which again diminished into a foot-path which led into a big tank with some muddy water here and there. Instead of carrying us, the cycle seemed to laugh at our troubles and demand with awful oaths of creakings, to pay for all our past cruelty to it by compelling us to carry it. Now the sun began his merciless attack—it was nearing 11 O'clock—and our throats became parched. But not a drop of water was to be got. The hamlet, our only place of refuge, was visible at a pretty long distance and we trudged on through mud and mire sometimes. At last we reached the village. My friend enquired of the villagers, who had by this time surrounded us, about the cattle disease and then promised to return on another day with the medicines.

On the fixed day we once again proceeded to the village; the medicines had been despatched by a peon even the previous evening. We took our mid-day meals with us and went to the village with some difficulty, but not so much as on the previous occasion. But imagine our surprise to see the peon staying far out from the village with the box of medicines. On inquiry we found that the villagers had changed their minds and that they had decided not to have anything to do with the medicines and the surgeons with their needles. They knew their gods who would deal with them as it best pleased them. How to get out of this fix was the question. My friend took the strong line, bombarded the Village Headman with some awful portents in the way of penalties for putting a Government Officer into so much difficulty, but all to no purpose. The people would have nothing to do with the new-fangled men and their ways. Then like the torrential rain that comes after a very sultry day bringing hope and joy to the forlorn peasant and his parched lands, there came a man from a neighbouring village. When he knew of the affairs, he addressed the villagers a few words. He told them that he knew this surgeon and that he had inoculated the cattle in his village and all animals which were inoculated were free from the disease

and that those who had not done so lamented their folly when their cattle alone perished. Few can understand the change that came over the peasant's faces. Everybody was now for inoculation, so much so, that our stock of medicines was exhausted and we had to stay there for the next day also to get medicines and finish off with the waiting list of cattle.

This small incident gives us some insight into a number of points in our peasant's life. We first see what an isolated life he leads. Not possessing even a good road leading into the village, he loses touch with the outside world and is deprived of all the benefits that come out of seeing other places, things and men. Secondly, he is steeped in superstition and dreads anything outside the usual order of things. But we also find that he is sound at heart. When he finds that a novelty in the form of inoculation can save him from the fear of losing his cattle, there is no limit to his delight at the sight of the new open door of deliverance. He is adaptable and knows perfectly well what is good for him. But his ignorance and fear of humbugs and of Government officials, of whom unfortunately he knows perhaps no one except the Revenue Collector, stand as a great bar between him and the happy life that he wishes for.

OF RURAL INTEREST.

Lightning has its great value to the agriculturist. The air round us consists of four-fifths of nitrogen and one-fifth oxygen. What the agriculturists' crops require is nitrogen in large quantities. This has to be provided. Lightning provides it in the largest measure. It generates electric sparks thousands of feet in length which separate nitrogen in the air from oxygen and deposit it on the agriculturists' land. All this is done for the agriculturist without any cost to him. We know, that sometimes lightning does heavy damage, even killing people.

The cochineal insect as the destroyer of prickly-pear is well established. Certain facts given in "Agriculture and Live-stock in India" for January 1931 are worth reproducing. An area of 40,000 square miles is said to have been already reclaimed from the weed in the Madras Presidency. An area nearly three times this size is expected to be cleared in ten years time. Land valued at a lakh of rupees has been freed of pear in the Tuticorin District alone. In the Jaffna Peninsula in Ceylon, the experiment has been most successful. The pear has been completely eliminated from certain areas. Land which was previously occupied by the scrub 6 to 10 feet high is now under cultivation. The experience in Ceylon shows that the cochineal is effective only in the case of one type of prickly-pear, *Opuntia Delleni* not in the case of *Opuntia Monocantha*. Where there is failure, it is best to examine to what class the pear belongs.

The Local Self-Government Quarterly.

A REVIEW.

The Madras Chamber of Local Boards has published the first number of the first volume of its journal "The Local Self-Government Quarterly". We welcome this enterprise. The number before us is well got up.

The Editor writes a rapid survey of the objects, constitution and the foundation of the Chamber of the Local Boards. There are just a few matters of interest to us in this survey. Eight Presidents of Panchayats have a place in the Provincial Council of the Chamber. They are elected by the Chamber. One hundred Union Panchayats out of 460 are members of the Board. That means the ordinary panchayat has yet not been a member. Though the Chamber functioned earlier in certain matters the actual work of the Chamber, it is stated, began with the meeting on 20th November 1930. We wish all success to the Chamber.

There is one particular point in this review of the Chamber's work that instinctively attracts us. At the opening of the Chamber Rau Bahadur (now the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur) Muniswamy Naidu Garu moved a resolution that the Government should set apart a crore of rupees as a nucleus of a Rural Development Fund. That was on the 11th of August 1929. The budget for 1931-32 is now in operation. The Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Muniswamy Naidu is the Minister in charge. The Rural Development Fund is nowhere. As Sir A. P. Patro put it while on the general discussion of the budget for 1930-31, there has been a reduction under the heads of education and rural development schemes. It is to be hoped that the Hon'ble Mr. Naidu will pull up and give his child, "the Rural Development Fund," some real nourishment before his term of office draws to a close. He has just begun office and probably therefore he has still a claim to be sympathised with. A recent announcement states that the Fund has begun with Seven Lakhs contributed by the Government.

Mr. T. Sivarama Setu Pillai M. A. B. L., writes a very provoking article on the problem of Local Boards finance. In this article he confines himself to the task of finding adequate resources for the activities of local bodies. In a short paragraph he considers the need that exists for money to spend on essential objects such as education and medical aid. He then traces the historical development of Local Boards in this country to draw attention to marks left on the fiscal machinery of the local Boards. He postulates that in countries where the Central Government has developed out of numerous local organisations, the residuary power to tax is naturally vested in the component parts, and the phenomenon of several ill-connected taxes is noticeable only with the central authority. The position, he says, is exactly the reverse in this country, because it is the strong central Government that has

created the Local Bodies by statute. Mr. Sivarama Setu Pillai accepts the classification of taxes adopted by the Taxation Enquiry Committee and gives a survey of the existing fiscal scheme of Local Bodies. He notes a few general features. The first is the specified nature of the sources of taxation; the second, an inordinate dependence on indirect taxes; the third, an inelasticity and irresponsibility that arises as a result. He makes broad suggestions, the aim being to mention ways that may introduce a certain amount of elasticity in the scheme of taxation and the indication of sources which may combine productivity with an ease of collection and a direct sense of responsibility for the levy and collection. The suggestions mention (1) Taxes on Agricultural incomes, (2) taxes on communications and trade; uniform tax on sales (3) a poll-tax. He grants that these involve considerations of the ability of the tax-payer to pay, the equity of the incidence of the various taxes, the machinery for collection, the capacity and the integrity of administrators and the objects of useful expenditure. He invites discussion and leaves the matter at that.

The other articles in the number before us are (1) Some experiments in Rural Reconstruction by Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnaswamy Reddiar, President, District Board, Chingleput, (2) Some thoughts on Village Sanitation by Mr. T. S. Audisubramanian M.B.B.S. B.Sc., District Health Officer, Ramnad, and (3) 'Foundation' by Mr. V. K. Kuppuswamy Iyer, Retired Engineer, P.W.D.

Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnaswamy Reddiar's article is a brief, popular survey of Rural Reconstruction work carried on at the instance of the District Board Chingleput from the year 1927. The work was begun in three Revenue Firkas in three different taluks and in all about a hundred villages came under the scheme. Three Supervisors were appointed. The Village Panchayat was the chief instrument utilised. 64 village panchayats were newly constituted in a short time and a few moribund ones were revived. Circle Panchayat associations were organised. As work developed, says the President, they began to feel the lack of a permanent resident in each village equipped with sufficient knowledge and enthusiasm for intensive work. Mr. F. L. Brayne's Village Guides System was taken up. 100 school-masters drawn from two taluk Board areas, were trained for just 3 months. Scouting, Panchayat administration and practical agriculture formed the basic subjects taught. The progress of these people is being watched. The Guides with medical chests and their cub-movement are attracting attention. Schemes of rural maternity relief, dispensaries, child welfare centres, are progressing under the District Board. The Panchayats are taking interest in repairing the roads, lighting them, and are getting to interest themselves in the control of drinking water sources, scrutiny of birth and death registers, supervision of local schools etc. Mr. Reddi, however, considers that Panchayats have proved unequal to undertake road works. Lack of common interest among the neighbouring

panchayats, want of initial capital, and the system of post-payment are according to him responsible for this inability. We are sure when financial limitations are overcome, the Panchayats would certainly find common interest also.

Mr. V. K. Kuppuswamy Iyer's article is technical dealing with the load-bearing capacity of foundations. After a perusal of the article a lay man rises with the notion that sand filled in the foundation, not at the surface, has a very great value.

Mr. T. S. Audisubramanian's article is a plea for the new Public Health Act and a case made out to bestow more powers on the Health Department. However, for village sanitation he does not rule out private voluntary efforts like the Sewage Disposal Societies, Antimalarial societies, Rural Reconstruction Centres and Village Guides. In the whole article we fail to see helpful suggestions to the villagers themselves to keep themselves sanitarily fit by utilisation of such resources as are nearest available. Outside agencies and authorities and material have their own place. What is really needed is to find for the villager the cheapest way of keeping himself clean and healthy, and all the researches of our well-meaning Western Scholars will be of no avail until they discover the simplest and the cheapest ready-to-hand solution for village improvement.

Besides these articles, the quarterly before us has a large number of pages devoted to (1) "Local Boards at work" (2) Letters to the Chamber and (3) Miscellaneous matters including reports of conferences, administration reports, etc. Messages of goodwill form a conspicuous part also.

The annual subscription is Rs. 4. Copies may be had of the Publisher, Panagal Buildings, Saidapet.

G. H. S.

BACK TO AGRICULTURE.

The Illustrated "Hindu" of 5th April 1931, publishes a remarkable picture of an ornamented gateway of a citadel made of 15,000,000 oranges, lemons, limes, grape fruit and lesser known citrus fruits. This is how the California fruiterers exhibited their wares at the California fruit Exhibition. A citadel of citrol was also equally well constructed and exhibited.

England sends to South Africa home-grown orange trees from which subsequently some of the finest luscious, golden fruit comes back to England.

Tea is one of the most largely used beverages of the world. We in India produce very large quantities of it. Over there in America, they use very large quantities of tea, some of it ours also. There are thousands of brands of leaf. To decide the brands which may be consumed by their people it appears that seven Americans have volunteered to taste all these brands for one week to protect their nation against inferior brands. They sit round a revolving table, delicately sipping the beverage of which their technical knowledge is of the highest.

Round Local Bodies.

(The Local Self-Government Quarterly a review of which appears in this issue publishes certain correspondence from Presidents etc of Panchayats. We have attempted below to make our own suggestions to solve questions raised therein.—Editor).

The President, Sulur Panchayat (Coimbatore Dt.) claims that all market fees should go to Panchayats. He would have subrule 7 of Rule 5 A of Schedule V to the Local Boards Act which reads as "Fees levied in public markets in the village not classified as Taluk Markets" amended as "Fees levied on public markets in the village". His contention is that the present rule affects Panchayats adversely and deprives them of the income they hitherto enjoyed. Even if the Government should frame rules making it incumbent upon Taluk Boards to pay a contribution to Village Funds out of the so-called Taluk markets within the villages it will not be less of a death-blow to Panchayats who derive their chief income from markets. His Panchayat, he says, will be affected very seriously. The government can certainly adjust matters if they allow Taluk Boards not to encroach upon *markets which have never been theirs.*

The President of the Sembiam Panchayat points out that there is no provision in the Local Boards Act to call upon heads of offices to furnish particulars of persons employed for purposes of levying the Profession Tax. Section 97 of the Municipal Act is clear. Any panchayat may ask for the extension of any section of the District Municipalities Act under section 206 of the Local Boards Act. If any president of any panchayat believes that he must have powers to ask for names of employees from heads of offices, be it Railway or any other, the best course is to apply for extension of section 97 of the District Municipalities Act.

The President of the Union Panchayat, Madurantakam, asks in reference to duties of Village Panchayats which they may take up at their choice under sub-rule (2) of Rule 1 A of Schedule V to the Madras Local Boards Act, whether the Panchayats have to ignore the provisions of the Act now supposed to be in force until rules are published in the Gazette by the Government in regard to these matters or whether they are competent to interfere and carry on in these matters. Amongst matters dealt with in sub-rule (2) of Rule 1 A there are duties which some of the panchayats should already have been discharging such as the registration of births and deaths, control of

pounds, maintenance of cartstands etc. Surely the Panchayats cannot stop their hands and sit idle. What is contemplated in the Act is that the administration of these subjects should be subject to the control of rules made by the Government. As long as the Government makes no rules the Panchayats may go on administering as usual. They must conform to rules when rules are framed.

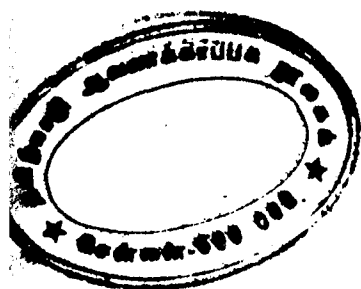
The President of the Panchayat, Nidamangalam draws attention to the situation in regard to cattle pounds. The Inspector of Local Boards intimated in his endorsement N. Dis 607 dated 16th Jan 1931 that the Government have definitely refused to transfer existing cattle pounds to the control of Panchayats and to allow the construction and maintenance of new pounds. The President of the Panchayat Nidamangalam says that if the Government order were before coming into force of the Amendment Act of 1930 the provision of the Act supersedes it. If it were after the Act, it cannot supersede the provision of the Act until the Legislative Council passes a resolution. This is a perfectly legitimate position. By the Amendment Act of 1930 cattle pounds have become the subjects of administration by the Panchayat. The Government should seek no backdoor method to undo what has been consciously done by legislation.

The President, Union Panchayat, Madurantakam, asks, in view of the fact that old Union Board areas have ceased to be towns, whether Union Boards are competent to take steps under the provisions of the Towns Nuisance Act without further notification of extension of the Act to these areas by the Government. It is doubtful, if at any time, any Union Board was competent to administer the Towns Nuisance Act. Under section 6 of the Act any Police officer may arrest without warrant any person committing any offence under the Act. Under section 9 magistrates, other than heads of villages, and officers of Police not below the rank of Assistant or Deputy Superintendent are allowed certain other powers in regard to gaming houses. In the Local Boards Act, however, provisions analogous to the Provisions of the Towns Nuisance Act exist. Certain sections in chapters VIII, IX, and X Viz 122, 123, 126, 129, 147, 149, 150, 154, 157, 163 (1), and 183 enact provisions similar to section 3. Sub-sections (5), (6), (9) and (11) Section 4 and section 10 of the Towns Nuisance Act. All Local Boards including Union Panchayats may fully exercise powers under these sections. The Local Boards Act does not touch rash and negligent driving, begging in streets, gambling or cock-fighting, drunken, riotous or indecent behaviour and cruelty to animals. If the Government acts at all, it must act under section 65 C of the Local Boards Act and allow Panchayats to administer the whole of the Towns Nuisance Act after extending the same to the "Village" area.

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The President, Taluk Board, Cheyyar, urges upon his District Board to take steps under section 71 of the Local Boards Act and provide for a free interchange of men between all the Local Boards in the District whenever vacancies occur. He says that if the entire Local Boards Service is not treated as one cadre for purposes of appointment and promotion, the sudden dislocation caused in the finance of a Local Board, necessitated for example by the Amended Act of 1930, the services entertained by it may have to go without any appointment, while Local Boards which have to entertain additional establishment will be left to recruit new men. It may be so, but Section 71, does not contemplate either a District Local Fund Service or transfers from one Local Board to another within the District. Sub-section (i) of section 71 may give the impression that under cover of laying down conditions of service you may lay down conditions of transfer. But this is impossible because under section 67 the President of any individual Local Board is the sole authority for all proposals in regard to appointments under that Local Board and under section 72 he is the sole authority in regard to all discipline over his subordinates. The Legislature has provided specifically in Section 74A for the provincialisation of any class of officers or servants of Local Boards into a Local Fund Service. If a majority of Local Boards agree, it is quite possible to have a good Local Fund Service. Till then, Section 71 can only be a general power in the hands of the District Boards to lay down limits within which Local Boards under them may act.

The President of the Cheyyar Taluk Board also draws attention to the financial effect of the Amendment Act on his board. There are 300 panchayats for 400 villages of this Board. He has to pay down Rs. 16,000 as 3 pies portion to the panchayats. He cannot cut down anywhere lest he should harm the panchayats themselves. His normal receipts are Rs. 52,100. His normal expenditure Rs. 51,600. If he contributes Rs. 16,000 to the panchayats his income falls to Rs. 35,600. There would be a yawning deficit. It can be made good only by a Government grant. A Taluk Board that has so well worked the Panchayat scheme does really deserve the grant. There are not many Taluk Boards like this and it must be hoped that Government will come to their help.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) To the Panchayats and Presidents of Taluk Boards.

The Editor of the "Panchayat" will be pleased to have short occasional notes from and about all the Panchayats now existing in the Presidency for publication in this Journal. Irrigation, Forests, Co-operative Panchayats and Panchayat courts and voluntary organisations doing arbitration work are all requested to send notes of interest. It is desired that the notes should be fairly brief and to the point, so that the Editor may be able to deal with the maximum matter in the minimum space without sacrificing clearness.

- (2) To the Readers.

The Editor will always be pleased to hear from the readers any suggestions for the improvement of the Journal.

Any contributions bearing upon the Panchayats and their future in particular and all rural development in general are welcome. Contributors are requested to note that an article covering more than a thousand words may not be in form for this Journal. Contributors are also requested to note that they will please send their contributions in that language in which they desire them to appear.

- (3) Please Note.

All copies for the Press have to be legibly written on one side of the paper. It will always be helpful if contributors note that quarter sheets of foolscap size make a standard manuscript.

OUR EXCHANGES.

We have very great pleasure in acknowledging with thanks the following journals sent to us in exchange.

The Gramani.

The Calcutta Municipal Gazette.
(Bengali) Palli Swaraj.

(Maharatti) Poona Municipal
Rural India.

(Tamil) Village Uplift.

(Telugu) The Sadhana.

The Health

The Sadgope Patrika (in Bengali)

The Madras Co-operator.

The Madras Local Self-Government
Quarterly.

The Samadarsani (Telugu).

The Koumodaki (Telugu).

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT.

(Formerly the Village Panchayat Bulletin).

VOL. I.]

JUNE 1931.

[No. 9.

Our place under the Sun.

I

Now that we are on the eve of great events it is right that we should acquaint ourselves with the exact position we occupy in material relationship with the rest of the world. However deep our poverty may be, and whatever our figures 'per capita' in matters of income may show, there is no question that we are pre-eminently a nation with enormous trade relationships and world-wide repute for our raw materials. This is truly sufficient foundation upon which we may well build our future, if we so desire.

The volume of trade is often a very fair index of the importance of a nation. In the whole world we stand sixth in the volume of trade. The United Kingdom still holds the first place with 2040 millions of pounds value. The United States of America come close upon her heels with 1874 millions; Germany with 1279; and France with 850 millions; and Canada with 541 millions are in advance of our country which claims but 435 million pounds of trade. Japan, the land of Liliputians, is chasing us with 417 millions. We have to examine the value of these figures by a still further test to understand their significance. Of all these countries we are by far the largest in population. The population of the United Kingdom is about five crores, almost a seventh of ours; of the United States of America eleven crores, a little less than a third of ours; Germany about six crores and a half, about a fifth of ours; France four crores, about a ninth of ours; Canada not more than a crore, 3 per cent of ours; and Japan eight crores, a little less than a fourth of ours. All these, our rivals in trade, put together count as many as our own population.

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That out of about 10,910 millions of world trade the first five peoples should hold 6,043 millions is a fact that should spur us on to greater and greater activity immediately. Of these five countries that are ahead of us and Japan that is close behind us, Canada, United States of America, Germany and France are agricultural as well as industrial countries. Just to-day Russia has been appearing on the horizon as a competitor to these countries also. These are not in need of importing food from abroad as the United Kingdom and Japan nor are they in need of importing manufactured articles as India is.

In this article we shall first deal with our relationship with the United Kingdom, the very premier in the volume of total world trade.

If you only examine the import figures of the United Kingdom, i.e. England, Scotland and Wales, you will find that the imports consist mostly of food and raw materials. Wheat worth 58 millions, other grains worth 40 millions, tea worth 36 millions, fruits worth 34 millions, butter worth 52 millions, meat and animals worth 125 millions, other vegetable food, and drink and tobacco worth 159 millions, timber worth 43 millions, all these form a substantial part of imports. From the list one may exactly observe that what is most necessary for man—material for food, drink, and shelter—all comes from outside. The other part of imports is raw material—cotton 81 millions, wool 64 millions, hides and skins 26 millions, petroleum 44 millions, oil-seeds and vegetable oils etc., 39 millions also indicates that raw material for clothing and transit has equally to come from outside. In addition to these the United Kingdom imports textile goods to the value of 94 millions, metal goods 57, machinery and hardware 29, other manufactured goods 127. The import of these manufactured goods is mostly for re-export. Having such huge imports how does the United Kingdom pay for them? It is clear that England is able to stand on her legs because she is still pre-eminent the clearing house for the world. The services that she renders in that behalf to the world are very very great. She is also still the greatest manufacturing country of the world. Her total exports, practically of all manufactured goods, are valued at about 850 million pounds. Out of this, if we subtract imported manufactured goods handled by her, we shall have a net manufacturing capacity for the United Kingdom, over and above meeting her own wants which are not small, of 537 million pounds.

We in India are likely to over estimate the importance of cotton goods trade with us for England. It is no doubt very important is

OUR PLACE UNDER THE SUN

so far as 146 out of 537 millions of manufacturing capacity appears only in cotton goods. This works out to about 27 per cent. Of this it is well that we remind ourselves that 47.6 millions worth of cotton goods come to India, granting that all the import of cotton goods is of British manufacture. This is but 32 per cent of the whole British cotton goods capacity and only nine per cent of her manufacturing capacity. Therefore, while even the entire obliteration of India's cotton goods trade with England is of vital importance for India, since she becomes self-supporting in regard to 56 per cent of her imports from the United Kingdom and 40 per cent of her total imports, it does not mean anything near dangerous at all for the United Kingdom. We do not deny that some part of the population of England will be badly affected. According to the latest news Mr. Andrews is already in Lancashire living amongst the cotton workers to gain first hand experience of the distress suffered by them on account of the recent boycott of foreign cloth in India. He does find very great suffering among the poor in Blackburn and Darwin, centres of Indian trade. He is expected to report results to Gandhiji. With all that, we must say that but for the cry of Lancashire, necessarily the interested population, the United Kingdom can well look upon India's attempt, to supply herself, with the highest liberality and great prospects of expansion in other directions for herself. It may be permissible to state that the whole population of Lancashire is just 49 lakhs, not even five millions. Compared to figures near about us it comes to the aggregate of the population of our own Rayala seema, i.e., Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur and Chittoor districts put together. If the number of mill-operatives engaged in cotton goods manufacture is taken it would be much less, just 600,000 this day. In the fair interests of what is called the coming British Common-wealth, is it too much that this small group of brethren should be called upon to suffer at the worst a diminution of 32 per cent of their prosperity for the sake of 350 millions of people in India who, to-day, are not having one seventh of the *per capita* income that England has.

It will not be out of place here just to quote an extract from the "Producer" for May 1931. Mr. James Hoslam writing under the caption "The Lancashire Cotton Outlook" says—

"Unless we can put finished cloth in markets like China, Japan and India, at prices which will compare with native prices and incoming competitors, we must make up our mind that we shall have to put up with a less extensive cotton industry."



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"This may mean (as it seems most likely to mean) that our 57½ million spindles will have to come down to a little over 43 millions and our 700,000 looms (800,000 a few years ago) to about 525,000 and the workers from 600,000 to a little over 400,000.

"* * * In 1912 we produced 8000 million lineal yards of cloth and less than 4000 in 1930. In 1913 we sold to foreign countries 7,075,252,000 lineal yards and only 2,400,449,400 in 1930."

So India alone is not responsible. India, Japan and China which count 830 millions of people out of a total of 1800 millions for the world i.e., 46 per cent of the world's population have got awakened and Lancashire's trade suffers. Can that be helped?

Let us examine for a minute the import figures for India because it is the United Kingdom that imports most into our country, just a little less than half the total imports. All the imports mostly are manufactured goods. Cotton goods figure highest with 47.6 millions now partly reduced. Machinery and cutlery, metal goods vehicles, mineral oils, textile goods other than cotton goods, sugar food and drink, chemicals and colours and other goods find a place in the imports. All these are not necessarily imports from the United Kingdom. Wherever they may come from, if our poverty has to be countered, the first requisite must be to check the import of what may easily be manufactured in our own country. Cotton goods worth 47.6 millions, other textile goods worth 11.2 millions, food and drink worth 12.3 millions, sugar worth 12 millions, grain and flour worth 8 millions, all these worth in the aggregate about a hundred million pounds may be easily avoided by a national government. That would mean adding to Indian income 133 crores of rupees or rather getting relieved of our annual poverty by this amount. This is the barest improvement that can immediately be made in the Indian situation.

The Hindu Illustrated Weekly of May 17, 1931 gives us a photo of a remarkable cow and one of her daughters in America. The cow holds the world record for milk yield. A statue has been erected in Washington to that cow which is reported to have yielded 37,000 lbs. of milk in a year. This comes roughly to 33 measures a day. What a contrast does our country, the land of sacred cows, present to America!

* * *

It is reported that since there is only half the usual volume of water running in the Nile, pad may not be cultivated in Egypt this year.

Editorial Notes.

Mahatma Gandhi writing in Young India of the 28th May under the caption 'Panchayats' has very hard things to say about certain 'crude' attempts made by Congressmen to revive the system of Panchayats by giving the village elders civil and criminal jurisdiction. His remarks are reproduced in another place. One sentence in his article is remarkably apt. "Irregular panchayats are bound to fall to pieces under their own unsupportable weight." As long as it is voluntary Panchayats that are under discussion, all that Mahatmaji says holds good. But in almost all the provinces of India some sort of a statutory panchayat exists for certain purposes. As a matter of fact there are panchayats for diverse purposes. The Village Panchayat is really the administrative panchayat with legal powers vested in it to enforce sanitary conditions and carry out some ameliorative functions. There are in many places statutory panchayat courts set up by a sort of election. The Co-operative panchayat is also a body set up by election, chiefly intended for financial purposes, but all the same competent to do social service, sometimes by its very nature, and at other times out of its common good fund which it is allowed to accumulate. Beyond and above these bodies there are irrigation panchayats and forest panchayats set up practically by executive order. If a non-statutory Congress panchayat is also added, we are afraid it will be either an unnecessary encumbrance to the villagers or at best an ineffective non-entity. As Mahatmaji observes it is bound to become in course of time an irregular Panchayat. At present all local Self-Government is entirely within the province of Ministers and it is bound to be more so in the future. While we agree with Mahatmaji that judicial Panchayats should not be lightly constituted with a fixed personnel and we go further and advocate, as we have hitherto advocated in these pages, that judicial trials in villages should be conducted by compulsory arbitration boards consisting of Panchayatdars chosen from out of a numerous list by the common consent of the parties concerned, we yet feel that for ordinary purposes of administrative life in the village, all matters relating to the village should be brought under the control of one and the same Panchayat. That Panchayat, if it should at any time be effective in matters administrative, should be a statutory Panchayat. We, therefore, appeal to Mahatmaji and all congressmen that, wherever possible, they should capture by all means, the local self-governing unit in the villages, that is, the Panchayat and try their best to acquire for that body all the powers of administration that may be acquired under the existing laws in force. The next step will be to request all legislators to attempt their best to modify the laws within their province so as to render Panchayats really self-governing institutions in the villages with the co-operative movement as their financial counterpart and compulsory arbitration by common consent and conciliation as their judicial instrument. It is only then that we would have reached a fair degree of village autonomy and we would be on the high road to Purna Swaraj.

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Vegetable ghee has of late occupied the attention of all well wishers of people's health in this country. The Central Government and some of our own non-official members do not see anything harmful in this product which is being imported under various labels. They consider that it is a product of commerce and as such should not be interfered with. However, there is a growing volume of opinion that steps should be taken immediately to stop the importation of this product. The Government of Punjab has prohibited the import and we congratulate that Government upon the good sense that it has shown. We hope that good sense will prevail in all the provinces of our country and that vegetable ghee will no longer be imported to the detriment of the people of this land. While on this subject, we may mention that the Corporation of Calcutta has undertaken to examine the question very carefully and they have got reports from their own local men who are great authorities on the subject that they have dealt with. The answers to the questionnaire sent to Rai Bahadur Dr. Harinath Ghosh, M.D., are very interesting and we give them below.

The questionnaire of the Calcutta Corporation was as follows:-

- “(a) Whether Vanaspati Ghee or Vegetable product is injurious to health.
- (b) Whether such product has any nutritive value.
- (c) What sort of diseases such product is likely to produce in the human system.
- (d) Whether such product can be used as a substitute for natural ghee.
- (e) If such product is not suitable as food, whether its import should be stopped by legislation.
- (f) The appearance of such vegetable product being similar to that of natural ghee, whether it is not desirable to denature it in such a way as to be easily detected by sight or smell.
- (g) Whether the incidence of Beri-beri in the City has any connection with the import and extensive use of vegetable produce in the City.
- (h) How its import can be effectively stopped.

The good doctor holds that Vanaspati ghee or vegetable ghee is not directly injurious to health. It has no nutritive value as compared to animal ghee. In the animal ghee there are aromatic principles which give it its characteristic flavour and also aid digestion and sterilisation of the digested food. The animal ghee contains vitamins in a large measure. It increases the individual's natural powers of resistance to various infectious diseases. The want of these two ingredients is obviously deleterious from the hygienic or health point of view. He asserts emphatically that this product cannot be substitute for animal ghee and he is of opinion that its import should be stopped by legislation and he thinks that no amount of tinkering with the position will be of real use.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In the Fort St. George Gazette of the 19th May 1931 the Government have been pleased to make a rule for the constitution of committees for the classification of Local Board roads, choultries, and hospitals and dispensaries. They have acted under sub-section (1) and clause(a) of sub-section (2) of 199 and sub-rule(1) of rule 3 of Schedule V. The rule so made constitutes for every district a classification Committee consisting of the President of the District Board and the Vice-President thereof and Presidents of all the Taluk Boards within the area. Sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of Schedule V runs as follows :-

“The proposals for the classification of roads as District and Taluk Roads, of choultries as District and Taluk choultries, of hospitals and dispensaries as district hospitals and dispensaries and as rural dispensaries shall be framed by a committee on which both the District and Taluk Boards shall be represented in such proportions and manner as may be prescribed.”

We do not know whether the Government have taken legal opinion upon one point i.e. whether on this committee they cannot appoint others than the representatives of the District and Taluk Boards. In the classification of roads, choultries and dispensaries, the panchayats in every district have a great deal to gain or lose as per the decisions of this committee. They have really the residuary ownership of all institutions within their area. Therefore, it is but fair that they should be given a voice, however small and humble it may be, in such committees. We wish that the Government once more examined the position and made provision for the inclusion of some representatives of the panchayats in all such committees. We are clearly of opinion that Rule (3) Sub-rule (1) does not prevent the Government from acting very liberally towards the Panchayats.

We find in the issue of the Fort St. George Gazette of the 19th May a number of notices given by the Government in regard to rules relating to notifications *re* Panchayats under the Local Boards Act. Declaring a part of Revenue taluk to be a village and declaring the name of the village, excluding from a village a local area comprised therein, or including in a village a local area in the vicinity thereof and in the same revenue taluk, or cancelling a notification issued under sub-section 1 of Section 5, or altering the name of a village, superceding a panchayat, postponing the reconstitution of a panchayat so superceded, or excluding the area of such a panchayat from the operations of the Madras Local Boards Act, or cancelling the notification

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issued constituting such area to be a village are all dealt with in the notices. In all these cases publication in English in the Fort St. George Gazette, and in the chief vernacular of the district is prescribed. It is to be feared that this will not be sufficient. In addition to these, publication in a local vernacular paper and tom-toming in the areas concerned should be prescribed. Publication in the chief vernacular of the district may work hardship in bilingual areas like Bellary or Ganjam. It is best that the chief vernacular is the chief vernacular of the area concerned. If the Government should feel that for any reason that is not easy to find out, they may adopt the wording "in the chief vernacular or vernaculars of the district."

At a gathering of village panchayat representatives of the Guntur Dt. at Jammalapalem on 12.4.'31 a farewell address was presented to T. G. Rutherford Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., the Registrar General of Panchayats on the eve of his departure to England. The following passage from the same is reproduced as indicative of the estimate in which he was held by the people.

"As the head of the Panchayat Department, you have contributed a good deal towards making the lot of village-folk comfortable and happy by the enunciation of a liberal policy of grant-in-aid for village improvements. You have used your influence with the Government and have secured from them concession for the application of Government help for the repairs and improvement of the existing sources of water-supply. With your close acquaintance with the conditions of the district, you have sanctioned estimates for 2 lakhs of Rupees and a boring-well at a great cost in the waterless area of Pedanandipadu. Discarding all red-tapism you have taken steps for the prompt execution of works and the Panchayats have felt the quickening impulse of your ready response to their wants. Divested of all official stiffness you have moved with the people on terms of equality and captured their hearts."

An American Journal says :

One-Crop farming has met its most severe test during the past year, and in almost every section of the country it has been found wanting. A few milk cows, fifty or one-hundred hens, five or six brood sows, and enough feed to keep them producing for the year round, coupled with the diversification of field crops, will usually provide reliable insurance against serious shortage of income.

Panchayats.

(BY M. K. GANDHI.)

Panchayat has an ancient flavour ; it is a good word. It literally means an assembly of five elected by villagers. It represents the system by which the innumerable village republics of India were governed. But the British Government, by its ruthlessly thorough method of revenue collection, almost destroyed these ancient republics which could not stand the shock of this revenue collection. Congress men are now making a crude attempt to revive the system by giving village elders civil and criminal jurisdiction. The attempt was first made in 1921. It failed. It is being made again, and it will fail if it is not systematically and decently, I will not say scientifically, tried.

It was reported to me in Nainital, that in certain places in the U. P. even criminal cases like rape were tried by the so-called Panchayats. I heard of some fantastic judgements pronounced by ignorant or interested Panchayats. This is what comes to me from far off Assam ;

"It has been ascertained that the Congress Committee at Chaparmukh has set up a sort of rival administrative machinery there for the trial and disposal of civil and criminal cases. There are a few branch offices in the neighbourhood of Chaparmukh which dispose of similar business. At Chaparmukh office registers are being maintained for civil and criminal cases. It is understood, that fines are imposed in criminal cases, and decrees are passed in civil suits, and that in a few cases attachments of property have been made or attempted in execution of decrees."

This is all bad if it is true. Irregular panchayats are bound to fall to pieces under their own unsupportable weight. I suggest therefore the following rules for the guidance of village workers :

1. No Panchayat should be set up without the written sanction of a Provincial Congress Committee ;
2. A Panchayat should in the first instance be elected by a public meeting called for the purpose by beat of drum ;
3. It should be recommended by the Tehsil Committee ;
4. Such Panchayat should have no criminal jurisdiction ;
5. It may try civil suits if the parties to them refer their disputes to the Panchayat ;
6. No one should be compelled to refer any matter to the Panchayat ;
7. No Panchayat should have any authority to impose fines, the only sanction behind its civil decrees being its moral authority, strict impartiality, and the willing obedience of the parties concerned ;
8. There should be no social or other boycott for the time being ;

(Continued on the next page.)

Proceedings of the Second Conference of the Panchayat Boards in Puttur Taluk

*Held in the Board Higher Elementary School, Puttur
on Monday the 20th April 1931.*

Out of 82 Panchayat Boards in the taluk, 64 delegates from 46 Panchayat Boards were present. Besides the President, Puttur Taluk, the Revenue Divisional Officer, the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the local Tahsildar, the local Sub-Magistrate, the two Panchayat Overseers and two Panchayat Supervisors in the taluk were also present.

The Conference met informally at 10 A.M. and took a rapid review of the work done in the past in the different fields of activities appertaining to Panchayats. The following position was disclosed :

1. Panchayat Boards in Beltangady Division	...	21
Do. do. in Puttur do.	...	61
Total	...	82

2. Villages covered by panchayats are 89 out of 184 in the taluk.

(Continued from page 161).

9. Every Panchayat will be expected to attend to
- The education of boys and girls in its village;
 - Its sanitation;
 - Its medical needs;
 - The upkeep and cleanliness of village wells or ponds;
 - The uplift of and the daily wants of the so-called untouchables;

10. A Panchayat, that fails without just cause to attend to the requirements mentioned in clause 9 within six months of its election, or fails otherwise to retain the goodwill of the villagers, or stands self condemned for any other cause, appearing sufficient to the Provincial Congress Committee, may be disbanded and another elected in its place.

The disability to impose fines or social boycott is a necessity of the case in the initial stages. Social boycott in villages has been found to be a dangerous weapon in the hands of ignorant or unscrupulous men. Imposition of fines too may lead to mischief and defeat the very end in view. Where a Panchayat is really popular and increases its popularity by the constructive work of the kind suggested in clause 9, it will find its judgements and authority respected by reason of its moral prestige. And that surely is the greatest sanction any one can possess and of which one cannot be deprived.

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3. *Supervision* done by two supervisors: one for Beltangady division and the other for Puttur division.

The District Board bears the full cost of keeping up the Supervisor in Beltangady Division and also contributes half the cost of the pay and allowances of the Puttur Supervisor.

4. Communications.

	In Previous year.	In 1930-31.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
A. (1) In Puttur Dvn. grants drawn.	1,447	6,955	8,402
(2) In Beltangady- grants drawn.	...	6,332	6,332
Total Rs. ...	1,447	13,287	1,44,734

	No.	Value of work done up to 1930-31.	Balance.
		RS.	RS.
B. Incomplete works—			
Puttur Division ...	21	16,804	19,589
Beltangady Division...	10	12,664	6,833
Total ...	31	29,468	26,443

C. Estimates awaiting sanction of half grants :—

	No.	Amount.
		RS.
Puttur Division ...	4	5,460
Beltangady ...	8	5,780
D. Estimates called for :—		
Puttur Division ...	23	...
Beltangady ...	7	...

5. Public Health—Sanitation.

A. Panchayats looking after conservancy of the larger villages are :—(1) Puttur, (2) Vittal, (3) Uppinangady; (4) Beltangady; (5) Guruvayakakere and (5) Syllia.

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B. Lighting.

Name of Panchayats.	No. of lights maintained.
1. Puttur ...	24
2. Vittal ...	5
3. Sullia ...	3
4. Uppinangady ...	6
5. Guruvayanakere ...	4
6. Beltangady ...	4

C. Drinking water supply—Wells:—

	No.	Total estimated cost.	Govt. grant drawn.
		RS.	RS.
(1) Completed—			
Beltangady division ...	2	1,750	875
Puttur division ...	...	...	...
(2) Incomplete:—			
Beltangady division ...	1	825	120
Puttur ...	1	900	130
(3) Subsidy sanctioned and awaiting execution—			
Beltangady division.	1	895	...
Puttur division ...	2	1,475	...
(4) Estimates ready and awaiting sanction—			
Puttur division ...	...	...	...
Beltangady division.	...	...	...
(5) Estimates called for:—			
Puttur division ...	6	...	...
Beltangady division.	6	...	...
Total ...	19	5,845	1,125

6. Education

A. Schools...Elementary—46 (excluding the Perabe Panchayat School permanently closed) 45 panchayats conduct 26 schools—the Puttur Panchayat alone conducting 2 schools.

Staff—Number of teachers employed ...	51
Of whom trained ...	2
Amount of annual subsidy on account of these school teachers ...	Rs. 9,000.

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Buildings—Owned buildings—tiled ...	22 schools.
" " thatched ...	13 "
Buildings wanted for ...	11 "
	46
	—

Building grants sanctioned and drawn in 1930-31:—

Number of schools ... 16

Amount of Government grant drawn—Rs. 4,765

B. Public Libraries.—

	Up to 1929-30.	In 1930-'31.	Total.
Number of libraries ...	29	4	33
Grants drawn ...	Rs. 3,009	Rs. 540	Rs. 3,549

The regular Session of the Conference began at 3-25 p.m. when Mr. J. Hussein, Bar-at-law, the Collector of South Kanara opened the Conference.

In his speech he dwelt on the great possibilities of panchayats in laying foundations for the peace, happiness and prosperity of the people and exhorted the panchayatdars present not to allow their work to be swayed or tinted by personal consideration or self-interest.

Mr. M. Shiva Rao, President, Taluk Board then took the Chair and the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

I. This Conference requests Government to take early steps to make Kanarese copies of the Madras Local Boards Act and all the Rules framed thereunder available to Panchayats and also to issue in Kanarese full translations or at least the substance of Government Orders concerning panchayats.

II. In view of the need for a public meeting place and office for panchayats for which suitable building are as a rule not available, this Conference requests the Puttur Taluk Board to permit the use of board school buildings wherever they are wanted for the purpose.

III. This Conference while thanking the District Board for generously inaugurating a Rural Reconstruction Scheme in Beltangady division in January 1930, hears with much concern that the provision for the Scheme in the Current year's budget has been diverted with a view to open a new High School at Mulki and the Board has resolved that the working of the scheme may be terminated, is money for the same cannot under law be found from the Village Development Fund. This Conference therefore appeals to the Board not to terminate the working of the scheme as it will render infructuous the beneficent work which has just

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begun and which deserves every encouragement in the interest of public welfare.

IV. This Conference invited the kind attention of the Puttur taluk Board to the extraordinary extensive area and the large number of panchayats in charge of the Puttur Panchayat Supervisor which renders efficient work almost impossible and requests the Board to take early steps to appoint two more Supervisors for the Puttur Division and also to appoint a peon for each of the Supervisors as travelling alone from village to village in forest tracts and across swollen and dangerous streams especially in the monsoon.

V. In view of the paucity of funds and of resources in general which hampers the carrying out of schemes for improvement of drinking water supply in rural parts without substantial aid from outside, this Conference requests the Committee administering the Village Development Fund in charge of the District Board to grant from the Fund one quarter of the cost of such works to panchayats applying for the same.

VI. In as much as the construction of bridges, culverts and all masonry revetment works requires costly material and outside skilled labour which places the cost quite beyond the poor resources of Panchayat Boards, this Conference appeals to the Committee dealing with the Village Development Fund to make a quarter grant of the cost of such works from the fund to Panchayat Boards applying for the same.

VII. This Conference requests the revenue authorities not to require the obtaining of previous permission before construction of village roads by Panchayats and also to allow all trees etc., on such roads to be cut without specific permission obtained in advance.

VIII. This Conference urges that the payment of seigniorage should not be insisted upon a second time at the re-alienation of Government waste land in favour of Panchayats when once the same has been paid by the Panchayats at the time of the first alienation but the land is resumed by Government for failure to act up to the conditions of alienation.

IX. This Conference is of opinion that in order to stimulate and encourage the use of Panchayat Libraries by the public, it is not desirable to levy any fees for the use of books from such libraries but the panchayats may, if they think fit, insist upon a cash security deposit to make good possible loss by non-return of books.

X. This conference having duly considered the representation of the Higher Elementary School Masters' Conference held at Puttur on the 18th and 19th April 1931 urging that books be issued from Panchayat libraries in sets of 20 or 25 at a time for the use of the students in Higher Elementary Schools on the responsibility of the concerned Head

SECOND CONFERENCE OF PANCHAYAT BOARD IN PUTTUR TALUK

Masters without insisting on the payment of fees or the keeping of any security deposit, is in entire agreement with the same and recommends that it be given effect to by all Panchayat Boards maintaining libraries in stations where there are Higher Elementary Schools.

XI. This Conference fully supports and is in entire agreement with the resolution of the Puttur Taluk Elementary School Masters' Conference held at Puttur on the 19th instant inviting the attention of Panchayats to the necessity of insisting upon and watching the regular attendance of Panchayat School Masters at Teachers' Centre meetings and requests all Panchayats to give effect to the resolution, taking such disciplinary action as they deem fit in cases of wilful default or indifference.

XII. This Conference requests all Panchayats maintaining schools to pay to the head masters concerned eight annas per mensem in the case of single teacher schools and an extra four annas per assistant to meet all contingent charges including stationery, chalk, duster, sweeping etc., as is done in the case of their schools by the Taluk Board.

XIII. This conference while thanking the Inspector of Local Boards for the grants given in the year 1930-31 for Panchayat School Buildings, invites his kind attention to the general paucity of funds under which Panchayats in this Taluk suffer and in consideration of the prevailing poverty and the extreme back-wardness of this inferior Taluk appeals that full half grants be given in the current year in this Taluk as a special case.

XIV. This Conference appeals to Government that it is absolutely necessary for the improved efficiency of Panchayat Schools that teaching grants of higher rates be given when trained teachers—other than those of Secondary Grade are employed in Panchayat Schools.

XV. This Conference authorises the Chairman to communicate the resolutions passed in this Session to the concerned authorities and persons.

All the delegates and other guests, official and non-official, were then served with tea and other refreshments on a lavish scale, thanks to the hospitality of Janab Hagalvady Hussein Sahab Bahadur, President, Puttur Panchayat Board.

The whole party then adjourned to the open amphitheatre outside the school where they spent the rest of the day enjoying a very interesting, instructive and inspiring programme of carefully—selected physical exercises, calisthenics, games, kolatam, dandals, baskis etc., by the students of the Board Higher Elementary School, Puttur under the able and enthusiastic direction of the Physical Instructor Mr. B. M. Baliga.

M. SHIVA RAO,
Chairman. Puttur.

The Madakasira Summer School and Conferences.

From the beginning of May to the 18th of the month, Madakasira in the Anantapur District, was the scene of intense educational activity on account of the summer school and its adjuncts planned and carried out under the auspices of the Penukonda Taluk Board, Rayalaseema Co-operative Institute, the Anantapur Central Co-operative Bank and the Anantapur District Congress Committee. M. R. Ry. Vartakavi Ramachandra Rau Garu, B.A., B.L., Supervisor, Lepakshi Rural Reconstruction Centre was the prime mover and Messrs. Agali Narayana Rau, President Taluk Board, Raghava Charlu Garu, B.A., B.L., Vice-President District Bank and Siddana Gowd, Local Taluk Board Member and Village Munsiff formed the pillars of the whole movement.

Thirty five teachers of elementary schools attended the summer school classes. Regular lectures were delivered hour after hour to them in Telugu. Messrs. V. Venkatasubbiah of the Servants of India Society, G. Harisarvottama Rau, M.A., Editor, the "Village Panchayat" and Professor N. G. Ranga were requisitioned from outside the district not only to teach classes but to take part at other public functions. Bhishagvara Kaipa Subramania Sarma from Nandyal paid a visit to the school and taught some lessons in Home Remedies and Hygiene. The others were mostly Professors and Pandits from the Rayalaseema Arts College or the Rayalaseema Co-operative Institute. Mr. Pappur Rama-Charlu, Secretary of the District Congress Committee and Editor of the 'Sadhana' was there devoting his entire energy to the work of teaching Purana Reading during nights. Mr. Venkata Rau, the famous artist of Rayalaseema with his disciples from the Rayalaseema Art Institute, Penukonda, exhibited his beautiful pictures depicting the exquisite native art of the locality. He has drawn, in addition to his other painting works, pencil sketches of a great many Hampi architectural beauties. His enthusiasm in expounding the Rayalaseema Art is so great that ere long he promises to establish a distinct school of Rayalaseema Art. Ayurveda Vidwan Suryanarayanasaarma of Hindupore and the Agricultural demonstrator Mr. K. Ambikacharan also took very great interest.

The programme followed during these days of the summer school is worth noting. The bell for the morning would ring at 4 a.m. At 5 a.m. people would gather for prayer. After prayer national Nagara Sankeertan would take place till about 6-30. Then Chota Hazri. Classes would begin at 7-15. Indian History, Higher Indian Polity, Indian Economics, Co-operation, Rural Economics, Panchayat and Local Government, Telugu Language, Accounting, Astronomy and allied

Geographical and Mathematical subjects, Art, Physical culture, Agriculture, Health and Medicine were all dealt with in a simple and homely manner. The classes went on till 11 a.m. They began again at 2 p.m. in the evening and went up to 5 p.m., the time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. being used for food and rest. The food served was of a very simple character in keeping with the nature of the patriotic work that was being carried on. The evenings were occupied with public lectures and nights by Purana classes. The people of the place showed great interest.

On the 15th a class was opened by Mr. V. Venkatasubbiah for Co-operative Panchayatdars. He explained clearly the present position in the Co-operative world and asked the Panchayatdars to learn to do their duty without fear or favour.

On the 16th the Taluk Co-operative Conference and the Taluk Ryots Conference took place. Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rau, M.A., presided at the Co-operative Conference. His Presidential address dealt with the great mission of Co-operation. It was the financial aspect of the dawning new democracy. Therefore, however depressed we were feeling at present along with the rest of the world, we had to look ahead and mould our future policies with a view to stand erect as a free nation. He therefore deprecated the attempt made to officialise the Co-operative movement in the new Co-operative Bill before the Madras Legislative Council. He narrated the history of the Movement in India and said that it was in the present condition because of the political and economic policies of an alien bureaucracy, however well-meaning individual administrators might have been towards the people. The whole fault lay in thinking only of the indebtedness of the ryot and refusing to think of the ways and means to strengthen him to earn and repay what he borrowed. Not coercive legislation, but a bold policy of helping the ryot briskly to better farming, better marketing, better utilisation of spare time and better living is the only solution that should be primarily concentrated upon. If the Government feels, however, that some strong measures are necessary, it is best to incorporate such measures into a temporary act of two or three years duration and proceed with the routine amendments of an ordinary Business character in the Consolidating Bill. Mr. Harisarvottama Rau was of the view that Co-operation must immediately address itself to the development of agricultural resources and supplementary cottage industries. Funds must be found and must be found quick.

Professor N. G. Ranga presided over the Ryots Conference. He dwelt at great length and in lucid language on the Constitutional advantages of Gandhiji's Peace pact with Lord Irwin. He stressed the good points as well as the defects of the British as a nation and on the whole paid a glowing tribute to the great statesmen on both sides. He believed

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

we had a bright future before us. But he warned the people that whatever others may do for us, it was always within us, the real people of the land, to form ourselves into Ryots Associations, intelligently follow the events passing before us and act in time for our own well being. Without the mass of people organising themselves well in advance, all Swaraj was a mere name.

Resolutions touching the well-being of the Co-operative movement and all aspects of rural life were passed at both these Conferences. The local M.L.C. Mr. A. Kondappa was present and he also moved a resolution on Forest Panchayats at the Ryots Conference in a felicitous speech.

On the 17th Mr. S. V. Raghavachar gave the whole party including students, teachers, visitors and organisers an opportunity for an excursion into the interior by inviting them to his own village Krishnapuram eight miles away in the Mysore State. The pleasant tramp over hill and plain to the barking of village dogs and the half wondering fear of the simple village folk, sometimes the twilight showing the way, sometimes a single hurricane lamp, and sometimes the customary torch lent by a kindly village potentate, was a great enjoyment over the cool Mysore plateau of these regions. The *Tamala*, the *Margosa*, *Peepal* and just in a place or two, a clump of cocoanuts gave welcome all the way through and the Vaishnavite hospitality of the guest was fully reminiscent of Ramanuja's democratic ideal. One never forgets the glassfuls of tender Coconut water provided by a kindly neighbouring villager Taluk Board member, Mr. Hanumanta Rau.

Atank Nigrah Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

We are informed that the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Atank Nigrah Pharmacy was held on the 19th, 20th and 21st May 1931 in the presence of the Maharajah Jam Saheb of Nawanagar State. The Feeding of the poor, the free distribution of books among school boys and girls, a baby show and the presentation of the Atank Nigrah Tennis Tournament Cup were noteworthy features of the occasion.

Circular No. 106.

[SUBJECT.—Accounts—Village Panchayat Boards—Audit and Form of.]

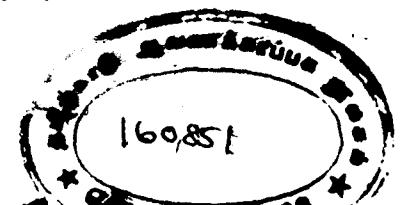
In G. O. No. 512, L. & S. M., dated 18th February 1931, Government have under Rule 12 of the Schedule to the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act directed that the accounts of Panchayats, other than those that were Union Boards prior to 25th August 1930, shall with effect from the 26th August 1930 and until further orders be inspected and checked by the Revenue Department, that the form of accounts to be maintained by such Panchayat Boards shall with effect from 26th August 1930 and until further orders be those that were originally prescribed for them and that the relevant instructions issued by the Registrar-General of Panchayats in connection with the maintenance and supply of forms and the registers which were in force on 26th August 1930 shall continue to be in force until further order. The Panchayat Boards are therefore informed that they should continue to maintain the accounts and registers as usual and produce them for inspection when required by the officers of the Revenue Department.

Circular D. Dis. No. 3035, dated 25th April 1931.

Subject :—CATTLE RAMPS - GRANTS FOR.

Applications for half grants have been and are being received from several panchayats in the Circars towards the cost of construction of ramps for cattle in tanks which are primarily intended for supply of drinking water to human beings. The Health Officers of the Districts concerned who were consulted in the matter are all of the opinion that, from the health point of view, it is desirable to keep all cattle out of the sources of drinking water supply which are intended for human beings. No grant will, therefore, be given in future for construction of cattle ramps in tanks intended for supply of drinking water to human beings. The undersigned will, however, be prepared to give grants for the construction of small auxiliary tanks or cisterns for the use of cattle fed from the main tank by a pipe sluice or a syphon pipe. Such an arrangement obviates the contamination of the main tank and at the same time will adequately meet the needs of cattle. Panchayats which are desirous of providing their cattle with a good supply of water are accordingly advised to adopt the above arrangement and are informed that applications for grants therefor will be favourably considered.

It is 300 years since quinine, the talisman of the Malaria stricken people, has been in use. Therefore it is but fitting that the third centenary was celebrated recently. But one wonders whether there are enough days in a year if the success of each and every Ayurvedic drug is to be allotted a separate day for its celebration.



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* Story in brief was published on page 135 of August issue of the Madras Journal of Co-operation.

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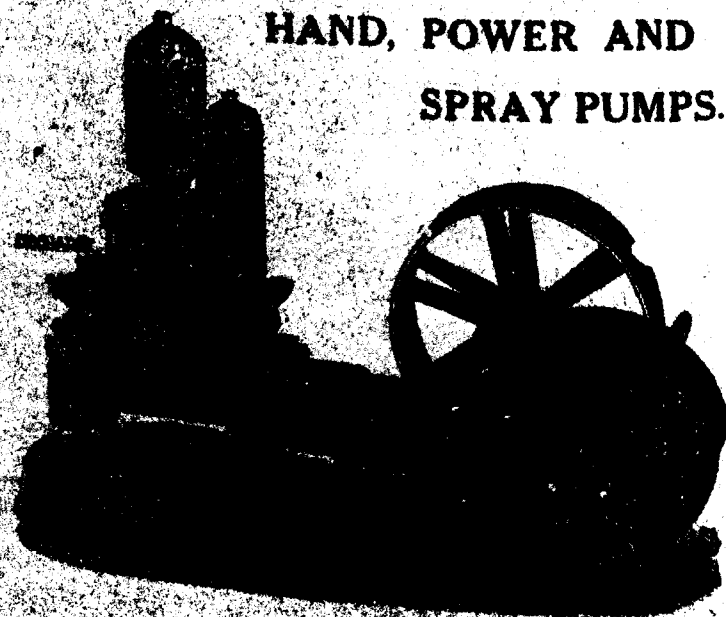
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