

Author *Rural India V. VI* No. 12 Dec. 193

Title

Edition

Preliminary pages.....to.....=

Main book177...to...188=

Supplementary pages.....to.....=

Acc. No. 128456
Total pages

- nil -

12

- nil -

12

Missing pages

Net No. of pages

Date sent for mending

= - nil -

= 12

= 22.2.94

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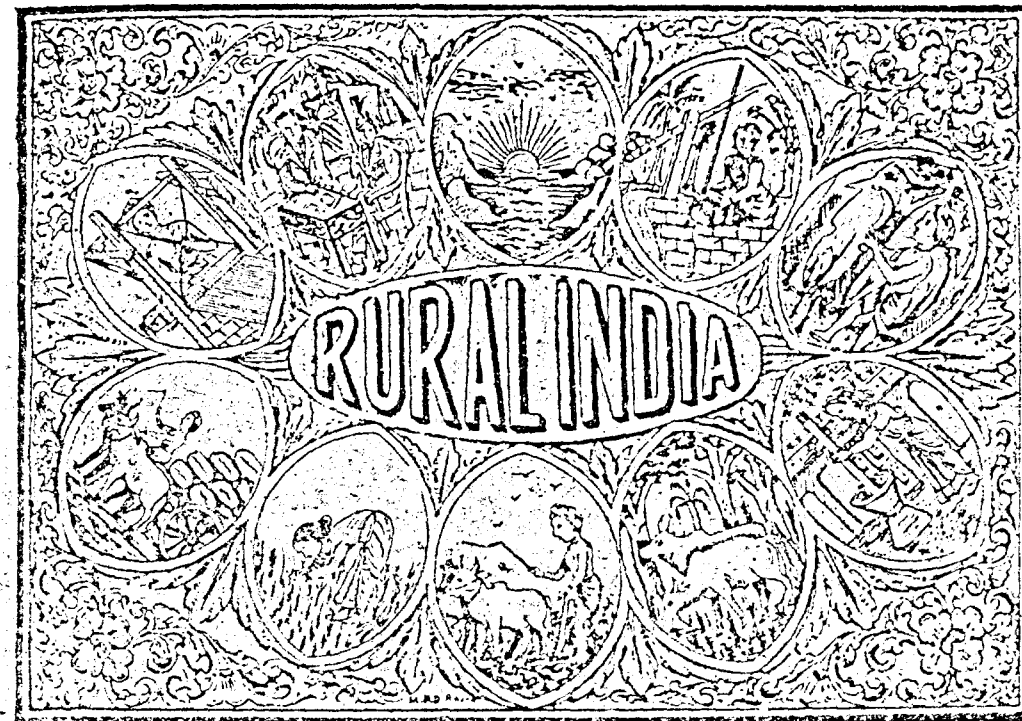
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JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS FOREST PANCHAYATS

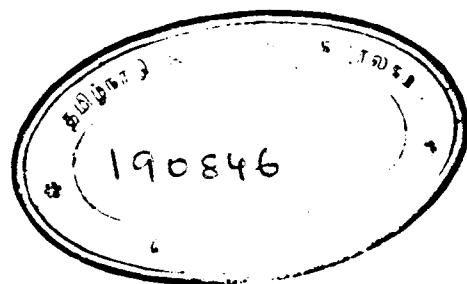
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Honorary Editor:
A. Swaminatha Aiyer, B. A.

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RURAL INDIA

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

Vol. VI

December, 1931.

No. 12

NEGRO WOMEN IMPROVING RURAL LIFE.

By Dr. G. S. Krishnayya, M. A., Ph. D.,

IN EVERY COUNTRY THERE ARE WOMEN WHO ARE ENGAGED in meeting the vital problems of Negro home life. Since most of the ills amongst this group of people in the rural districts can be traced to the lack of comfortable and well-systematized living conditions, it is no exaggeration to say that the Negro Extension Service as carried on by men agents cannot do its best in solving many of the community problems without the aid of women agents. It is reported that "women have a 'knack' of getting the men to make the necessary improvements around the home, and many other things that prove to be too difficult for men agents to accomplish." These agents are no longer known as the "Canning Agents" or the "Food Administration Women", but are looked upon by both white and coloured people in the rural districts as plain every-day teachers of better home methods.

The work of women agents centres in and around the home, and is almost equally divided between adults and juniors. Their activities have to do with home industries through which women and girls earn money, or with the things that make for the health, comfort and better living of the family. Many of the results of their activities are implied in the farm demonstration work described earlier or will be included in the Club work to be dealt with later.

A large part of the poultry and dairy work with both adults and juniors has been carried on by women agents as also many of the projects in horticulture. This includes vegetable gardens, market gardening, truck and canning crops, planting and care of trees, fruits, small fruits and grapes, and the beautifying of home grounds. This is essentially women's work, but men do a great deal along these lines. In rural engineering, much of the work in promoting the building and remodelling of homes and other farm buildings is done by women agents.

The distinctively women's work with adults, aside from the phases already mentioned, is in foods and nutrition, clothing, household management, and home furnishings. The agents seek to influence homes to serve better selected food, and to teach the proper preparation of school lunches to those concerned. Through adults

A fuller treatment of the rural reconstruction work being carried on in Negro America will be found in the author's new book *The Rural community and the School—the Message of Negro and other American Schools for India*, to be issued next month by the Association Press.

and junior extension work, homes and schools are persuaded to adopt better practices of food preparation. Community kitchens are built, or rooms in schools or churches assigned for the purpose and equipped with the necessary utensils and furniture by the club women. Home demonstration agents report that many men and boys join canning and cooking clubs.

Clothing work with adults, as well as with Club girls, embraces selection of materials, construction and modelling, re-ovation, millinery, and allied activities. The total savings on demonstration for a year resulting from better practices followed are estimated at over \$50,000. It is worth noting that the saving due to this one phase of women's work is more than 50 per cent of the entire cost of women's work for the year.

In household management and home furnishings, women, under the guidance of the agents, demonstrate the keeping of budgets and accounts, the better equipment of the household or the arrangement of the kitchen, the saving of time, and effort by better planning of household tasks, and the furnishing and decorating of the home. With both adults and girls, this is found to be an instructive and interesting activity.

One of the most invaluable adjuncts to home demonstration work is the public health nurse who travels extensively over the state with the Movable School force and the Home Demonstration agent. She is furnished by the State Board of Health and Tuskegee Institute's Health Department. As a result of her presence, child care and feeding form an important part of the work among women. Occasionally, Baby Shows are organized, and a practical demonstration is given of what a mother can do for her baby if she has no regulation bed,—either by covering two straight chairs with a sheet pinned around it so as to form a perfect bed, or by using a clothes' basket similarly covered. A somewhat related activity is that of home health and sanitation, including in it instruction in home nursing, and first aid in sickness or accident. Extension agents do their best to influence farmers and homemakers to adopt better sanitary practices, either screening houses or using other methods of controlling flies, mosquitoes and other insects, and of constructing sanitary outhouses. The organization of health clubs is found to be of great assistance in the promotion of the vital cause of health.

The report for the year 1923 points out that the most neglected phase of public service among rural Negroes is instruction in health and sanitation, and therefore makes a forceful plea for more expenditure on a large number of nurses. "It is estimated by the Negro Year Book that about 450,000 Negroes in the South are seriously ill all the time, each losing on an average about eighteen days a year at a cost of \$75,000,000 per annum; that the annual economic loss to the South from sickness and death among Negroes is probably \$300,000,000 and that it would pay the South to spend alone \$100,000,000 to improve Negro health." A man is not likely to give much attention to bugs stricken with cholera, and boll weevil infested cotton, when he and his family are suffering from tubercular, malarial or hookworm diseases. It is the realization of such facts and the determination to meet them that have been helping to improve home and health conditions in America.

The conditions both inside and outside the home in India stand in urgent need of improvement is more or less obvious even to the casual observer. But the nature of

the defects and the tragic seriousness of neglect must be brought home before concern and enthusiasm can become transformed into organized and concerted action. Computing the consequences of illness, chronic and occasional, and of premature death, in terms of rupees, annas and pies, the most unmathematical of governments, societies and individuals are bound to see that it is worth while to invest large sums of money on rural betterment. Starting with hygiene and sanitation in the home, beauty and cleanliness in the compound, such effort might spread to the street, neighbourhood, community and so on. Demonstration workers in America believe that if persons are encouraged first to take an interest in the outward appearance of their house, they are most likely to attend to the serious needs inside. Baby Shows and National Health Weeks help to draw attention to what has to be done, but it will not do to rest content with these annual performances. Throughout the year and every year, all-round attacks on these problems need to be conducted in the towns and villages of India. It is not inconceivable that some of the methods of home demonstration and health work employed by Negro women and described above, may be practicable and effective even in this country. This type of work may well be tried though trained women in certain rural reconstruction centres. Is there not something here which College and High School girls could do in an organized fashion in their own towns and villages, or in other places during vacations which are usually wasted? May not the problem of under or unemployment of many married as well as unmarried educated ladies be thus at least partially solved, and invaluable service rendered to their less fortunate sisters? Indifference is unthinkable while it is realized that the neglect of the health and education of the so-called masses sooner or later tells on the general level of welfare and prosperity, that cholera and smallpox are no respectors of persons, and that no place is safe for anyone unless it is safe for all.

POULTRY KEEPING.

THE USE OF MAIZE AS POULTRY FOOD.

By E. T. Ellis, F. J. I.

AUTHOR OF

"Poultry Foods From Brewery Wastes,"

"Poultry Foods Worth Growing," Etc.

EVERY POULTRY MAN SHOULD USE MORE MAIZE. IF HE DOES THIS he will fatten his birds rapidly, will feed economically, and will be able to market them in a cheap manner. Don't be afraid, therefore, of using more maize, as it will pay you handsomely to do so.

Maize is on the market in a great many different forms, and a few comments concerning some of these may, therefore, be useful to readers. Almost every form is valuable, but maize straw and such like contain too much fibre or cellulose to be of any very great value, and hence these forms are not given special prominence here.

DARK DRIED MAIZE LEES.

Poultry men who have not yet used these should obtain a supply as soon as possible. Analysis should show that the total dry matter content is at least 92%, and

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further tests should reveal the fact that this dark dried maize lees contains no less than 27% of crude albumen. The percentage of fat again should always be high, which is a valuable feature, and 10% should be aimed at. The ash content should be moderate, and roughly 7% is suitable.

Dark dried maize lees can be mixed with almost every kind of dry and wet mash for poultry feeding in small quantities, when it is desired to increase the albumen content of the compound mash. There are several other forms of maize lees but none of them is as valuable as the dark dried form.

DRIED MAIZE STARCH DROSS.

Manufacturers of maize starch have a dross or residue to dispose of which is of considerable value to poultry keepers. In this instance those who decide to feed it should make a preliminary test, in order to ascertain the total dry matter content, and if this is below 87% the sample should be respectfully declined. The crude albumen content although it is only about half of that of dark dried maize lees, is still pretty considerable, namely, 14%, though many samples containing only 10% are offered, but should be purchased by poultry men sparingly. The fat content again is only about half that of dark dried maize lees, 5.5% being the average, but samples containing only 2% of fat are not much use for poultry feeding, and these, therefore, should be declined. A remarkably low ash content is a characteristic feature of this material the amount of ash present usually only being about 2%. When samples reveal the presence of 10% of ash, other foreign matter has probably been intentionally added, and the samples should be viewed with disfavour.

Dried maize starch dross can be mixed with almost any dry or wet mash feed to poultry in moderate quantities, the object of using it being to increase the crude albumen content of the mash when this is known to be low.

FLAKED AND GRADED MAIZE.

These forms are so well known that very little need be said about them. They prove distinctly fattening if fed in big quantities, and are best mixed with other foods which contain smaller quantities of carbohydrates, fat, and protein. They can form ingredients alike of dry and wet mashes, and such mashes should be fed to poultry regularly every day.

KIBBLED AND GRADED MAIZE.

This again is a form of maize with which I am sure many poultry keepers will be familiar. For general purposes, however, in the case of those who have not yet made much use of it, I recommend the following formula:

Kibbled and Graded Maize,	10 parts,
High Grade Oats,	20 "
Wheat Grains,	25 "

I advise poultry keepers to feed this mash both morning and evening, and it will be found that birds will take it either in the dry form, or after it has been moistened with hot water and allowed to cool.

MAIZE GERM MEAL.

This is a residue of maize milling, and contains a large amount of nitrogenous matter, as well as a considerable quantity of oil. It is a stimulating and fattening

poultry food, and should be used in moderate quantities. It is best to mix it with other substances in order to make dry or wet mashes, rather than to feed it alone. It can, however, be dusted over bulky green foods which are given to the birds with some advantage.

MAIZE GLUTEN FEED MEAL.

This is another very valuable form of maize which ought to be widely used for poultry feedings in every country of the world. Only the best samples, however, should be purchased, and these should be carefully analysed before they are fed, as they are sometimes too low in albumen.

In most instances 23.8% of albumen should be aimed at, while the ash content should be very low indeed, viz. about 1.09%. The fibre content is fairly considerable, being round about 6% in good samples, the fat content is only fair even in the best samples, being round about 3%, while the carbohydrate content is always very considerable, most samples of maize gluten feed meal showing on analysis the presence of no less than 54.5%.

For laying stock I recommend maize gluten feed meal being used as in the under mentioned recipe.

Maize Gluten Feed Meal	20%.
Bran.	20%.
Middlings.	50%.
Fish Meal,	10%.

This can be fed once or twice a day, giving just as much as the birds will clear up, and may be employed either as a dry mash as it is, or as a wet mash, being scalded with water and allowed to cool.

MAIZE MEAL.

Ordinary maize meal is a very valuable poultry food, but the term is an elastic one, and may include meals which do not exclusively consist of maize. Each sample, therefore, should be submitted to analysis before it is employed, and if its composition varies very much from that mentioned below, the sample should be respectfully declined.

As to albumen content, the best samples of maize meal should show on analysis 9.2% approximately. The fibre content should be roughly 1.9%, the fat content 2.8%, the ash content quite low usually about 1.4%. The carbohydrate content is, of course, the most important in a case like this, and 69% should be aimed at.

For chicks I recommend maize meal being used as set out in the under mentioned recipe:

Maize Meal,	14 lbs.
Fish Meal,	14 "
Oatmeal,	20 "
Clover Meal,	25 "
Bran,	48 "
Middlings,	100 "

All the ingredients in this complicated foodstuff should be thoroughly mixed together, and although most poultry men may prefer to feed it as a dry meal, it can be moistened with hot water and allowed to cool before being offered to the chicks.

WHOLE YELLOW MAIZE.

This is supposed to be indigestible, and liable to harm poultry instead of benefitting them, but except in the case of very young birds it may be fed with very great advantage. The best samples should show on analysis the presence of 70% of carbohydrates, 5% of fat, 2% of fibre, 1.5% of ash, and 10% (not less) of albumen.

As a general purposes morning and evening feed, I recommended whole yellow maize being used as in the under mentioned formula :

Whole Yellow Maize,	10 parts,
Wheat Grains,	20 ..

The two can be mixed together without any bran, salt, or other material, and in feeding this it is often advisable to put it down and cover it lightly with leaves, so as to give the birds exercise in finding the grain. For evening purposes, however, the whole yellow maize and wheat grains should be separately scalded some time in advance, and then mixed together, using all the liquid from the scalding, and allowing it to cool before offering it to the birds. Excess of water should be avoided, but if too much is accidentally used, add a little bran or other material to absorb it:—

"THE POOR MAN'S COW"

MAHATMA GANDHI'S RIGID INSISTENCE ON HIS PINT OF GOAT'S MILK for his daily diet ought to direct public attention to that valuable foodstuff. Goat's milk has been highly extolled in the Ayurveda as a very nutritious article of diet, a liberal and judicious use of which is efficacious against all sorts of wasting diseases. It is therefore, invariably prescribed in cases of phthisis, consumption, emaciation, etc.

"From the most remote period, goat's milk has been used as food for man. At the present time, however, it is almost a scarcity and on account of its hygienic, nourishing and digestive properties is chiefly sought after for infants and invalids. Indeed, much has been written and published of late years on the advantages of goat's milk as a diet for young children and persons suffering from wasting diseases—consumption in particular—and many instances have been given of lives saved by its use.

It will be a startling revelation to many—nevertheless it has been scientifically proved—that tuberculosis can be, and is, communicated to human beings through the milk and flesh of cattle afflicted with that disease. At the same time, it is reassuring to find that goat's milk is practically free from this element of danger. Such is the statement of numerous medical and veterinary authorities.

According to an English authority, "it is interesting to note that asses and goats do not suffer from tuberculosis and to bear in mind that the shrewd physicians of past days used to order asses' and goats' milk for persons threatened with consumption".

A Belgian authority, in comparing the milk of the goat with that of the cow in this particular respect says, "the goat is almost immune from tuberculosis whilst the cow never is".

These remarkable properties of goat's milk may be traced to its being easily digestible, and assimilable. The researches of Dr. Barbellion of Paris on the digestibility of goat's milk as compared with cow's milk, explain the reasons why the former is more digestible than the latter. According to the results of experiments made, it was ascertained (1) that the curd of cow's milk forms a dense, adhering mass, which by agitation, separates into clots that are but slightly soluble. The curd of goat's milk, on the other hand, forms into very small, light flakes, which are soft, very friable, and very soluble, like those in the milk of the ass and in human milk. (2) The curd in both human milk and in that of the goat, after agitation is precipitated very slowly and incompletely while the curd of cow's milk is precipitated very rapidly and very completely. (3) Submitted to the action of digestive ferments, human milk and the milks of the ass and the goat were digested completely in twenty hours, whilst the same process applied to cow's milk showed only a very slight advance after sixty hours. (4) The milk of the goat approximates more in its composition and digestibility to human milk than that of any other animal.

Some years ago the chief analyst of the Royal Agricultural Society of England explained the comparative digestibility of goat's milk in the following terms:—

"The cream globules in goat's milk are smaller than in cow's milk and as the milk is more concentrated than cow's milk, the cream globules are contained in goat's milk in a more perfect state of emulsion than in cow's milk, in consequence of which hardly any cream rises to the surface on allowing goat's milk to stand at rest for twelve hours longer."

It is also a singular fact that goat's milk is not usually influenced in its flavour by the food the animal has consumed in the same way as cow's milk.

The useful qualities of goat's milk only require to be better known to be properly appreciated. As it is, for want of being known and understood, there exists a general prejudice against this valuable article of diet—people supposing that the milk has a peculiar flavour, which is quite a mistake, for when drawn clean from an animal in health, it resembles cow's milk, both in taste and appearance showing that it is richer, thicker, and slightly sweeter, containing as it does a larger proportion of cream (butter-fat), and sometimes more sugar.

In the Ayurvedic system of medicine goat's milk is described as sweet, cooling and astringent. It is said to promote the digestive powers and to be useful in hemorrhagic diseases, phthisis and bowel complaints. It allays fever and checks diarrhoea. The curd (*dahi*) of goat's milk is appetising, and is efficacious in plies the butter is good for eye-sight. The *ghee* is strength-giving. All these products, however, possess the general properties of the milk in addition.

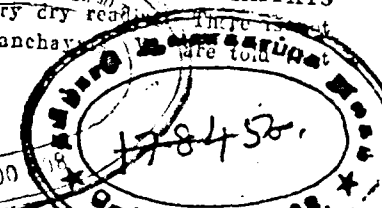
This useful creature thus occupies a unique position amongst our domestic animals. Its maintenance is also economical for it converts waste vegetables and other refuse matter into milk. The goat has, therefore, been appropriately termed "The Poor man's Cow."

Scientific Indian.

MADRAS FOREST PANCHAYATS.

THE REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOREST PANCHAYATS during the year 1930-31, just published, is very dry reading. There is not much in it to gladden the hearts of friends of Panchayats.

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out of a total of 994 Panchayats those enjoying legal status at present are 29 in number. The story of this number is discussed in the following sentences:—

"One Panchayat was newly empowered in the Cuddapah district under the Forest Act during the year while the powers enjoyed by two Panchayats in North Arcot were withdrawn because of improper and injudicious exercise of the powers. Two other Panchayats in the same district which had been empowered went out of office and the Panchayatdars who succeeded them have not yet been invested with powers."

Thus actually the number of Panchayats enjoying legal status was three less than in the previous year. Our readers will please note that these Panchayats began to form as long ago as 1913. If within 18 years not more than 29 out of 994 Panchayats can enjoy legal status, how can any Government claim that the working of the Panchayats on the whole has been satisfactory. On the admission of the Government itself, the working of 133 Panchayats was good, 559 fair. Twenty one per cent of even good panchayats have no legal status, not to speak of the "fair." What a sad commentary on the efficiency of the department that deals with this subject.

We shall notice but one point more in this Report. We are told that the number of Panchayats has fallen from 1047 to 994 and that the area managed by them also decreased from 3425.19 square miles to 3383.78 square miles. According to the very unsatisfactory reclassification that was made in 1926-27 in defiance of the recommendations of Mr. Whitehead, the area contemplated to be handed over to Panchayats was 3421.26 square miles and the last administration report claimed that the process of handing over was complete. Why now we have gone back to 3383.78 square miles is not satisfactorily explained in this report. It is stated that the decrease in the area is due to the transfer of three reserves to Class I and the handing back to the Forest Department of eight reserves in the Kurnool District and one in the Neilore District. If the story of these changes had been given in more detail, we are sure that would have raised substantial questions of policy.

We have no space at present to dilate further upon this report, but from the vital points we have just examined, it is clear that the administration of Forest Panchayats has suffered a real setback instead of making progress. There is no remedy to better the position except to take out of the hands of the executive officers of the administration of Ryots Forests. A law should be separately framed and Village Panchayats formed under the Local Boards Act or their Joint Committees must be empowered to administer these Forests subject to that law. Nothing short of it will avail. (The Village Panchayat)

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Sale of Lands for arrears of revenue. An important decision has been passed by the Madras High Court regarding the sale of lands for arrears of revenue under the Revenue Recovery Act. A land was sold for arrears of revenue and the sale was confirmed by the Revenue Divisional Officer in favour of the purchaser. On a petition presented by the owner of the land, the District Collector set aside the sale. A full Bench of the High Court (Wallis, Jackson and Krishnan Pandalai JJ) held that the confirmation of a revenue sale by the Revenue Divisional Officer was not final and that the District Collector had power to revise the order of the Revenue Divisional Officer under the Revenue Recovery Act.

December. Yes December. This is a month to remember, for it is the month of expectancy. It just precedes the month of January, the month of *Pongol*, the beginning of the new agricultural year, when the main paddy crop *Samba* begins to come in. In anticipation of the great event, *Pongal*, ryots mud plaster their houses, boys busy themselves securing odds and ends to decorate the plough bullocks, draught bulls, cows and calves. New cloths, both female and male cloths, are purchased on credit from the roaming sellers with promise to pay after the harvest; married daughters with their husbands are invited for *Pongal*. So December is a month of expectancy and anticipated pleasure.

Is it so this year? Not at all. Vacancy and resignation are noticeable on the faces of the ryots. Why? Groundnuts do not bring anything like the old prices which provided ample funds not only for enjoying the *Pongal* but to pay the Government kists. The collapse of the groundnut market and the phenomenally low prices now ruling the paddy market have removed the last vestige of cheer from the faces of the ryots and January the month of *Pongal* is not looked forward to with anticipated pleasure but in fear of what is in store during the coming year. Even last year, the ryot had to part with his jewellery to pay the kist and to meet the necessary expenses. The situation has not so far improved.

The purchasing power of the ryot is very much reduced and he cannot in the depressing circumstances under which he finds himself, clothe himself even decently during the coming *Pongal*. Certain economists are fond of repeating the argument that India's present economic trouble is not peculiar to her, and that she is only experiencing the results of the present world economic depression. If one carefully studies the Government of India Review on the Trade of India for 1930-31, it will be found that while the prices of manufactured goods from outside countries on which India mainly depends, for example cotton manufactured goods, showed a fall in prices of only 19 per cent, the fall in prices of India's staple products was more than two and a half times the fall in the prices of her import. Put in other words, India has to pay 16 per cent more for the manufactured articles which she imports while she does not get more than half for the export of her staple products. That we are more affected by the present world economic depression than the other countries will be evident from the fact that in the United Kingdom, the general fall in prices during 1930-31 was 22 per cent. In the United States it was 24 per cent, in Canada 23 per cent and in Australia 24½ per cent. In India it was 32 per cent. It may be pointed out that we have suffered more than the countries named owing to lack of organised marketing. It may be so, but the fact cannot be denied that we are more hit by the present economic depression than other countries, even including Japan where the fall in prices during the period referred to was about 27 per cent.

So the present depression and the low prices ruling India's staple products account for the lower purchasing power of the ryot. Further proof of this fact is afforded by the calculated estimate of India's clothing during a series of years in terms of yards per head. In 1929-30, we had 12.04 yards. During 1930-31 it has dropped to 9.49 yards. Facts are more eloquent than mere guesses or arguments.

In spite of the misgivings of what may be the store for us, let us hope that the situation will be easier during the coming year and in anticipation of a brighter future, we wish the Forest Panchayatdars and the people in the rural areas a bright and happy *Pongal*. We look to our benign Government to help the ryots in all possible ways to tide over the present situation. We also look to the ryots

to help themselves and to set their houses in order. Following the wise lead given by Government, every householder should carefully scrutinise the items of expenditure and eliminate all but the necessary ones. When we have not enough to meet even the necessary expenses, we cannot afford to spend on unnecessary expenses, expenses or items which can be avoided or postponed and by effecting economies in other directions, the budget must be balanced somehow, if the ryot has to keep his head above water. The ways and means of doing this, based on our observation and experience in the villages we shall discuss in our next issue.

Madras Forest Panchayats. It is understood that the Government have proposed the abolition of the Forest Panchayat Deputy Tahsildars as a measure of economy and the Retrenchment Committee have supported the proposal. The passing away of the Forest Panchayat Deputy Tahsildars will not be regretted.

We are sorry that the Retrenchment Committee have also supported the proposal made by Government to discontinue the concession granted to Panchayats only last year under which half of the compounding fees and fines for offences committed in Panchayat areas are made over to the Panchayats. This concession was granted after repeated requests made by the Forest Panchayats at their annual Conferences and on the recommendation of the Committee which was constituted to revise the Board's Standing Order on Forest Panchayats. Government themselves have in the last administration report on the working of Forest Panchayats admitted that the concession acted as an incentive to Forest Panchayats to detect offences and gave zest to their work. The removal of the concession, will, we are afraid, result in offences going undetected to the detriment of Panchayat Forests. The administration of Forest Panchayats already yields a profit to the Government and they can well afford to forego this small income to secure efficiency in the working of the Panchayat Forests.

Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama. The Sevashrama is an asylum of love and service where the distressed of all castes receive food, shelter and medical aid. It is a charitable institution and its existence depends mainly on donations from the public. The report of the ashrama and the charitable hospital attached to it for 1930 is a record of substantial work achieved in affording relief to the public. The affairs of the mission and Sevashrama are managed by an influential committee with H. E. The Governor of Burma as patron. Swami Shyamananda of the Ramakrishna Mission is the chief supervisor and monk-in-charge.

Village welfare work. Speaking the other day at a general body meeting of the Madras Sanitary Welfare League, Major Webb Director of Public Health referred to the splendid welfare work organised and carried out by a village school master in the North Arcot District. The school boys participated in it and on every new moon day the villagers joined in the work. By such team work, they had already put up a road and were about to dig a well. As a contrast to this, Major Webb narrated an instance wherein at a place where thousands had collected for a festival, practically little educative work was done by a departmental organisation on account of a defective organisation and method. The facts speak for themselves. Comment is unnecessary.

How Government can help the agriculturist. How Government can effectively help the agriculturist in these days of economic depression is illustrated by what is being done by the Central Provinces Government. Suspension or postponement of tax and remission are all to the good. These and such other reliefs will be available

only in cases of entire or partial failure of crops brought on by cases beyond the control of the ryots such as failure or excess of rains and consequent disease of cultivation or damage to crops. But where the crop yield is all right or normal and the ryot is faced with serious drop in prices as now, the Government in this presidency have not so far as we are aware come to the rescue of the ryots. The Madras Economic Enquiry Committee presided over by Mr. H. A. B. Vernon, the then Senior Member of the Board of Revenue considered this aspect of the question and recommended the setting up of a marketing Board with a view to securing to the agriculturist reasonable price for his produce. In the Central Provinces, there is a Deputy Director of Agriculture for the marketing of cotton. The main function of the Deputy Director is to arrange that the lint is placed on the market under conditions which would secure to the grower an adequate price. Advances are much to cultivators who require financial assistance to tide over the period between the collection and the final disposal of their cotton. For this purpose, the C.P. Government have opened a personal deposit account in the name of the Director of Agriculture and placed a large sum of money to his credit. On the strength of this account credits are opened at various Treasuries and sub-treasuries and the money is utilized in giving advances to growers against kapas deposited in the pools and in meeting the expenses involved in the preparation of the cotton for the market until such time as these advances and expenses could be recouped from the sale proceeds. Interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum is charged on these advances but no interest is charged on money used for expenses. Recoupments are not required to be refunded into the Treasury but credited to the personal deposit account. The obvious advantage of this course is that the money could be turned over as often as it is necessary. The only condition imposed by the Government is that the advance should be credited into the Treasury in full by the end of the financial year. In the case of the main food crop of this Presidency—paddy, and the main industrial crop—groundnut, it is possible that such an arrangement may well be attempted. We commend the suggestion for the consideration of the present Director of Agriculture, Mr. S. V. Ramamurthi who has capacity and sympathy to evolve a practical scheme suitable to conditions of this presidency to help the agriculturist during these days of acute economic depression.

Survey and settlement. Our readers may be aware that the assessment of ryotwari lands is fixed under executive orders once in thirty years on the results of elaborate enquiries and overhauling of revenue accounts by the Settlement parties with equally elaborate preliminary work done by the survey parties. We have in this Presidency five survey parties and four settlement parties working. The Madras Retrenchment Committee have it is understood approved the proposal of the Government to reduce the number of survey and settlement parties to three each. In approving this measure of retrenchment the committee would appear to have expressed the view that the establishment under both those heads should be kept at the reduced level as a permanent measure and that the possibilities of even further reduction should be kept in view.

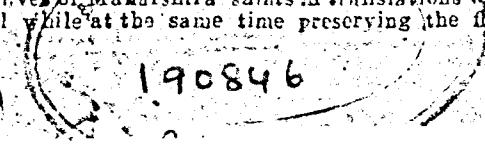
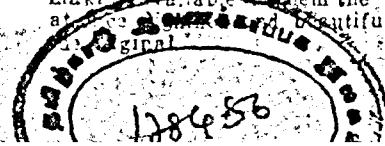
The Committee would appear to have discussed the outlines of a scheme for the simplification of settlement procedure which had recently been proposed by the Board of Revenue. Under the scheme, the expensive and elaborate overhauling of revenue accounts, which has invariably constituted the preliminary to resettlements in the past, in order to clear up the arrears of work that have accumulated in the

Revenue Department will be eliminated, and this work will be left to the permanent maintenance staff under the Director of Land Records, which may have to be gradually increased for the purpose. The Committee considered that the simplification of settlement procedure was desirable with a view to shortening the period spent on each resettlement and reducing the strength of the temporary establishment employed on the work. They therefore recommended that the scheme should be examined with the object of securing economy under the headings of both Survey and Settlement and expressed the opinion that if some increase of expenditure on maintenance work was required to achieve these objects, such extra expenditure might be justified provided that considerable net savings could be assured. If the scheme for strengthening the maintenance staff under the Director of Land Records is pursued, they considered that it might be possible eventually to absorb the whole of the Survey Department in the Land Records Department.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Hindu Theological School Magazine, Madras. We have received the opening issue of this school magazine. As stated in the Editorial 'Forward', the magazine stands for the imperishable ideals of Hinduism, Sanatana Dharma and their realisation in practical life which in fact were the objects with which the school was started over 40 years ago by the indefatigable efforts of its patriotic founder, the late Siva Sankara Pandiyaji. For the present, the magazine will be a quarterly and tri-lingual, divided into three sections—English, Tamil and Telugu. The opening issue is well got up and affords a variety of interesting reading matter. We wish our young contemporary a long, useful and prosperous career.

Tukaram by Dr. Justin E. Abbott. (Scottish Press, Poona.) Among the poet saints of Maharashtra, Tukaram Sadhu is one of the best known. There is no village in the Maharashtra country where the *Abhangs* by which name the songs of Tukaram are known are not sung or enjoyed. We have great pleasure in welcoming the translation by Dr. Abbott from *Bhaktalilamrta* of Mahipathi of the "Life of Tukaram". The translation covers chapters 25 to 49 of Mahipathi's work. We had pleasure on former occasions of noticing the lives and poems of other Maharashtra saints by Dr. Abbott and the volume under notice forms the seventh in this series. Dr. Abbott has brought his Maharashtra scholarship to the service of those who are ignorant of that language and has given us as literal a translation of the original as possible with a view to present the saint and his songs in the truest light. We have no need to concern ourselves here with the historical problems referred to in the preface as to the authenticity of the details of the saint's life as portrayed by Mahipathi and the authorship of the songs attributed to him. As rightly observed by Dr. Abbott, let us divest ourselves of the troublesome questions of historicity as to whether Mahipathi gives facts or legends. We become prepared to enjoy the portrayal of life that appeals to our sympathy because so human that calls us to moral and spiritual ideas which take us out of the realm of low and mean and into the realm of pure and noble. Tukaram was an ascetic by temperament. He became an ascetic not because he saw in asceticism a way to spiritual advantage, but because he made God so central in his thought that he lost all interest in his body. In fact he became a *Vidhi*, that is, one so absorbed in his thought of God that he had no time or thought or desire to supply bodily needs. He saw God in the people and the animals around him and his efforts were directed to serving God by serving His creatures. We see Tukaram helping the sick, carrying the burdens of the weary, giving water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, going on errands for the lame. Even animals came in for his kind thought. He watched for such as needed water or food. No wonder that the saint's life and the songs have a widespread influence in Maharashtra. In the villages, the singing of the songs, *Abhangs* is a daily occurrence. As pilgrims journey along the dusty road, they love to chant his poems and are deeply stirred by them. Without doubt Tukaram is the most popular Marathi poet of Western India. Students of Bhakti literature are greatly indebted to Dr. Abbott for his unique service in making available to them the lives of Maharashtra saints in translations which are at once beautiful while at the same time preserving the flavour of the original.



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