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THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

(A MONTHLY PERIODICAL)



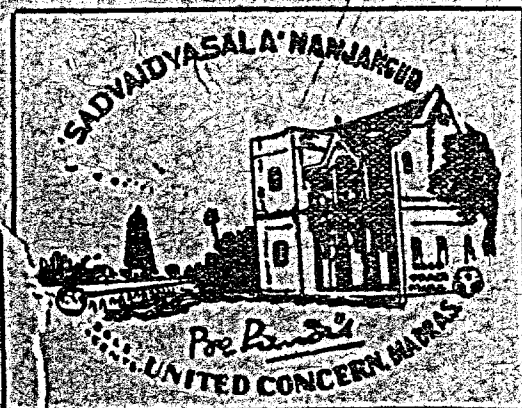
NOVEMBER 1931

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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 of the paper size make a standard manuscript.

OUR EXCHANGES.

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

The Gramani.
The Calcutta Municipal Gazette.
(Bengali) Palli Swaraj.
(Maharati) Poona Municipal
Rural India. (Gazette).
(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. II.]

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Our Trade In 1930-'31.

In our articles under the heading "Our Place under the Sun" we drew attention to the importance of our trade with foreign countries. We brought out in those articles two essentials in the situation. We are nearly completely an agricultural country. Our export trade must sustain us as a nation. In this article we propose to examine how far and in what directions trade in 1930-31 has affected us.

In 1930-31 as compared with 1929-30 there was a fall in the value of imports to the extent of seventy five crores and ninety eight lakhs of rupees. The fall in the value of exports was very much greater. It was ninety crores and thirty two lakhs. Expressed in terms of money it is likely that our readers may conclude that we exported or imported so much material less. That is not exactly true. Of course the quantities were less to some extent. They were not less in the same proportion as the figures given. The reasons for the drop in the values of exports and imports are many. But there is one outstanding factor which must immediately arrest our attention. That factor is the great fall in prices.

If we take items of export between September 1929 and March 1931, there has been a heavy drop. Raw jute sold at half the price in 1931 as compared with 1929. Oil seeds showed a decline of 49 per cent which means practically the same as half the price. The fall in the prices of wheat was 47 per cent not very far from half. The fall in the prices of cotton and rice were 36 and 35 per cent. To put in other words our ryot had to part with double the quantity of produce in 1931 to get the same amount of money that he got in 1929.

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THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

Let us for a minute examine whether he got things that he wanted at half the prices. We depend for manufactured goods on the outside world. It is the figure for imports that should decide the cost to our agriculturist of material he has to buy. During the period we have referred to in relation to our exports, cotton manufactures and sugar recorded a fall in prices of only 19 per cent and metals recorded just 15 per cent. The Government of India review on the trade of India in 1930-31 records that the fall in the prices of India's staple products was more than two and a half times the fall in the prices of her imports.

It will thus be seen that while the Indian ryot had to pay for articles that he bought only about 16 per cent more than what he had to pay hitherto, for products which he had to sell he could not get much more than half of what he used to get.

We hear to-day much about the economic depression being a factor affecting the whole world. Therefore it is right that we should know how far other countries similarly situated have been affected. In the United Kingdom the general fall in prices during the period under review was 22 per cent; in the United States 24 per cent; in Canada 23 per cent; in Australia 24½ per cent; in Japan over 27 per cent. In India it was 32 per cent.

What do these figures show? Taking countries comparable to us we are really the worst sufferers. Whereas in no other country in the world have prices fallen more than about a quarter, in our country the fall was nearly a third and in one or two commodities which are the mainstay of large tracts of the country the prices have really halved themselves. Jute is the mainstay of the Bangalee and oil seeds are the mainstay of the bulk of the poor cultivators in Madras and parts of Bombay. These have been hit hardest and there is no doubt that they are learning very bitter lessons.

How the ryot in India has had to cut down even necessities is indicated by the figures relating to mill made cotton piece-goods. The mills of India have worked very satisfactorily. Their output in 1928-29 was only 1893 millions of yards. In 1930-31 they were able to put into the market 2561 million yards, i.e. the production of mill cloth in India was 35 per cent more in 1930-31 than in 1928-29. The imports of mill cloth have greatly declined. Imports from the United Kingdom declined by 58 per cent and from Japan by

OUR TRADE IN 1930-'31

43 per cent. These two countries are really the most important in our piece-goods trade. The total decline in imported goods is very immense. From 197 crores of yards the import trade in piece-goods has fallen to 87 crores of yards. The result of this fall is that cloth available per man in India in 1930-31 has very materially decreased. Twist and yarn also show a very substantial decline in the imports. From Rs. 629 lakhs worth in 1928-29, the imports have dropped to Rs. 308 lakhs in 1930-31, though Indian mill production has increased from 648,296,000 lbs. to 867,045,000 lbs. Neither foreign twist and yarn, nor Indian mill yarn as indicated by the figures, appear to add in any compensating degree to the available cloth resources of our ryot. Khaddar has made very great headway, but it has not made such headway as to count in hundreds of millions of yards. It is therefore correct enough to take the measure of available mill cloth to examine how far our ryot has had to suffer deprivation. Even here we are only relying on an approximation. We are judging of the quantity that he uses from the quantity available, not really from the quantity that he actually buys. The latter may be estimated only after the end of the year when we are able to get at the stock which remains unsold. However, we may proceed. In 1913-14 our ryot is estimated to have had a ready supply of 13.29 yards per head. In 1929-30 he had 12.04 yards. This year it has dropped to 9.49 yards. No doubt this figure has fluctuated from year to year, but it shows how really between last year and this year our ryot has tended to cut off his demand for cloth. This brings out further how little cloth the ordinary man in the street uses in this country, 9½ yards per man (including woman) per year on the average! If we but make allowance for scores of yards used by each individual amongst the so called middle and upper classes, we are afraid the ordinary individual in this country will not get an average of 6 yards, i.e., two pieces of 6 cubits each for all the year round for all purposes of life. How poorly provided is our average brother is a thought that must pierce like an arrow into the heart of every feeling soul. Does this not sustain Gandhiji's claim, even in the presence of His Majesty the King Emperor, that he, with his loin cloth, is the representative of the toiling millions of India who, on account of their poverty, have to go almost naked in sun and rain and hail and storm?

Is there no real ray of hope in this darkness? Ordinary mortals would probably say none. But with Mahatmaji we feel there

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

is all hope still. Even in the very voluntary cutting off of the importation of cloth, there is hope. A part of it has been voluntary assuredly. The Government of India review of trade makes that clear. "It is difficult" says the review "to assign an exact statistical effect to each" of the "two important factors which affected the imports of cotton manufactures, the boycott agitation and the reduced purchasing power of the consumer." "There is no doubt, however," it continues "that both were instrumental in reducing the imports of cotton manufactures." We have no desire to gloat over the success of the Boycott. But we do find, in all humility, that we have been rightly self-assertive and that, in a direction which promises the advancement of national self-control. We have but to look at the details of the fall in the classes of imported cotton goods to be convinced that the poorer of the people have shown a restraint on themselves which is well worth the sons of great Rishis. As per the Government review, "imports of grey goods declined to an astonishing degree amounting to 365 million yards only compared with 925 million yards in the preceding year". This works out to a reduction of 60 per cent. The poor man denying himself 60 per cent of his demand for imported cloth is a real measure of the great consciousness of the people and their capacity to discipline themselves to plain living and high thinking, the one means that must set right the world that has gone wrong by treading a path of multiplication of wants and creation of mere trinkets and trash in the name of manufactures. Western economists are still groping in the dark. They still hug to their bosom the notion of equalisation of demand and supply; and to relieve stocks of unsaleable goods and revive industry and manufacture, they advocate that we have to find means to strengthen the consumer to buy. This has really become a vicious circle. What is not of real utility is waste of man's energy and time, be it poisonous liquor or a worthless trinket wrought in a great capitalised industry. It is waste of human effort, including the manufacture and maintenance of great armaments that must stop, for a better era to dawn on the world. Concerted action on the part of all nations is as much necessary in this matter as on the questions of reparations and war debts, gold situation, credits for countries that are in urgent need, etc. etc. Even out of the trade statistics before us we have the hope, the eternal hope, that a free India will be a great asset in the future to the world in working out this aspect of human emancipation and in

(Continued on page 27).

Editorial Notes.

We reproduce elsewhere an extract from a recent speech of Mr. J. Kuppaswamy Chowdari. He deals with the inter-
THE POSITION relation of local bodies and comes to two inevitable
IS THIS. conclusions. In the first place, the village panchayats will have to be made compulsory by necessary legislation. If the village panchayat as a unit of administration in Local Self-Government should be efficient, there should be only one body in a village with all the functions concentrated and merged in it. He would co-ordinate village work in the district under special committees with statutory basis. All other authorities will have to go. Our readers are aware that we have always stressed the necessity to come to grips with the whole question. We hope the time is not far off.

We draw attention to the exposition of the purposes of the Village Development Fund by Mr. N. Gopalaswamy Iyengar, the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities. He is of opinion that if we wanted this Village Development Fund to be used properly, we must insist upon spending it only on capital work and that priority should be given to Panchayats' claims. It should be so utilised as to make it a lever for creating and developing panchayats. According to him all non-panchayat villages should become panchayat villages.

(Continued from page 26.)

postulating the new tenet in economics of "controlled wants" for the peace of the world.

While on this subject we desire to draw our readers' special attention to an extract from Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu's speech printed elsewhere. He deals with the handicaps our nation suffers in the matter of Trade Finance because of our tutelage to an alien nation and points out that 85 per cent of our trade is in the hands of non-nationals and that Rs. 10 crores would be a modest estimate of the profit that they make on the basis of 2 per cent commission. This does not include brokerage etc. No wonder, India feels disconcerted. A contented India is a real asset to the world, as we have attempted to point out. There can be no contentment in this country till our finances are entirely free of outside control and we are able to bring our own genius to bear upon problems that arise from day to day. It is to be hoped that ere long we shall have a fully nationally controlled Reserve Bank which, according to Mr. Pantulu, "is the only solution for the financial problem of Indian Trade."

India's Foreign Trade.

BY MR. V. RAMADAS PANTULU'S LECTURE.

The foreign trade of India at the present time may be roughly put at six hundred crores a year, of which about 250 crores is in imports and 350 crores in exports. Out of the six hundred crores, a little less than 100 crores, or 15 per cent, is in Indian hands and the remaining 85 in the hands of non-nationals. If the profit of the non-nationals were to be put at two per cent, that alone amounts to over 10 crores. In addition, there are brokers engaged at every stage of the trade. The present position is that the trade has altogether gone from Indian hands to foreign hands and a huge source of profit to the country is thus diverted from this country into other countries.

The reason, for the foreign trade getting out of Indian hands and being practically monopolised by non-nationals lies in two factors, i.e., the control of shipping and the control of banking. With the destruction of control of Indians over shipping, the entire business has decayed. The report drawn up by a section of the Banking Enquiry Committee shows that now there are in India 18 Exchange Banks, financing the whole of the foreign trade of India. These banks from the very beginning of their career have allied themselves with the European mercantile interest in this country. They have been members of the European Chamber of Commerce and have identified themselves with the British interest at every stage. Their attitude towards the political aspirations of this country are well-known; but that aspect does not concern us. But, however, at every turn, when any improvement is attempted by the Government of India towards the development of Indian Trade, they have stood out against any such improvement. There is documentary evidence of an unimpeachable nature to support this contention which was placed at the disposal of the Banking Enquiry Committee. How the financing of the foreign trade is being done by them would be very interesting to learn. We must remember that both in the case of exports and imports of this country, all the Bills are drawn in sterling. That is a very curious feature of the foreign trade of India. In no country in the world is the business done in a foreign currency. Again the Exchange Banks insist on goods being insured only with Foreign Insurance Companies the premia of which amount to between two and three crores a year.

Taking all these facts into consideration, there is absolutely no doubt that the foreign bankers are in league with the shippers on the

one hand and the foreign Insurance Companies on the other to discourage Indian business and Indian Insurance. The whole idea in short is to discourage Indian Banks and encourage foreign banks. It is curious that the complaints that came up before the Banking Enquiry Committee were not merely of a humiliating nature, by means of not giving Indian merchants the same sort of treatment by the Bankers and shippers as any other non-Indian traders. The Exchange Banks have strengthened their position so much that it is almost impossible to dislodge them now from their position. The Banking Enquiry Committee is of the opinion that Indian banks should be opened in foreign countries to help Indian trade. But every obstacle is thrown in the way by the foreign agencies. Therefore the only solution for the financial problem of Indian trade is the establishment of a Reserve Bank for India. The Exchange Banks after having completely monopolised the finances of foreign trade are very nearly in the way of monopolising internal trade also by acquiring in the interior controlling interests or by purchasing joint stock banks or competing with the indigenous banks on unequal terms.

There must be an Indian Exchange Bank subsidised by the State, manned by Indian officials under Indian Directorate and Indian control with a strong branch in London. The Government of India in this country make the largest remittance of 35 million pounds and if only they gave that business to an Indian exchange Bank, that itself would be a source of great business for the Bank. This suggestion has been violently opposed by some of the members of the Banking Enquiry Committee who have a vested interest. It is to be hoped that the huge foreign trade of India which carries with it money and other monopolies will once more be transferred to the indigenous talent of India for the economic development of the country and that the people will wake up to the seriousness of the situation.

The Position is this

BY MR. J. KUPPUSWAMI CHOWDARI,

The position, therefore, is this. In a district we have the district board : we have a number of taluka boards ; we have village panchayats. The functions of these bodies overlap in more than one direction. The district board looks after roads ; it looks after education ; it looks after communications ; it looks after sanitation ; it looks after works. Taluk boards also have to discharge these functions in areas where there is no union board or the village panchayat. There is also the District Educational Council in each district dealing with questions of education. So long as responsibilities are divided in this way, and so long as they overlap, administration of these subjects is bound to be inefficient or at any rate is bound to be not so efficient as it should be. Let us therefore see what should be done to avoid this anomaly.

In the first place the village panchayats will have to be made compulsory by necessary legislation. When once village panchayats are universally and compulsorily established, the further question arises as to their functions. If the village panchayat as a unit of administration in Local Self-Government is to be efficient, there should be only one body in a village with all the functions concentrated and merged in it. This is the view of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation in local bodies, and the same view is shared by the Government of India also. The question of compulsory and universal establishment of village panchayats necessarily raises the question of a co-ordinating authority. As it is, the co-ordinating authority over the village panchayat is the taluk board in some respects and the district board in other respects. There is no useful purpose served by this dual control. The solution seems to be in the establishment of separate statutory co-ordinating district bodies or committees for education, for sanitation, and for roads and communications in the district area. There should be one committee or district body to co-ordinate the activities of the village panchayat in the district in matters educational. This may be called the District Educational Committee or Council with statutory basis. This body will also look after the problems of higher education in the District. There should be another committee called District Roads Committee whose functions would be to deal with the problems of communications and roads in the District. It will also co-ordinate the activities of village panchayats in matters connected with village roads. There should be another committee for sanitation and health. This would undertake the district problems connected with health and sanitation and also co-ordinate the functions of the village panchayat in this direction.

The Village Development Fund—Its use.

(BY M.R.RV. N. GOPALASWAMI IYENGAR AVL.)

Mr. Gopalaswami Iyengar said that it was known to them that three pies out of eighteen pies of land cess had to be compulsorily credited to this fund and the District Board or the Taluk Board could not touch it. The Panchayat could not ask for it as a matter of right under the existing Act. They had to study the principle that lay beneath it before proceeding to lay down a policy of distribution. The principle was explained by the provisions of the Act itself. It was called the Village Development Fund. In other words this fund which would accumulate to the extent of something between half and one and a half lakhs of rupees should be put together in one common place so that development works which necessarily cost a large amount might be financed in whole or in part out of this fund.

Development, proceeded the speaker, was a matter of capital expenditure. It was not a matter of maintenance. It would be against the spirit of the Act if they gave grants out of this fund for the purpose of laying out a few lamps, clearing a little prickly pear or maintaining a tank watchman.

It had been said by some persons, continued Mr. Iyengar, that the Village Development Fund could not legally be used for expenditure within panchayat villages. They must remember that the Legislature which constituted this Fund also brought the Village Panchayats into the Local Boards Act. It meant that this fund should be utilised for the development of villages which came under the jurisdiction of some panchayat or other. If they thought of bringing panchayats into existence they could use this Village Development Fund as a lever for the purpose of creating panchayats or sustaining them and developing the amenities in the panchayat area. If they were of this opinion, the panchayat village should have a prior claim on this fund. Either they believed that what was at present a non-panchayat village should become a panchayat village sooner or later, or they did not believe it. They had to put themselves the question whether after a fairly sufficient time for the development of panchayats, they contemplated ultimately a time when non-panchayat villages would become panchayat villages. If they were of the opinion that non-panchayat villages should also become panchayat villages, then their duty was, so far as this fund could be utilised, to use it as a lever for creating and developing panchayats in the Presidency.

In a non-panchayat village, if they undertook a work of utility they had to depend upon voluntary contribution whereas in a panchayat village, the panchayat being a statutory body, if it undertook to pay contribution, had the power to realise the same by levy.

Finally, the speaker said that if they wanted this Village Development Fund to be used properly, they must insist upon spending it only on capital work and that priority should be given to panchayat's claims.

Why India is Poor?

(MR. BRAILSFORD IN 'REBEL INDIA'.)

Mr. Brailsford quotes Mr. Findlay Shirras, the Director of Statistics, who in 1911 estimated the average income per head of the population at 66s. 8d. per annum, that is less than 2d. per day. The Indian climate demands less expenditure upon clothing and housing. The cost of Indian diet is lower. "None the less," remarks Mr. Brailsford, "the traveller has only to look about him to realise that these starved and stunted bodies, these empty and dilapidated hovels, these threadbare rags, these neglected rural roads, do mean, in terms of health, comfort and efficiency, that the Indian income is a mere fraction of our own." The first factor Mr. Brailsford examines is labour power. Roughly 73 per cent of the working population are engaged in agriculture and 10.5 per cent. in industry. Women make little contribution towards production. In the lower castes they work in the fields and on the roughest tasks in the cities, but they have not begun to enter commerce or the public services.

The available labour power is also far below Western standards in strength, endurance and efficiency. The average Indian expectation of life is 23.5 years; the British figure is 58 years. The physical life of the workers is always sub-normal. According to the Conference of Medical Research workers, every industrial loses two or three weeks every year through preventable diseases, and the loss of efficiency through preventable malnutrition and disease is not less than 20 per cent.

Mr. Brailsford calculates that preventable malnutrition and disease, and the slight use and the misuse of women's labour, means that only half India is effectively at work.

PRIMITIVE CULTIVATION.

Then there is the factor of primitive methods of cultivation. The yield of wheat per acre is half the English average; that of cotton, half the American figure; that of sugar, half what is usual in Cuba. By the Hindu custom of the progressive sub-division of land among the sons of the family, modern conditions of agriculture (except by co-operation) are impossible. The soil is impoverished by the use of cattle dung as fuel and by the failure to use night soil (as the Chinese do) through Hindu dread of defilement. Hindu belief in the sanctity of the cow prevents any rational management of the herds. The taboo on the taking of life means that starved and aged beasts, of poor stock and diminutive stature, abound. It extends to monkeys and rats, whose ravages are unchecked. The maintenance of defective and aged cattle, it is estimated, costs

(Continued on page 33).

Sugar in India.

India is the mother of sugarcane. Sugarcane is an agricultural crop. As such, it depends upon climate. The best climate, suitable for the growth of sugarcane, prevails in Bombay and Madras.

There is a field for the Sugar industry from the business point of view. We have the climate just required for the growth of sugarcane and the home market adequate enough.

This Industry can stand on its own legs requiring no Government help. But it will be only some years after. Not now. We have some of our own peculiar difficulties as almost all other sugar raising countries had and have, though they are organized and are far more scientific. If that would not have been the case, they would not have levied import duties.

COST OF MANUFACTURE.

Our present duty of Rs. 6-10-7 per maund, which though very encouraging to the starting of a Sugar factory is still low, as compared to that of the United Kingdom and Germany. There is nothing abnormal in our protective tariff and this duty is a stimulant for the starting of new sugar factories. The cost of the manufacture of sugar depends upon the capacity of the plant which means the amount of cane crushed. The more the cane crushed per day, the less the cost of the manufacture of sugar becomes, provided the efficiency remains the same, which is usually so.

SIZE OF THE FACTORY.

As a conservative estimate, the capital required for a daily crushing of 12,000 maunds of cane plant, will be, including buildings etc., about 10 Lakhs of Rupees (10,00,000). This will crush, in the minimum, 12,00,000 lakhs of mds. of cane, giving 1,08,000 mds. of sugar.

There is a profit between 21'27 and 47'36 or even more per 100 of the invested capital in U. P.

(The Bombay Chronicle.)

(Continued from page 32.)

India four times the land revenue, whilst the toleration of rats is more costly than the expenditure upon military defence.

There are the exploiting factors of Indian usury and Indian landlordism. The debt of the cultivators is estimated at £ 400,000,000 to £ 500,000,000, involving at a moderate estimate the payment of £ 100,000,000 a year in interest. Then there is the tribute of the landlord or zamindar. In Bengal it amounts to three times the land revenue going to the Government; in the Punjab it is three times the peasant's net income. There is also the exploitation of the Indian middleman.

ECONOMIC DRAIN.

Mr. Brailsford does not evade British responsibility for the establishment of the present system of the Indian landlordism nor does he ignore the economic drain which Britain imposes upon India—estimated at £ 700,000,000 a year—nor the cost of the military services, 83 per cent of the public expenditure. But he concludes that the overthrow of alien rule will not be enough to liberate the Indian masses from poverty. A struggle must then begin to break with superstition, to destroy Indian landlordism and to plan collective agriculture on modern lines, in other words, to carry through a mental and economic revolution.

Olla 'Podrida.

President Hoover on Russia.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Hoover who has written an excellent book on Russia (the "Economic Life of Soviet Russia") warns people that Russia can no longer be quoted as proof of the failure of Socialism. The Soviet, he thinks, will be able within a decade, to offer a higher standard of living than the poorer paid half of our (U. S. A.) own labouring class.

* * * *

Ten year programme for China.

The Chinese Ministry of Industries has drawn up a ten year programme of Industrial development.

"Among other things, the Plan calls for the placing under cultivation of 300 million acres of arable land not at present utilised, the development of transport and communications, the establishment of manufacturing industries throughout the country, the improvement of harbours and the construction of a merchant fleet of at least eight million tons, with engines generating five million horsepower. To meet this the output of coal has to be enhanced from 30 million to 200 million tons a year; the amount of power required for industrial undertaking will be increased from 1,750,000 horsepower to 20 million horsepower. The plan involves an annual expenditure on machinery during the ten-year period of 1,120 million dollars. In order to supply the skilled labour necessary for the manufacture of the machinery required, the Ministry of Industries suggests the establishment in Nanking of model engineering works where mechanics could be trained under foreign supervision."

We may add also that the Chinese Government has asked for and obtained the full co-operation of the League of Nations in its reconstruction endeavour. The League's technical organisations are continuously available as advisers to the Chinese National Economic Council.

Towards the end of August last the League of Nations Commission composed of the League Medical Officer, the Personal Assistant Secretary General and four educational experts left for China to advise for the ten year programme. A mission from the Inter Labour office also has proceeded to China to assist the Chinese Government in organising a Factory Inspector Service.

* * * *

Dear Wheat in France.

Wheat prices in France are about 2½ times as high as world prices due to the very high duty on imported wheat.

OLLA PODRIDA

Industrial disputes in India.

During the three months ending 31st March 1931 there were 52 industrial disputes in British India involving 103,507 persons and causing a loss of 731,223 working days.

(Assuming the average wage per day as annas 12 and the ultimate value of work turned out by the wage earner is no more than a rupee a day, British India lost in these three months productive capacity of about 7½ lakhs of rupees.—Editor.)

* * * *

Dear Bread in Yugo-Slavia.

The Royal Decree establishing a wheat export monopoly through the agency of the Privileged Export Society, has been followed by a further decree securing a monopoly of the home market to this Society through which all flour millers are now obliged to purchase their wheat. The home price of wheat is fixed by the Ministry of Commerce in conjunction with the Privileged Society. For the months of September, October and November the prices are fixed at 240, 250 and 260 dinars a cwt. As a result of these measures the price of bread in Belgrade has risen by 5 per cent.

(International News Service).

* * * *

What is wrong with the World.

According to Sir Walter Longton, the world famous economist, the truth is that the economic conditions of the whole world have been badly shaken. Just as the great war was on a scale unprecedented in history, so the present depression, which is properly to be considered as the great post-war crisis, is on a greater scale than ever before. Immediate attention is required to the following questions:—

1. Reparations and War Debts
 2. Gold Situation
 3. Credits for countries that are in urgent difficulties
 4. Blocking of markets by stocks of unsaleable goods
 5. Obstacles which stand in the way of International trade.
- * * * *

Carrying a Bull Weighing 800 lbs.

Mr. H. E. Man of Tennessee, it appears, carries a bull weighing 800 lbs. everyday a certain distance as part of exercise.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

What Bankers can do to help Agriculture.

"They can profitably interest themselves in furthering the work of standardisation of products and in the strict grading of goods to provide against extensive shipment of worthless stuff and weakening of the market. Bankers may have great influence in encouraging co-operative selling when the conditions are favourable. They can exert influence towards doing away with uneconomical farm products and can give farmers practical advice before crops are signed away through contract."

* * * *

World Mill Consumption of Cotton.

According to data collected by the International Cotton Federation, world mill consumption of cotton for the year ended 31st July 1931 amounted to 22,483,000 bales, compared with 25,209,000 bales in the previous season. During the half year ended 31st July, there was also a decrease, world consumption amounting to 11,319,000 bales against 12,007,000 bales in the corresponding period of last year. This decrease applied to every European country, Great Britain being the only important consumer which used more cotton in the past half year than in that ended in January. India consumed slightly more cotton in the past half year than in the corresponding period of 1930, and Japan, which is the biggest consumer in Asia, used 1,324,000 bales in the six months ended July against 1,453,000 bales in the corresponding half year of 1930. The United States, however, used slightly more, the figures being 2,792,000 against 2,771,000 bales.

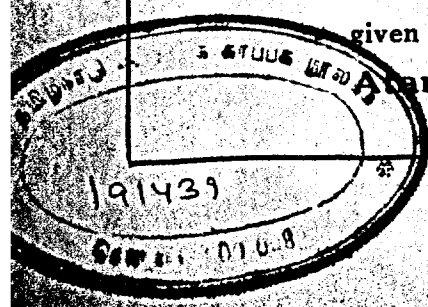
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• Story in brief was published on page 135 of August 1930 issue of the Madras Journal of Co-operation.

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Vol. II.]

[No. 3.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

(A MONTHLY PERIODICAL)



DECEMBER 1931

PUBLISHED BY

The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union,
ROYAPETTAH, MADRAS.

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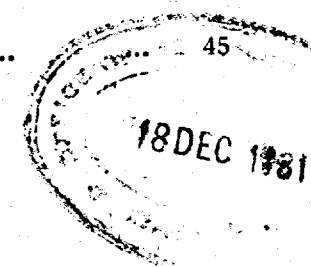
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Royapettah Madras.

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 Swara.	The Madras Co-operator.
(Maharatti) Poona Municipal	The Madras Local Self-Government
Rural India.	Quarterly
(Tamil) Village Uplift.	The Samadarsani (Telugu).
(Telugu) The Sadhana.	The Koumodaki (Telugu).

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT.

(Formerly the Village Panchayat Bulletin).

VOL. II.]

DECEMBER 1931.

[No. 3.

The Veterinary Report.

The Veterinary Report of the Government of Madras for the year 1930-31 is to hand. This department must really be of immense interest to the ordinary ryot population of our villages. Next to land and manure, cattle and other livestock is of the greatest importance to the cultivator and Veterinary science is the science that deals with all aspects of livestock husbandary. It is a misfortune that under a system of administration left as a legacy by the bureaucracy we are not in a position to say that the department is of that interest to the ryot which it should be. Vernacularisation and propaganda are truly the essentials to rouse the interest of the ryots. We shall first examine therefore what the Government has done to facilitate work in these directions. Propaganda, the department claims to have done. Participation in the Health and Baby Week shows; taking advantage of cattle fairs and exhibitions; distribution of occasional leaflets on some of the important diseases of animals, some use made of the motor van of the Agricultural Department complete the picture of the propaganda work. There appears to be four sets of two hundred magic lantern slides prepared for use in the districts. 241 slides and captions and hundred prints are claimed to have been prepared in addition during the year. Our readers will be able to see, from the very enumeration of these facts that equipment for propaganda is absolutely meagre. Evidently a set of slides for every district even is not available, no matter what the quality of them may be. The ignorance of the ryots is still very great, superstition reigns supreme, and cattle diseases are rampant as will be shown later, and thousands of them die in every district annually.

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Sometimes, it has been found that the ryot opposes ordinary preventive measures like inoculation. Very extensive work in a vigorous manner is called for immediately and it must be done in an interesting way also. The Government will do well to constitute a central non-official propaganda organisation to take up and push the work of propaganda on behalf of the Development Departments including Veterinary, Agricultural and Health subjects, in consultation with the departments concerned.

Vernacularisation of effort is not up till now made a creed with the Government. No doubt a few leaflets are now and then issued in the vernaculars and sent out to some people, but such important subjects as cattle diseases, crop diseases and insect pests have not been dealt with scientifically even in short treatises. Talk of introducing agricultural subjects into the elementary educational curriculum has been long indulged in, but no practical result has so far been achieved. Knowledge of veterinary science as of other development subjects cannot be achieved for the mass of our ryot population unless they are taught in the vernaculars at the elementary stage. To that end, work of the department and the teaching in the Veterinary Colleges will have to be materially vernacularised. We are doubtful if this is an achievement possible under diarchy, but even the present Government can take positive preliminary steps to enable the inauguration of a new policy to enable the inauguration of a new policy when provincial autonomy and fiscal independence are vouchsafed to us, as they are bound to be in the near future.

There has been a heavy incidence of contagious diseases amongst cattle for a number of years. Fortunately in 1930-31 there was a decrease in the mortality; whereas in the previous year the mortality was 158,523, in 1930-31 it was 99,890. The report of the Government states that though this year's figures are encouraging when compared with figures of the last two years, still there has been heavy mortality in some of the districts. Rinderpest has been responsible for more than 50 per cent of the total mortality. This disease was heavy in the districts of Guntur, North Arcot, Kistna, Tanjore, Malabar, Kurnool and Ganjam, 9405 cattle dying of this disease in the Guntur District alone. Inoculations have been seriously undertaken, but the number does not show that the necessities of the situation have been well met. By serum simultaneous method only 147,880 cattle were inoculated as against 169,896 in the previous year and by the serum method alone only

THE VETERINARY REPORT

1136 cattle were inoculated as against 13,224. The fall is said to be due to the lesser number of outbreaks reported and to the irregular supply of serum from Muktesar for a period of about 5 months. In regard to reporting cases, there appears to be slackness enough. It appears that the staff of the Veterinary Department actually made 86 reports against village officers. To our mind the best means to get such reports, not merely of cattle diseases but also of many other vital matters affecting village life, the Village Panchayat is the only thorough and complete instrument that must be made available everywhere. In regard to the other matter, namely, the irregular supply of serum from Muktesar, we have to state that the Government has been too long at making experiments to start serum manufacture locally. No sanction to start one appears to have been given though experiments at the Madras Veterinary College have proved the potency of the serum manufactured during the hot as well as the cold weather. The Government Order reviewing the Report and dated 10th September 1931 states that proposals are under the consideration of Government for the establishment of a Serum institute at or near Madras. This evidently shows that the matter is not ready for the Budget of 1932-33.

The Department's work is badly insufficient. We are told that there are at present 97 touring posts. This works out roughly to 3 men for every district. The average villages in a district may be put at a thousand. One man in charge roughly of 300 villages is bound to be inefficient. One visit to a village in a year is an impossibility. A special Rinderpest officer has been appointed. How his work will be carried on is truly a problem with such insufficient staff and no local organisation. Panchayats and more panchayats, a panchayat in every village, appears to be the nearest remedy.

We are glad that there is an attempt set on foot to utilise to the best possible extent the vast agricultural and vegetable resources of the country in veterinary medicine and animal husbandry. Thorough investigation on scientific lines of the indigenous drugs has received attention, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has accepted financial responsibility and practically approved the scheme submitted by the Local Government of appointing a research officer to undertake this investigation in collaboration with the medical department.

Editorial Notes.

Draft rules regarding elections to panchayats which were not Union Boards on the 25th August 1930 are published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 1st December, 1931. ELECTION TO PANCHAYATS. Voting by ballot has been dispensed with. The old method of calling together at a meeting the electors and asking them to vote by a show of hands is retained. Only the voters list will be prepared from the Taluk Board rolls. Instead of the tahsildar going to the village and presiding at the election meeting, the Inspector of Local Boards or his nominee will conduct elections. He will have all the powers of all election officers combined in himself. This method is no doubt convenient so far as rural areas are concerned. But there is only one danger which must be provided against. If the authority conducting elections is the same person as the authority ultimately holding control over the panchayats as their immediate superior, then a very great deal of corruption may ensue. This has happened in the case of the Forest Panchayats at present. We recognise that in the case of panchayats under the Local Boards Act there are a number of controlling circumstances which may to some extent check extreme corruption. A prepared voters' list is available. The Taluk Board and the District Board have certain functions of control over the conduct of panchayats. All the same we wish to emphasise that no person who has to play the master afterwards to any little extent should be entrusted with the work of elections of any popular body. We hope that the Inspector of Local Boards will see to it that the election staff is kept distinct from the supervising staff. We wish the Government itself to enforce the rule without leaving it entirely to its executive.

The Government have published a rule prescribing accounts that must be kept by all Local Boards. The long array of registers given in the Government Order is enough LOCAL BOARDS' ACCOUNTS. to frighten any panchayat. We have believed that the Government would evolve a simple system of accounts for the panchayats. We remember also that a special officer was deputed to work at the simplification of accounts for panchayats. We do not know what has really come out of the labours of that officer. To-day, however, we find that all Local Boards whether they are Panchayats or not, are obliged to keep all the accounts mentioned in the Government Order. Apart from the difficulty of maintaining the accounts, the cost of it would equally be very heavy in the case of panchayats. We wish the Government gave further consideration to this question and simplified accounts for the panchayats. Ordinarily, a cash book, a ledger,

EDITORIAL NOTES

a receipt book, a book of levy of taxes, and a collection book should be enough for the purposes of a small panchayat. As business develops further accounts may be asked for by the supervising authority. The forms required also should not be so badly formal as is indicated by the insistence that forms and account books should be bought only from recognised presses. Any intelligent clerk in the village should be competent to make the forms for himself, as most often karnams do from models supplied to them. Local Self-Government should not be made too expensive out of mere love for uniformity.

Though it is now 16 months since the Local Boards' Act came into existence and though we are very near completion of THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT OFFICER. electoral rolls for the local boards, the District Panchayat officer is not yet to be seen on the horizon as a common feature. We understand that just one or two districts have now appointed District Panchayat Officers. The other districts have not thought of him. The reason appears to be simple. The Government which originally thought of paying the bill are reported now to have given up the idea. The district boards are some of them unable and others unwilling to shoulder the responsibility. As the work of the scheme would cost about one lakh of rupees, why the Government backed out of its original intention, even granting all its difficulties, is inexplicable. The Local Boards' Act was passed in 1930 and one of its main intentions was the speedy organisation of panchayats as the basis of popular local Self-Government. The Panchayat officer was intended to organise and propogate panchayat rule in the province. The intention of the legislature really stopped short of nothing except compulsion. The question of the panchayats under these circumstances was a trust handed over to the Government by the will of the people. Whatever other difficulties may be, this trust should have been considered essential of fulfilment. Not only have panchayat officers not been generally employed, the system of honorary organisers has not been developed and extended to first rate men. It has really suffered a set back by oscillating policies. The panchayat movement appears really to suffer being merged in the Local Boards' Act. We wish the Government took note of the present state and discharged its duty with greater attention and promptitude.

We acknowledge receipt of the report on the operations of the REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. Department of Agriculture for the year 1930-31. We reserve comment to a future issue.

Road Making.

[Extracts from an article in the Local Self-Government Quarterly.]

The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India says "Good communications, in combination with efficient marketing arrangements, enable produce to be moved cheaply and quickly to places where the demand for it is active, and secure the equalisation of prices for particular classes of produce throughout the country; and both these factors react favourably on the price which the average cultivator receives. Defective communications between the point of production and the local market hinder the movement of goods and make primary marketing costly, additional charge ordinarily falling on the shoulders of the cultivator." To illustrate, a candy of paddy in a town or road side village is more valuable any day by Rs. 4 to 6 than the same paddy in an outlying village, away from the road, with a water-logged donka as the only means of communication, and such a village that produces, say, a thousand candies of paddy is five thousand rupees poorer annually. Similarly, the village has to pay thousands of rupees more for the goods it requires. It can be realised thus what huge sums the ryot loses every year, if he has not good roads. The ryot is the producer, the food giver and the back bone of the country and it is he that is bled if there be not good roads. Where does this money go? To the middlemen, the profiteering merchants and the ease loving townsmen—all parasites on the producing ryot. Such is the need for the roads to the producer, the ryot as he is called.

Having known the need for roads, now let us see, how we stand in India, in comparison with other countries of the world. At a modest estimate, there are 1000 villages in each district, and at least 5000 miles of road are necessary for each district at the rate of one mile of road for every square mile of area. What do we have now? Barely a fifth of the mileage, and that mostly serving the towns.

In America, well developed agricultural states, like Illinois, Iowa and Missouri have 1'72, 1'87 and 1'62 miles per square mile and Indiana 2'12 miles. Colorado, a distinctly mountainous state has 0'46 miles and France has 2'1 miles of road per square mile. I am not comparing with manufacturing areas which have as much as 2'3 miles per square mile. In Europe and United States well developed agricultural areas have 0'7 miles per square mile and desert areas 0'3 mile. We have in the Madras Presidency 0'2 mile per square mile and our mileage is less than the desert areas of the United States. It is imperative that the mileage of our roads is at least doubled so that we may be at least a little better than the desert areas of advanced countries. But, how can we achieve our ideal is the problem. On an average a mile of metalled road costs

ROAD MAKING

Rs. 11,000 without land. Then, again, minor bridging will cost Rs. 2,000 per mile and major bridging another Rs. 1,000. If then, we want to double the mileage, it will cost Rs. 1'4 crores for each district. Hence we have either to give up the problem as being beyond solution or lower our ambitions and adopt a lower standard for our village roads to start with. We must be content with earthen roads. By earthen roads is not meant neglected donkas full of slush and prickly pear, but well formed earthen roads with a cambre in the centre, a good system of drains at the side, and systematically maintained with graders. These earthen roads will cost on the average about Rs. 1,500 per mile. For minor bridging Rs. 2,000 and for major bridging Rs. 1,000 have to be added, so that a good earthen road will cost Rs. 4,500 per mile and 1,000 miles for each district will cost Rs. 45 lacs. Spending Rs. 3 lakhs every year, it should be possible to double the mileage in 15 years by systematic work based on a regular programme. Three lakhs of rupees cannot be beyond the means of a district, and the solution cannot be said to be impracticable. The question of maintenance will present the next set of difficulties. These roads require Rs. 100 per mile to maintain them in good order throughout the year, to make them passable all through the year except during rains. This can be easily done by the village panchayat, as, on the average, each village will have only two miles of such roads, and they can be easily maintained by the panchayats, which have to be formed in every village, at an annual cost of Rs. 100 per annum per mile.

But, where is this to come from? Additional taxation cannot even be mentioned at present. How then is the question to be solved? If the maintenance of Imperial and Provincial roads is not made a charge on local funds, a lakh of rupees will be released for each district on the average, another lakh will be available from the recently sanctioned village development fund, and the third has to come as aid to local bodies for the construction of bridges from provincial funds. The additional mileage will create additional prosperity, additional trade, and the revenues of the province will increase automatically. It is our honest conviction that once this programme is completed, funds, for taking the question of metalling the extra 1,000 miles will be available on account of increased prosperity to the land.

Show Graded Honey.

One of the outstanding features in the Government Exhibit at the Central Canada Exhibition this year was the display of graded honey by the Bee Division of the Central Experimental Farm. This year for the first time honey is graded in accordance with government standards into the classes White, Golden, Amber and Dark and there are three grades in each of these classes. (From Co-operation and Market News—September '31.)

Administrative duties of Village Panchayats in Cochin State.

[From the Administration Report.]

The administrative duties and responsibilities of the panchayats remained the same as in 1104. They were (1) Construction, repairs and maintenance of minor irrigation works and the regulation and distribution of water supply to lands commanded by such works; (2) Construction and repair of wells and tanks; (3) Reservation intact of all proamboke paths, lanes and canals useful for purposes of communication, cattle grazing grounds, and village reserves; (4) Construction and repair of village roads; (5) maintenance of road-side avenues; (6) maintenance of water pandals; (7) improvement of rural sanitation; (8) formation of co-operative societies under regulation IV of 1088; (9) the improvement of agriculture and livestock and prevention of cattle mortality; (10) construction and repair of culverts, bridges, and landing places; and (11) visiting the lower secondary and primary schools within their respective jurisdictions.

Co-operation—Remedy for Unemployment.

We have been hearing a good deal recently of the income of certain highly coddled children of fortune. Eugene G. Grace of the Bethlehem Steel Company, for example, received in salary and bonus in 1929 the tidy sum of \$ 16,23,753 (Rs. 48,71,249). Our old friend George Washington Hill of the American Tobacco Co. is doing even better. His "takings" last year exceeded \$ 22,83,000 (Rs. 68,49,000.)

Whether or not these and similar incomes are earned is not here under discussion. But—how much can you sell the recipient of such an income?

"An advertisement of tooth brushes might cause Mr. Grace to buy a half dozen; the same advertisement might cause each of 200 people employed by Bethlehem Steel Co., at a combined wage equal to Mr. Grace's income to buy 200 tooth brushes. An automobile advertisement might sell Mr. Hill one car, but if Mr. Hill's income was divided among 300 people the advertisement might sell 300 cars to the recipients of that income."

(From "Co-operation" September 1931.)

* * * *

Nearly everybody in England now eats tomatoes.

Round Local Bodies.

Local Board Contracts.

The following draft rules for making contracts are proposed to be made under the Local Boards Act. Time for representations in this behalf extends for six weeks from 17th November, 1931.

- I. (a) *Schedule Contracts*: that is to say, contracts in which the contractor agrees to execute the work in accordance with the schedule of rates and before a special date, the sum he is to receive being dependent upon the quantities and kinds of work done and the materials used therefor; provided that the rates allowed shall not be such as to increase the total of the sanctioned estimate for the work; and
- (b) *Lump sum contracts*, that is to say, contracts in which the contractor agrees to execute the work in accordance with the specifications, for a fixed sum.
- II. Security shall in all cases be taken for the due fulfilment of a contract. Such security shall be in addition to any deductions which may be made when making payments for work done and may consist of a deposit of :—
 - (a) Cash up to Rs. 500 or where any larger sum has been deposited as earnest money, up to the amount of such deposit, or
 - (b) Government securities, Municipal Debentures, Port Trust Bonds and Deposit receipts of banks publishing regular accounts and approved by the Local Government, of value not less than the amount of security required, or
 - (c) Post Office Five Year Cash Certificates, the surrender value of which at the time of deposit is not less than the amount of security required.

Explanation:—Any earnest money deposited by the contractor may be adjusted towards the security payable by him.

- III. (1) Every contract made by or on behalf of a local board shall be in writing;

Provided that in cases of petty works costing not more than two hundred and fifty rupees, the District Board Engineer may dispense with a contract in writing.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

(2) Every written contract shall be executed

(A) by the contractor, and

(B) on behalf of the local board—

i. by the District Board Engineer in the case of contracts the tenders for which may be accepted by him, and

ii. in the case of other contracts,

(a) by the President of the local board, or

(b) in case the District Board Engineer is authorised in that behalf by the Local Board, by him, subject to such restrictions and limitations as may be imposed by the board.

IV. (1) Every written contract shall be definitely and precisely expressed and shall specify—

(a) the quality and quantity of the work to be done.

(b) the specifications to be complied with;

(c) the time within which the work is to be completed.

(d) the conditions to be observed;

(e) the security to be deposited;

(f) the terms upon which payments will be made;

(g) the penalties to be imposed, and

(h) the provisions necessary for safeguarding the properties entrusted to the contractor.

(2) Whenever necessary, drawings shall be appended to the contract, showing the general dimensions of the proposed work and the details of the various parts thereof.

V. (1) Every contract in writing shall be in such one of the forms that may be laid down for the purpose by the Local Government from time to time, as may be applicable to it.

(2) Where none of the said forms is applicable, the contract shall be executed in such form as may be settled, after taking proper legal advice.

VI. The terms of any contract shall not be added to or varied without the previous consent of the persons competent to enter into the contract as so added to or varied.

Every addition to or variation of a written contract shall be authenticated by the signatures of the parties thereto.

VII. Any contract or any addition thereto or variation thereof, made or executed otherwise than in conformity with the provisions of the foregoing rules, shall not be binding on the local board.

ROUND LOCAL BODIES

Local Board Accounts.

The following draft rules for keeping accounts in Local Boards are proposed to be made under the Local Boards' Act. Time for representations in this behalf extends for six weeks from 17th November, 1931.

I. (1) The President of every local board shall maintain or cause to be maintained in the office of the local board, and be responsible for the correct and up-to-date maintenance of the following accounts, namely,

i. Cash book;

ii. Register of deposits;

iii. Register of advances recoverable;

iv. Miscellaneous sales register;

v. Miscellaneous demand register;

vi. Register of endowments;

vii. Register of investments;

viii. Stock account of tickets, etc., for revenue managed departmentally.

ix. Subordinate's account of departmental collections by tickets;

x. Register of encroachments;

xi. Register of permanent advances;

xii. Contingent register;

xiii. Acquittance register;

xiv. Register of bills passed for payment;

xv. Stock account of forms;

xvi. Register of estimates;

xvii. Register of alteration of grants;

xviii. Register of tools, plant and office furniture;

xix. Register of immoveable properties;

xx. Posting register; and

xxi. Stock account of stamps.

II. In addition to the accounts mentioned in sub-rule (1),

(a) the President of every district board shall maintain or cause to be maintained in the office of the district board, and be responsible for the correct and up-to-date maintenance of the following accounts, namely:—

i. Office copies of the monthly accounts of the district board;

ii. Provident Fund registers relating to officers and servants of all the local boards in the district;

iii. Copies of the registers of fruit-bearing trees; and

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

(b) the district health officer shall maintain or cause to be maintained in his office, and be responsible for the correct and up-to-date maintenance of the following accounts, namely :—

- i. Contingent register;
- ii. Acquittance register;
- iii. Register of tools, plant and office furniture; and
- iv. Stock account of stamps.

(2) (1) Every account referred to in rule I shall be maintained in such form as the Local Government may from time to time direct.

(2) No local board shall obtain a supply of any of the forms of accounts and returns required by it except from such press or presses as may be authorised by the Local Government to print and supply the same.

III. The cash book maintained in the office of a local board under clause (i) of sub-rule (1) of rule I shall be the primary record for all cash transactions of the local board. All such transactions shall be recorded in the cash book daily, as they occur.

VI. The correctness of the stock account of forms maintained in the office of the local board under clause (xv) of sub-rule (1) of rule I shall be verified at least once a year by the President of the local board or a responsible officer of the board under his direction.

Publication of Draft By-laws.

3. The Government publishes the following rule prescribing the mode of publication of draft by-laws by Panchayats.

(1) The draft of any by-law or cancellation or alteration of a by-law proposed to be made by a panchayat, together with the notice referred to in section 204 of the Act shall be published by affixing the same in a conspicuous position at the office of the panchayat and at the village chavadi, if any; and public proclamation shall be made throughout the village by beat of drum that such draft and notice have been so affixed and are open to inspection and that any objection or suggestion made before the date specified in such notice will be considered by the panchayat.

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The date specified in such notice shall not be less than fifteen days from the date of such proclamation.

(2) A copy of such draft and notice shall be sent to the president of the taluk board concerned simultaneously with the publication thereof under sub-rule (1) and such president may, if he thinks fit, cause the same to be published by affixing it in a conspicuous position at the office of the taluk board.

Removal of Panchayat President.

M. R. Ry. E. A. P. Narayana Chettiar was the President of the Ethapur Panchayat Board in the Salem District. After notice served and explanation taken as per law, the Government have removed him from presidentship for the following reasons :—

- (1) Not regularly convening meetings of the Panchayat Board.
- (2) Not issuing notice of meetings to one of the members.
- (3) Non-compliance with the requisition from certain members to convene a special meeting.
- (4) Non-utilisation of the Board's fund in the interests of the taxpayers.

Markets Etc.

The Berhampore Taluk Board classified all markets within the limits of a panchayat area as panchayat markets and those beyond such limits as Taluk markets.

The Madanapalli Taluk Board resolved to give back the amount collected from the markets to the panchayat boards concerned.

The Mangalore Taluk Board classified the market at Suruthkal as a Panchayat market.

The Sermadevi Taluk Board adopted the following resolution :—
“ Besides the public markets now under the control of the Taluk Board which are mentioned below, the public markets within the limits of the Village Panchayats of Kallidaikurichi and Sermadevi in Ambasamudrum Taluk and Kalakad, Nanguneri and Thirukurangudi in Nanguneri Taluk are declared taluk markets:—(1) Thisayanvillai, (2) Valliyoor, (3) Singikulam, (4) Panagudi, (5) Radhapuram, (6) Vadakkankulam, (7) Thekku Valliyoor, (8) Ittomoli, (9) Idayangudi. The following

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festivals are declared as taluk festivals:—(1) Chithirai Vish at Papanasam, (2) Adi Amavasai at Papanasam, (3) Thaipoosam at Thirupudmaruthur, (4) St. Antoni festival at Ooari, (5) Kandi festival at Pottapudur, (6) Adi Amavasai at Vanashitram (the last two items 5 and 6 are now proposed to be taken under the Taluk Board control). The existing itinerant libraries, one for Ambasamudram Taluk and the other for Nanguneri Taluk, are declared as Taluk libraries.

Education.

The Namakkal Taluk Board resolved that the question of consolidation and concentration of Elementary Schools need not be considered this year as there is no sufficient accommodation in almost all the schools and as there is the objection of the Muhammadan community about the amalgamation of the Muhammadan Schools with other schools.

The Ramachandrapuram Taluk Board authorised the village panchayat, Anaparty, on its request, to supervise the board schools within the panchayat limits.

Prohibition.

The Puttur Taluk Board urges that all the ten toddy shops proposed for the Sullia range be closed for the next, lease to inaugurate compulsion in this Taluk. The closure of the following shops is also urged in addition: 43 Yenmur; 83 Havor; 93 Kadirudayavar; 97 Thothady; 98 Neriya; 99 Kaluja; 106 Savanal; 116 Nelliadi; 121 Haleneranki; and 121 Alanthaya.

Contributions.

The Ramachandrapuram Taluk Board adopted the following resolutions: "Contributions cannot be paid hereafter to the panchayats as before. Some contributions for works executed till now only will be paid."

The Ramachandrapuram Taluk Board sanctioned Rs. 100 towards medical contribution for the year 1930 to the Ayurvedic doctor S. Sathैया of Choppella, for treating the patients free in the panchayat area.

The Venkatagiri Taluk Board sanctioned a contribution of Rs. 60 to Sree Kasturi Devi Vidyalayam at Nellore for maintaining the institution.

ROUND LOCAL BODIES

Special Collection Officers.

On request from the President, Village Panchayat, Bukkapatnam the Penukonda taluk board passed the following resolution:—

"A loan of Rs. 2,000 granted by the President for the appointment of Special Collection Officer in anticipation of sanction is approved as a special case."

Supercession—Panchayat.

The Salem Taluk Board passed a resolution that it had no objection to the proposed supercession of the Panchayat Board, Suramangalam for not functioning well, under section 45-A.

Village Development Fund.

The Narsapatam Taluk Board sanctioned a contribution of Rs. 4,000 to the Village Development Fund.

The Reservation of Seats.

The Arni Panchayat Union passed a resolution stating that the members did not like to reserve seats for Adi Dravidas.

The Sivaganga Union Panchayat is of opinion that no seat be reserved for Adi Dravidas.

Exemption from Taxes.

The Arni Union Panchayat passed a resolution exempting the Adi Dravidas from payment of house tax in view of their poverty.

The Tittagudi Union Panchayat exempted agriculturists within the panchayat limits from payment of profession tax in accordance with the proceedings No. 239-2, dated November 1930 of the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Levy of taxes.

The Gopolasamudram Union Panchayat resolved that profession tax might be levied within the panchayat area and also fixed the rates.

The Melamangalam Union Panchayat resolved to levy house tax and profession within its area as contemplated in the new Local Boards Amendment Act.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

Address to public men.

The Badagara Union Panchayat resolved unanimously to present addresses of welcome to Messrs. Nariman and Sen Gupta.

Drainage Scheme.

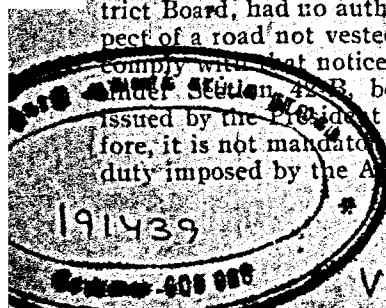
Regarding the drainage scheme of the Government, the Tiruvallur Union Panchayat passed a resolution to the effect that it was very willing to adopt the drainage scheme of the Government provided the scheme was worked without any fresh taxation on the people."

Disputes.

A special meeting of the Union Panchayat, Owk was held on the 30th April 1931. The correspondence relating to misunderstanding between the President, Taluk Board, Koilkuntla, and the president of the Panchayat, owing to the latter's refusal to produce certain records of the Panchayats for inspection at a place outside the office premises, and the subsequent letter of the President, Taluk Board, calling on the President Union Panchayat to show cause why action should not be taken against him under section 41 and 42(b) of the Madras Local Boards Act, was placed before the Panchayat. The President, Taluk Board, in pursuance of his letter, had also launched a suit against the President, Union Panchayat, under section 220 in the Sub-Magistrates' Court. The Panchayat, after discussing the subject, passed a resolution supporting the action of the President, Union Panchayat, in having refused to produce the records at a place outside the office premises, disapproved of the action of the President, Taluk Board, in filing a suit against the President, Union Panchayat, and recorded its opinion that the misunderstanding was due to an election dispute.

Non-performance of discretionary action not default.

A certain individual in Madura District made an encroachment in respect of a road vested in a Panchayat. The President, District Board, asked the Panchayat Board to move in the matter. It declined to take any action. Thereupon, the President of the District Board purported to act under section 42-B, and assumed the function of the Union Board. He issued a notice directly to the party concerned; and on the failure of the party to comply with the notice, he launched a prosecution. The Sub-Magistrate of Periakulam held that the President, District Board, had no power to take the action that he took. Thereupon, the matter went up to the High Court in criminal revision. The High Court found that the President of the District Board had concealed certain facts in exercising the jurisdiction and had not disclosed that the road vested in the Panchayat. The High Court held that the President of the District Board, had no authority to serve a notice under section 159 in respect of a road not vested in that Board or to prosecute for the failure to comply with that notice. The President, District Board, could not act under Section 42-B, because a notice to remove obstruction may be issued by the President concerned. It is a matter of discretion. Therefore, it is not mandatory. So, there was no default in performing any duty imposed by the Act.



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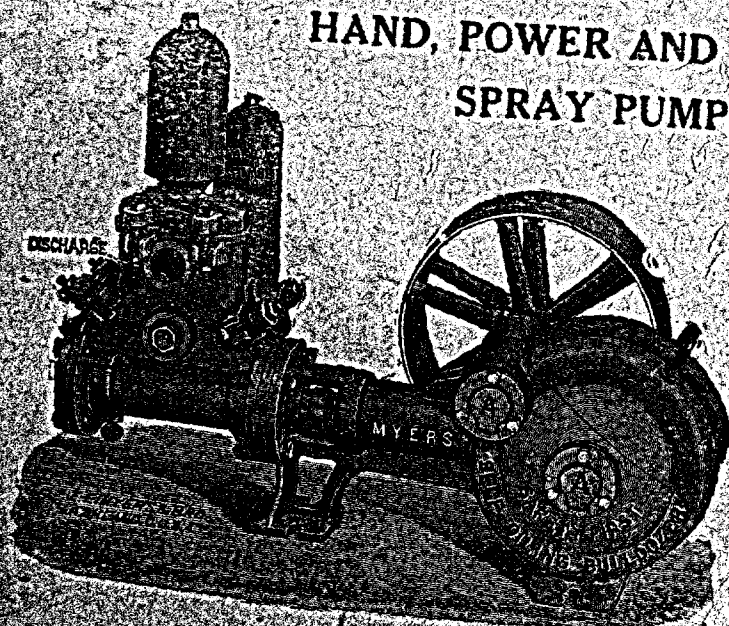
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