

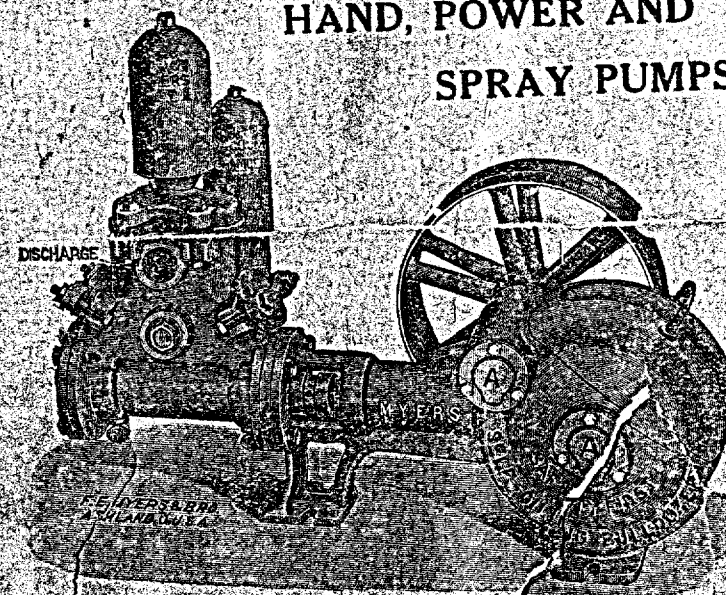
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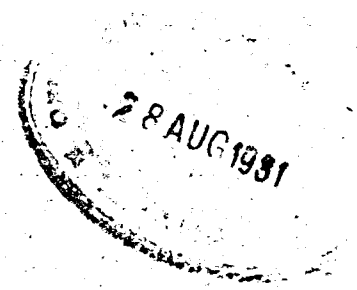
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434



CONTENTS.

	PAGE No
OUR PLACE UNDER THE SUN—II	173
EDITORIAL NOTES	177
ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS' IN THE TADEPALLIGUDEM TALUK WEST GODAVARI	181
THE NEED FOR PROPERTY TRAINED MIDWIVES IN OUR VILLAGES—By M. R. RY. SUBRAYA BALIGA AYL.	183
RYOTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR NECESSITY	186
THE KOVUR DIVISION PANCHAYATS' CONFERENCE..	187
THE ANDHRA RYOTS ASSOCIATION	189

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

(2) To the Readers.

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

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

(3) Please Note.

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

OUR EXCHANGES.

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

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

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THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT.

(Formerly the Village Panchayat Bulletin).

VOL. I.]

JULY 1931.

[No. 10.

Our Place Under the Sun.

II

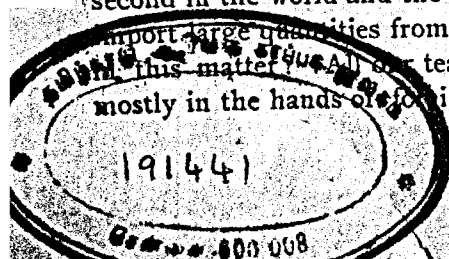
To discuss our relationship with Great Britain was to discuss only one aspect of international life. The trade relationship is really the most outstanding relationship between Great Britain and India next to political relationship. But to discuss our relationship with the United States of America, which is by far the most powerful nation of the world to-day, is to discuss the most vital problems of national existence in comparison.

There is a very striking similarity between the United States of America and India in regard to many physical features. In the great rivers and mountains and forests there is a marked parallelism. In the great range of crop production there is an equally marked resemblance. As a matter of fact in such a detail as the extent of arable land the two countries come very close. The U. S. A. has 139,321,000 hecatres and India—both British and State—have 155,234,000 hecatres. Now, therefore, though it may appear just a little presumptuous for a still subject race like India to compare itself with the foremost of the present day nations, the vision is certainly on us that, provided we are given the opportunity to be free, we can very well be the equals of that legitimately proud Yankee.

With this vision appearing in the distant horizon we do not wish to be understood that we are anywhere near the first step of approach towards it. A careful examination of all the points of comparison between the two countries will reveal how much we are handicapped in life.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

National well being today means well being in a number of spheres. Agricultural, mineral and industrial advancement is the triple cord that makes for full productive national life. We shall take each by turns and compare and contrast United States and India for the better understanding of the problem. At one time we in India boasted of our pre-eminent position as an agricultural nation. But just at this moment the United States of America leads the world practically all along the line. In the crops that India and U. S. A. grow for the world markets—and they grow most crops in common—that country stands first in the production of wheat, oats, barely, maize, cotton, cotton seed and tobacco. India still stands first only in rice and millets; in regard to rice it is by virtue of our common kinship with Burma. Our place also as a wheat producing country is being slowly usurped. Russia and Argentina have made immense strides and India is to-day the fifth in the production of that cereal. In corn also Russia and Argentina have forged ahead. We are just a bad fifth. We are no where in oats. In barely our place is again the fifth. In the production of flax Argentina and U. S. A. are ahead of us. As producer of cotton we still hold our place. We are next only to U. S. A.; Egypt, China and Russia coming after us. Here, however, the question of yield per acre has to be noted. Whereas Egypt produces 431 lbs per acre, Asiatic Russia 250, China 207, and U.S.A. 150, we are able to raise but 90 lbs. In the quality America and Egypt are head and shoulders above us. All the same, America is watchful. One sentence in the latest American Agricultural Year Book is of interest. It says "when India increases its production of cotton or consumers change their demand for various staples, the American grower needs to be quickly informed." In regard to sugar we have lost our hold. Cuba and Philippines produce by far the largest sugarcane crop. Though our place is third in the world in this crop we still import 900,000 short tons of sugar from other countries. In raising tobacco we are just second. Here again 5,884,000 lbs of fluecured tobacco is being imported by us annually from America. In groundnut we excel greatly. Whereas the whole production of U. S. A. is 930,700,000 lbs our export by itself comes to 1,676,871,000 lbs per annum. We consume a great deal of crop we raise in our own country. In regard to tea we are no doubt second in the world and the U. S. A. does not count. She has to import large quantities from us. However, what is the solace to us in this matter? All our tea gardens in Assam and other areas are mostly in the hands of foreigners who do not still feel they must b



174 7L

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OUR PLACE UNDER THE SUN

Indians. The sons of the soil have but serfdom to enjoy on these tea plantations. With a free India there may be a gleam of hope; because, then, we are sure these tea planters will necessarily have to feel they are of India and must live or die for her and for her good. Similar is the position in regard to rubber for which we hold just the fifth place in the world.

Next to crops cattle and sheep are assets of an agricultural country. In the number of cattle we possess we are pre-eminent. Our head of cattle is 185,832,000. Russia comes next and U. S. A. takes the third place with 55,676,000. In sheep we have grown poorer, probably on account of our forest law. Russia leads in the number. She has 123,810,000. U. S. A. comes next with 44,795,100. The Union of South Africa has 42,662,000. We are just a bad fourth, with 23,350,000. U.S.A, Russia and Germany are making good with hogs in addition. We have not much of that population.

We have fairly surveyed the whole field of agricultural production. Though no doubt we are the proud possessors of an ancient heritage and we still stand in some respects high in our capacity in comparison even with the U.S.A, we must concede that the U.S.A. has stolen a very rapid march over us and, in the only field where we can claim to stand comparison with her, she has by far excelled us by her through up-to-date methods and organisation. As one of her Year Books puts it, the American ryot no longer requires information about crops. He wants the latest recorded researches in the realm of agriculture to be carried to his doors. His accounts, his marketing methods and the financial organisation designed for him are all thorough. He is really *the* intelligent and informed ryot of the world. Until a free Government in India pulls up our ryot rapidly by radical reforms our position even as mere producers of crops hangs in the balance.

Next to agriculture, pure and simple, the allied industry of agricultural products must occupy our attention. Our readers may note that these products fall into a group by themselves. They are distinct from other industrial products and include milk, butter, cheese, ghee, edible vegetable oils, eggs, meat, poultry and similar others. In these matters we are far behind the youngest of the young countries. Co-operative endeavour in Ireland, in Denmark, Canada, Australia, U. S. A. Russia, Germany. has been directed to the end of developing allied industries to agriculture. Even England's co-operative effort is now being focussed upon milking societies, creameries, cheese factories and dairies.

175

The position in the U.S.A. is well summarised in the following extract from the American Year Book of Agriculture for the year 1930.

"Much more is required than merely financing of co-operative associations. * * *. It is satisfying to report that the current year has seen good progress in co-operative marketing, in general efficiency as well as in membership and in business done. * * *. Livestock co-operative agencies now operate in 26 important livestock markets, 12 of them in affiliation with the National Producers' Livestock Marketing Association and 9 with Farmers' Union organisations. The others are independent. Some progress has been made towards the centralisation of grain marketing, though in this field differences of opinion as to methods have not yet been settled. Hence, centralised grain marketing is in a relatively early stage. Large federations of co-operative creameries and cheese factories have been developed through the federation of independent local units. Numerous large dairy co-operative associations are affiliated in a national body. In fact, the last four or five years have seen a very strong trend towards an increase in the size of co-operative units and a disposition among them to federate for co-ordinated marketing. One striking index of the present status of the American Co-operative movement may be seen in the fact that more than two hundred farmer owned associations now each transact an annual business exceeding 1,000,000 dollars."

The position in our land in these matters is deplorably backward. A faint effort in Bombay, a fainter effort in the United Provinces and the Punjab, the faintest effort in Madras of co-operative Milk trade sum up the whole endeavour. Much more attention has to be paid to this subject immediately by the Government as well as the people in our land. While we still grovel in uneconomic single crop cultivation, least practising horticulture, we are today flooded by fruit preserves from all parts of the world, sometimes including U.S.A. America has realised the true significance of variegated crop culture and her farmer knows how best to sow and reap with profit. The democratic government of the land, often pointed to as the most materialistic in the world by inefficient and incompetent modern Vedantins, has so pushed its educative programme for the farmer that America is to-day the model for agricultural practice which all young nations keep before their eyes. What about our great land? When can she be an example again like the U.S.A.? Will the Government in India realise how quick we have to develop if we have to keep pace with others, more especially with the U.S.A. and how greatly England herself will benefit, if we can do it.

Lest we should grow too long, we shall, in this article, content ourselves with having discussed the first of the three aspects we have essayed to note. Subsequent articles will deal with the rest of the subject.

Editorial Notes.

President Hoover of the United States of America has immortalised himself by the suggestion that he has made and enhanced the prestige and greatness of America in the world a thousand fold. When the world did not really know where to drift, with acute economic depression all round, he took his own country into confidence and proclaimed that America was prepared to one year's moratorium in regard to all war debts. That meant not merely the postponement of payment of debts for a year but also the relinquishment of all claim to interest accruing during that year. To Germany it was the greatest help that could be afforded and the Germans hailed the idea as the saviour at this juncture. The sympathy for war-despoiled lands has been so great in the world that the Hoover plan has been universally acclaimed. It means, no doubt, millions of money less to creditor countries but in a state of extraordinary helplessness of a debtor no creditor has truly a claim for the last pie of his money. Humanity must after all triumph over Lucre. We do not know whether the principles of President Hoover's suggestion should stop with merely international affairs. As a matter of fact Britain has extended the plan to the constituent countries within her own Empire. A willingness to extend it to India has been indicated though the Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald does not expect India to require any assistance. We should not stop with this either. We should earnestly appeal to the Government in India whether in the interests of the Indian Ryot and India's well-being a moratorium has not to be declared in regard to all debts in this country and during that period work out permanent measures to put our ryot on a solvent footing by arranging debt adjustments and other schemes.

Puttur in South Canara reports excellent work by Panchayats for the resources they had. The report was published in our last issue. The Conference held there on 20th April 1931 under the Presidency of Mr. M. Shiva Rau, President Taluk Board, passed some resolutions which deserve attention. They ask for a Canarese translation of the Local Board's Act and rules made thereunder and Canarese rendering of the substance of G. O.s. It is truly sad that the Canarese area should be asking this at the end of April when the Act came into force in previous August. It is a commentary on a polyglot province. The District Board, it appears, contemplates to terminate the working of the Rural Reconstruction Scheme and starting a high school

elsewhere with the funds saved. The Conference rightly protested against it. Rural Reconstruction is not a plaything to be taken up and cast away from time to time. Once begun it must be continuously carried on. Certainly it must have a priority of claim as against a high school newly to be opened. Resolutions asking for one fourth grant for road, and well works by Panchayats from the rural development fund are very reasonable. The fund everywhere must be so developed by Government grant and otherwise that at least this much of help may be rendered to the Panchayats. In two other resolutions the Panchayats asked for full half grants for school buildings and higher rates of teaching grants when trained teachers were employed. The school building programme must be simplified. It is becoming a heavy charge on public funds. It is best that at the next revision of the Elementary Education Bill the Government takes power to enter upon and utilise any dedicated building in the village for school purposes, of course in consultation with the Panchayat. This may partly solve the problem. The cancellation of sectional schools and the amalgamation of boys and girls' schools must be insisted upon and Panchayats should be taught to look upon so many different institutions as wasteful. The Taluk Boards must be made to set an example. Moreover, the Education Department itself must insist less upon buildings. Under Indian conditions a free and shaded grove can often do service for a school. Our rural boys and girls should not be taught too much care against weather. They must get acclimatised to all weather and must be made to live in the open. A type of building without enclosing walls, in fact an open pandal with well laid flooring, should be enough in all weathers. Two more resolutions with requests in them deserve mention. Government waste land is alienated in favour of Panchayats for road purposes, most often with some conditions of alienation and accompanied by the payment of seniorage. The Panchayats are sometimes unable to make good these conditions. The land then lapses to Government. The Panchayats have once more to apply and get them. They have to pay the seniorage once over. The resolution in question asks that this second levy should not be made. To make a levy of this type on an individual is itself a hardship. To make it on a Panchayat is worse. We expect that the Revenue Department of the Government will favourably consider the position. Why the Panchayats should get previous permission from the Revenue authorities to make roads we do not see. The other resolutions ask that this should cease and that Panchayats should be free to cut trees, bushes, etc. that lie on the track of the road without previous reference to the revenue authorities. We hope this will also receive attention. The suggestion to the Taluk Boards that the village Elementary School, where it exists, should be allowed to be used as the Panchayat office, whenever wanted, deserves commendation. The village *chavadi*

in many places may very well be shared by the Village Panchayat and the village headman, if only the Revenue department and the Local Self-Government department can come together on the matter and decide.

We commend to the Government the following resolution passed by the Andhra Ryots Conference held at Guntur recently. The resolution was moved by Mr. Prakasam and seconded by Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu. No comment is necessary from us. The resolution is as follows:

"This Conference appeals to the Government to take immediate steps to devise ways and means to relieve the ryots from their heavy indebtedness which has suddenly increased two fold by the fall in the price of agricultural produce (which is estimated to be 150 crores of rupees by the Banking Enquiry Committee) and save them from being dishonoured and deprived of their lands by the money lenders and thus prevent in this country the creation of a large number of non-agricultural absentee landlords instead of many cultivating peasant proprietors.

This Conference is of opinion that the only permanent and adequate step to meet the extraordinary situation that has arisen now is for the Government to directly lend the amount to the ryots on the security of the land at a low rate of interest to be recovered in easy instalments spread over a number of years not less than 20.

This Conference is further of opinion that for this purpose the Local Government can seek the help of the Indian Government to issue fiduciary* currency notes for a temporary period, as it firmly believes that the money lending class who will be paid by their debtors by the above arrangement would certainly lend that amount to the Government at a very low rate of interest and thus enable the government to withdraw the fiduciary currency notes from circulation.

This Conference is also of opinion that as temporary measures for relieving the distress amongst the ryots the following steps should at once be taken.

1. To finance the Central Land Mortgage Bank and its branches adequately so that they can immediately help the ryots whose applications for loans are pending for disposal.
2. To lend to co-operative banks a sum not less than a crore of rupees in order to enable them to grant extension of time to their debtors.

* Depending for its value upon public confidence.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

3. To grant loans liberally to the ryots under the Agricultural Loans Act and the Land Improvement Act.
4. To take steps to see that the courts use their discretionary powers very liberally in favour of the debtors under the Usurious Loans Act and the Civil Procedure Code.
5. To pass a simple rural insolvency act to give relief to rural debtors on the spot by officers appointed under the act.
6. To legislate for appointment of debt conciliation officers who will try conciliation on a voluntary basis in the first instance, failing that resort to compulsion, and

To make arrangements to pay the creditors the amount of the conciliated debt through co-operative societies and land mortgage banks.

GUNTUR DISTRICT VILLAGE PANCHAYAT CONFERENCE.

The Conference of the Village Panchayats in the District of Guntur was held on 7—6—1931 at Chirala in the local dramatic hall. Prof. N. G. Ranga presided. A very large number of resolutions were passed. In fact we have before us a printed copy of resolutions which contains 51 of them. In this issue we are unable even to make a summary of these resolutions for the benefit of our readers. Our space does not permit it. We expect to do it in our next issue.

BAPATLA TALUK PANCHAYATS COMMITTEE.

Bapatla Taluk Panchayats have organised a committee of their own. That Committee met emergently on 12—7—1931 at 3 p.m., in the local dramatic hall at Chirala. They elected M. R. Ry. N. Ramamurthy Pantulu Garu as the Chairman of the meeting. The office bearers of the Committee were then elected. M. R. Ry. Manchalla Sitaramayya Pantulu Garu was elected President. M. R. Ry. Chivakula Subramania Pantulu Garu was elected Vice-President. Messrs. Pangaluri Veeraiya and Ootla Chinna Veeraiya Garu were elected Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively.

Administration Report of the Village Panchayats in the Tadepalligudem Taluk (Western Godavari).

In this taluk there are 111 villages out of which 44 villages have been constituted into Panchayats. 35 of these Panchayats are taking an abiding interest in the material and moral welfare of the people. The rest are, for the time being, dormant. The following figures illustrate the extent of their activities.

Year.	No. of Panchayats.	Object.	Govt. Grant.	Total
1927-'28	3	Roads	RS. 461	RS. 1,000
	3	Water supply	1,357	2,776
	3	Library	318	...
1928-'29	7	Roads	4,897	9,625
	7	Water supply	1,100	2,255
	3	Library	269	...
1929-'30	22	Roads	20,034	37,732
	22	Water supply	6,284	14,128
	9	Library	475	...
1930-'31	27	Roads	29,123	1,20,472
	27	Water supply	8,966	27,282
	...	Library	160	...

These figures indicate that rapid strides are being taken to equip the villages with good roads and good water. In deltaic area metal roads are being laid and in other places earthen roads. As regards water supply, the chief directions in which Panchayat activities were directed were the following. They deepened fresh water tanks, constructed outlets and inlets to drinking water tanks and also steps to them. But many facilities are yet to be made by digging wells in upland villages and tanks in the delta villages to avoid scarcity of water in summer. The figures regarding library grants are far from satisfactory. The Government grants have been poor. Out of 44 Panchayats, 23 have received

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

no grant at all till now; 9 received only once; 2 received twice and only one had the fortune to get it continuously from 1927-'28. Realising the value of the library in the cause of enlightenment, the Tadepallegudem Taluk Board constructed in 1929-'30 a building at a cost of Rs. 8,800. The Government, on being requested, declined to give any money towards the cost of the building, but paid in 1930-'31 Rs. 400 as library grant.

There is yet another grievance for the panchayats. The rule that the Government will pay half the cost of a public work if a panchayat bore the other half is proving itself irksome and a handicap upon very useful lines of activity. With regard to the provision at least of the essential requisites of village life such as good roads, good water supply, latrines and libraries, the Government should relax the rule.

An attempt was made to impart adult education. Two Supervisors were appointed, one from the District Board, West Godavari, and one from the Tadepallegudem Taluk Board. In 1929 a summer school was organised for 3 weeks in which 70 teachers were given instruction in Rural Re-construction. In some villages night schools were opened to give adult education. In 1930 the Taluk Board R. R. Supervisor's services were dispensed with and the summer school scheme was also dropped as the teachers did not evince sufficient interest. In 1930 there was cattle disease of a virulent nature as a result of which there was much loss to the villagers. The Government have sanctioned a Veterinary Hospital for the Taluk.

From these it is clear that the hearty co-operation of the Taluk and the District Boards and the Panchayats is the secret of success in rural uplift.

Mayors and City Officials go to College in America.

In the United States of America even City Officials have to go to a Summer College to further prosecute their studies in those subjects in which they need knowledge in order to do their work more efficiently. A one-week institute of public administration is now being held at the University of Southern California. Professor Emery E. Olson is the Director of the College of Public Administration.

The Need for Properly Trained Midwives in our Villages.

By M. R. RY. SUBRAYA BALIGA AVL., L.M. & S., D.T.M.,

District Health Officer, S. Kanara.

Any profession practised without a real knowledge of the subject is certainly a source of danger and loss to society. Much more so is the case with quack doctors and dhais (country mid-wives) who are dealing with matters of life and death. One who has no other means of livelihood at once takes to this profession and there is no law in our country to prevent such people from practising their art. The number of lives sacrificed and the amount of misery caused by the ignorance of these people is incalculable in rural parts. The pity of it is that the village people, in the absence of skilled advice and help, cannot but resort to such people in times of need. It is also regrettable that neither the Government nor the Local Boards have been able, as yet, to provide, for want of necessary funds, skilled medical aid for all rural people.

An attempt was made some time back to impart some elementary knowledge of midwifery to country mid-wives by giving them a course of simple training in the District Headquarters Hospital for Women. But this scheme did not prove successful, because the dhais had to leave their homes to get the education, they were not treated with sympathy, and lastly, the course of study being in a language of which most of them were ignorant proved uninteresting.

I was thinking about this matter for some time till one night, I met Mr. Shiva Rao, the President of the Puttur Taluk Board and we discussed various public health questions. I was prepared to give a short course of lectures to the dhais from the group of surrounding villages. Mr. Shiva Rao, with his usual zeal for the welfare of the rural people, took up the suggestion earnestly and arranged for a training class for ten Mid-wives at Beltangady from the 16th to 18th March, '31.

I took with me the necessary things to give the dhais practical demonstration. The class was arranged in the hospital ward with the help of the Medical Officer and the Panchayat Supervisor. The class was begun on the morning of the 16th March with 8 pupils. Two more joined the next day. I was obliged to deliver the lectures in Tulu so as to be understood by all. The course was divided into six lectures of 2 hours each, both morning and evening. The dangers of dirt and unnecessary interference were well stressed. How to recognise normal from abnormal labour, how to recognise and rectify small abnormalities, why they should not meddle with the more difficult cases, how long they should

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

wait, the proper time to call in medical aid, how "delay is dangerous" either for child or mother or for both etc., were all keenly impressed upon them.

Most of the candidates who attended the class showed great eagerness to learn the art of safe delivery. They admitted the blunders they were committing in their practices hitherto. They were doing so not wantonly, but out of their ignorance. The scheme to give them a short course of training in a central place near their own homes appealed to them all. The course was made very interesting and instructive to them. The various practical demonstrations were an eye opener to them. I am sure most of them have now realised what good can be done by them with some knowledge of the subject. Their practical experience of all kinds of labour served them well to understand the lectures. I am confident that this course of training though short has immensely benefitted most of them. Fortunately for this class, there came a case of delayed difficult labour to the hospital on the last day of the course. This served very well for practical demonstration.

I shall not fail to mention here the immense help given by the Medical Officer, Beltangady and the Panchayat Supervisor in making the class a success.

If any more centres for training are arranged, I will gladly take up the work.

Capitalist Combines of U. S. A.—A Menace.

Two hundred corporations control between 35 and 45 per cent of all American business wealth—excluding from business wealth that of Government, agriculture, and the professions—according to an important study by Gardiner C. Means appearing in the American Economic Review for March. These large corporations, all of them with assets of more than \$ 85,000,000 and net income of over \$ 4,500,000 had combined assets of more than \$ 67,000,000,000 in 1927. They control nearly half the corporate wealth of the country and dominate much more than half its industry. Moreover, during recent years they have been growing three times as fast as the 300,000 smaller corporations, and if the existing rate of growth is maintained, in twenty years they will own half of the United States' entire national wealth. They have among them fewer than 2,000 directors.

Poverty and Plenty go hand in hand.

Back to Agriculture.

In 1830 ninety-three per cent of the American people were living on farms and seven per cent in cities. To-day, 100 years later, thirty-eight per cent are on farms and sixty-two per cent in cities.

One hundred years ago, farmers had hard work to produce enough to feed themselves and their city brothers. Now, the thirty-eight

THE NEED FOR PROPERLY TRAINED MIDWIVES IN OUR VILLAGES.

per cent who live in the country not only produce enough for our rural population but also enough for those in the cities. In addition to this, in recent years large quantities of food stuffs have been exported. Machinery has made all this possible.

Commenting on this situation, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets says that even "in the midst of this plethora of production many are without sufficient food and clothing. Every year sees great quantities of farm-grown produce rotting and going to waste upon farms. As a nation, we are under-consuming rather than over-producing because of the inability to transport products to the consumer at a price which he can afford to pay and at which the producer can afford to sell.

The Department's statement emphasises the fact that more effort and study should be centred on the problem of marketing.

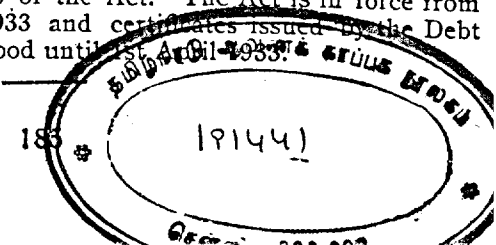
Over-Production in U. S. A.

In America the Federal Farm Board is advising growers to reduce their acreage of potatoes, tobacco, and cotton. Mr. C. C. Teague, vice-Chairman of the Board states that there can be no justification for increased planting of potatoes that will bring certain disaster in price. As regards tobacco and cotton Mr. James C. Stone, Chairman of the Board, says there is over-production in both of these major crops of the South. Burdensome surpluses are keeping prices at disastrously low levels and they must be cut down sharply before producers can hope for a healthy market.

Debt Adjustment Act.

"The Scoop Shovel" a magazine of agricultural co-operation gives us an idea of a Debt Adjustment Act passed in the province of Manitoba in Canada. The Act to facilitate the adjustment of debts which was passed by the Manitoba Legislature and which has become law, is for the purpose of permitting debtors and creditors to come to an agreement through a Debt Adjustment Commissioner who is given certain powers under the Act to give legal force to his decisions regarding debt adjustments. The Act provides that any resident of Manitoba who is engaged in farming operations or is the owner of a residence which he occupies as his home being in trouble regarding debt, may make application to the commissioner and the Commissioner shall endeavour to arrange a mutually acceptable plan for adjusting of the debt. He shall inquire into the circumstances of the debtor and after being satisfied in the matter, may issue a certificate which shall protect both debtor and creditor with respect to certain legal actions such as sale, or foreclosure on land, or proceedings to acquire land under a tax sale, or seizure in the nature of an execution etc., subject to certain provisions of the Act. The Act is in force from 1st April 1931 to 1st April 1933 and certificates issued by the Debt Adjustment Commissioner are good until 1st April 1933.

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Ryots' Associations and their necessity.*

The condition of our ryots to-day is distressing. I had full experience of it when I was a member of the Local Legislative Council. His difficulties are numerous. But I regret he has not the equipment even to make representations about them. There are very few amongst the Legislative Councillors also who go to him and enquire into his troubles. Some really have, no doubt, the enthusiasm for doing good. Their opportunities, however, are few. It is difficult for them to go from village to village. There are no organisations in the village for the ryot. He does not know how and to whom he has to send up his grievances. Personally I wrote petitions for him. Sometimes, I got them printed. I secured signatures from the villagers and sent these grievances on to proper authorities. To work like this is not practicable in the case of every member. If circumstances remain at what they are to-day, even if we get Swaraj, it will not be of any great profit. It cannot be said that when Swaraj is acquired, the ryot will have no difficulties. Then as now, Government will be there and officials will be equally there. The ryots will have grievances also probably, to a smaller extent. If not for the redress of grievances, at least for the creation of conveniences, the ryots will have to exert. If they do not, there will be no progress. Therefore, if there are ryots' associations in every village very great work can be put in. Representatives of the village organisation may be formed into a Taluk Organisation and representatives of the Taluk Organisations may be formed into a District Organisation. It will be possible for Legislative Councilors to utilise these organisations and do effective work. The ryot will then have his full influence. Officials will be afraid of conducting themselves as they choose. The story of the Bardoli Settlement is built upon village organisation. When officials, either out of ignorance or design, write false reports or accounts, it is only an organised body of ryots that will be able to face such a condition with authority. Individuals must find themselves at sea when such circumstances arise.

I had my own experience in the Taluk of Markapur in the Kurnool District. The karnam had truly stated that crops grown were worth but one anna in the rupee. The high placed officials had shut their eyes to it and therefore, this was not reflected in the weather reports. On the representation of the people, I went about the whole Taluk and found that conditions were very bad. Harvesting was over. Except the cut stumps in the fields, the grainless fodder in the stacks, the empty

* Extracts from the speech of Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao at the Ryots' Conference, Dharmavaram, Anantapur District.

RYOTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR NECESSITY.

granaries in the homes, direct evidence was difficult to get. I made my own representation to the member in charge. Some officials woke up. One anna in the Karnam's account suddenly transformed itself into six annas. What could the poor Karnam do when the order of a higher man is on him? I had to rely upon the account relating to rains and make out my case. The higher authority was willing to accept my plea. But what could be done? Time had elapsed. By his courtesy, I could get Rs. 90,000 sanctioned to keep destitute men at work. I have narrated this experience just to point to the moral that if previous organisation does not exist, with the best will and capacity in yourself, it will be impossible to meet such situations. The only remedy is a ryots' association in every village.

The Kovur Division Panchayats' Conference.

On 7th June last, a Conference of all the Panchayats in the Kovur and the Tanuku taluks of the West Godavari district was held at Iragavaram. Mr. Sanivarapu Subba Rao, an ardent worker of the district in this behalf, presided over it. His speech was truly rural in character. He laid emphasis upon the fact that it was on the village that the country existed. All the old village institutions have been destroyed. The very servants of the village, the carpenter, the smith, the potter, the weaver and the like who supplied all the necessities of village life have disappeared. Foreign imports have taken their place and therefore, village life has become unbearable. To add to it, some of the village-folk coming under the influence of modern education and failing in it have added a large number of drones to society. Unemployment stalks the country. England and other states make provision for their unemployed. In India we are left to drift for ourselves. To add to all these difficulties to-day agriculture does not pay. As per the report of the Kistna-Godavari Settlement Committee, he who owns less than 12 acres of wet land is in charge of an uneconomic holding. He who cultivates 10 acres cultivates at a deficit of Rs. 90 per annum. And that, when old prices were ruling!

Mr. Subba Rao would have members of panchayats note that upon their interest and independence the well-being of the village would rest. He makes a large number of complaints about the revenue authorities, the Taluk Board and the District Board and also the District Engineering Establishment. All these complaints arise because the development of a panchayat in a village would mean the complete annihilation of all vested interests. He has made a special appeal to all those concerned that they should treat the panchayats and the panchayatdars with much

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

greater courtesy and sympathy, realising that after all it is on them that the future of the country has to be built. He particularly draws attention to the fact that ignorance of the English language is no bar to the development of administrative capacity in men and he would have all bureaucrats remember this and shed their bureaucracy and help the panchayats not as masters but as advisers.

Mr. Subba Rao has carefully drawn attention to the need there is for allowing the panchayats more and more freedom. All the functions of various panchayats in the village should be unified and concentrated in the village panchayat. Revenue collection must be within its province. A fourth of such collections should go to its funds. The panchayat office should be the office for the village and it should be well-built. All the conveniences the Government intends affording the villager must be so afforded through the panchayat. The village must really be the basis of rule. Without this foundation all the superstructure must be shaky.

Mr. Subba Rao considers that the following changes must be achieved through immediate orders. Main villages and hamlets must be able to constitute panchayats separately, if they so choose. The present policy of considering them one and the same should cease. The panchayat must be entitled to bid in all auction sales of the village and acquire them. It should not be necessary for the estimates of the village panchayats to get the sanction of the Inspector of Local Boards. The sanction of the President of the District Board should be enough. It should be made a rule that the village officers should consult the village panchayat in drawing up the electoral roll.

Mr. Subba Rao has reminded the panchayatdars that their duty does not end with roads, drinking water supply and sanitation. Education of boys and girls and education of adults, providing or medical aid are all matters that must be within their purview. To that end he would ask the panchayats to employ a well-equipped rural worker for every five villages by their own combination. He would have institutions started by the District Board or other authorities to train such rural workers in the place of the hybrid schools of to-day.

The Andhra Ryots' Association.

The following resolutions, among others, were passed at the Andhra Ryots Conference held under the Presidency of Mr. K. Koti Reddy M.L.C. at Guntur during the last week of June 1931.

1. It was published in (yesterday's) news papers that the Government proposes enhancement of land revenue in the Kistna and Godavari Districts at the rate of three annas per rupee flouting the unanimous recommendations of the Economic Enquiry Committee appointed by the legislature with the consent of the Government. The Government has created a peaceful atmosphere for the last four years in the Andhradesa by following a conciliatory policy and postponing re-settlement. This news has caused much perturbation in the people already hit hard by the economic depression. This Conference hopes that the news of enhancement is not true and is further of opinion that in case the Government takes a wrong course, there will be much resentment in the Andhradesa and the peaceful atmosphere now prevailing on account of the Gandhi-Irwin pact will be badly disturbed.

This Conference requests the Government not to impose fresh taxes on the ryot who is already unable to bear the burden of taxation.

This Conference requests the President to convey immediately this matter to the Government.

2. This Conference congratulates and expresses its grateful thanks to the Chief Minister for affording relief to the ryots by enacting a statute abolishing toll-gates in the Presidency.

3. This Conference requests the Government to levy heavy import duties on all imported articles which compete with Indian Agricultural products such as Japanese Rice, Australian Wheat, and Java Sugar.

4. This Conference requests the Government to levy heavy export duties on manurial products like bonemeal, groundnut etc., by exporting which the country is deprived of indigenous manures.

5. This Conference appoints the following gentlemen to form a Committee to take necessary action on behalf of the Ryots with

regard to the Estates Land Act Amending Bill that is likely to come up before the Legislative Council.

** Committee.*

Messrs. V. Ramadas Pantulu, *President*

- " P. C. Venkatapathiraju
- " B. Viswanathdas Mahasayo
- " R. Mandeswara Sarma
- " S. Venkateswara Rao
- " D. Muni Kannayya Naidu (Convener)
- " P. Paradesi Naidu
- " V. Venkatachala Naidu
- " I. Papayya Sresti
- " G. Rangayya Naidu
- " C. Satyanarayana Chowdary
- " P. V. Sundara Varadulu
- " N. G. Ranga
- " M. Bapineedu.

This Conference further requests the Madras Legislative Councillors to see that the bill includes in its future constitution a provision allowing the Tirupathi Estate ryots a place in the administration.

6. This Conference congratulates the members of the Madras Legislative Council who gave notice of resolutions in the Council suggesting the appointment of a committee of non-officials to enquire into the difficulties that the Tirupathi Estate ryot labours under, and requests all the members of the legislature to support the resolution.

7. This Conference offers its grateful thanks to Mr. A. Ranganadha Mudaliar and others for bringing before the Council resolutions about the affairs of the Tirupathi Temple Properties and requests all the Members of the Council to lend their support to the same.

8. This Conference condemns the habit in Zamindars of claiming as their own properties, forests and porambores which must be common to the villagers and deplores the deprivation that the ryots under the Zamindars have to suffer, in regard to grass for cattle, agricultural implements, timber and fuel and calls upon the Zamindars to cease from harassing the ryots in this manner and requests to make all communal land available to the villagers in a large hearted and liberal manner failing which this Conference calls upon representatives of the people in the legislature to get these privileges incorporated in the Estates Land Act Amendment Bill."

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* Story in brief was published on page 135 of August 1930
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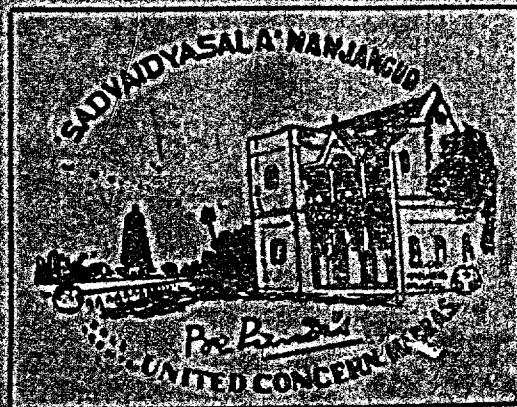
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE No
OUR PLACE UNDER THE SUN—III	191
EDITORIAL NOTES	195
CLASSIFICATION OF MARKETS, FAIRS FESTIVALS ETC	199
ANDHRA PROVINCIAL RYOTS' ASSOCIATION	201
EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT FOR 1930-31 ON THE WORKING OF THE SCHEME OF COMPULSORY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN NATTARAMPALLI AREA	203
THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE SUB-DIS- TRICT PANCHAYATS' COMMITTEE NAMAKAL	204

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

(2) To the Readers.

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

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

(3) Please Note.

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

OUR EXCHANGES.

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

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

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THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT.

(Formerly the Village Panchayat Bulletin).

VOL. I.]

AUGUST 1931.

[No. 11.

Our Place Under the Sun.

III

The mineral resources of India have been accredited to be very vast. The immemorial tradition that Bharatavarsha is *Ratnagarbha* speaks to the great wealth we must have possessed and we possess under the surface of the earth. The Grecians were attracted by the ants that dug gold in this country. This day the list of minerals presented by the Director of Geological Survey of India is not small. Under forty-five heads the mineral production of India is tabled and it includes coal, petroleum, manganese-ore, lead and lead-ore, gold, silver, mica, zinc-ore, tin and tin-ore, iron-ore, copper-ore, and matte, tungsten-ore, nickel spiess, antimonial lead, steatite, diamonds, asbestos, antimony, corundum, barytes.

Though such a long list is given of minerals available in our land, until about 25 years ago, no great attention was paid to the development of these resources. Whether, under the conditions that we live in, this has not been really an advantage is a question that is open to discussion. There are people who have held very conservative views. The presidential address at the Madras Industrial Conference of 1906 contained this sentence: "In such cases, I cannot but think that it would be to the permanent good of the country to allow petroleum to remain underground and gold to rest in the bowels of the earth until the gradual regeneration of the country which must come about under British rule, enables her own industrialists to raise them and to get the profit of the industries." This attitude is certainly justified as long as it is exploitation of mineral resources for others' good. As a matter of fact let us look at what has happened in the Mysore gold mining industry. From

the commencement of European mining in 1882 to the end of 1921 the Kolar gold field of Mysore has yielded gold bullion of a total value of over £ 56,890,000 resulting in the payment of more than £ 20,000,000 in dividends to the share holders of the companies concerned. The share of the Government of the State in royalty was but £ 30,00,000. Whom has all this gold profited? Not so much India as the European share holders of the companies that are operating.

From the point of view of output and value received no mineral in India can stand comparison with manganese. Manganese mining has been very extensively developed. We are believed to be the second largest producers in the world. In 1927 the output was 1,129,353 tons valued at £ 2,844,237 f. o. b. Indian ports. The United Kingdom absorbed 211,401 tons, three times as much as it absorbed in 1926. The great secret of this expansion of manganese output and absorption is that it is required for use in iron and steel companies. The great iron and steel industry of England and other associated lands has made a demand on our manganese and for decades therefore prospectors and licensees have poured into India to exploit this business. After the establishment of iron and steel companies of India our manganese is being partly utilised by our companies more especially the Tatas. So the history of our manganese extraction also is a history of exploitation without national benefit and therefore possibly the conservatives were right when they said, "let the bowels of the earth keep their secrets till the nation is free to run her own industries."

The story of petroleum is not much better. We now stand, in figures of production, eleventh in the world and even as such we are told that our resources are being exhausted. The Director of Indian Geological Survey writes that a conservative policy rather than one of intensive development seems indicated especially in view of the national importance of this mineral asset. Coal, iron and oil rule the world and that, in oil, we should get this caution is significant of how careful national policy will have to be. It must also be noted that all the Indian oil enterprise is again not in national hands. The Burma Oil Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Company share the concessions between them.

In this wise, though conservatism in regard to the development of mineral resources appears to have been a boon well worth having, the undeveloped state of these resources is itself an index of our

complete backwardness in industrial life and our absolute dependence upon other countries for a thousand and one things which are required in life.

Let us take the case of the United States of America with whom we have instituted comparison in these articles. That country now stands first in the production of coal, petroleum, iron-ore, pig iron, copper, zinc, lead and its place in silver and gold is second in the world. These are all used in that country for its own manufactures. U. S. A. is an exporting country for vehicles—every Indian knows the Fords and Chevrolets—machinery, iron and steel goods, other metal goods, cotton goods, other textiles, manufactured tobacco, chemicals, artificial silk, wood pulp and paper and thousand other commodities. None of these do we make in our own land to any appreciable extent except probably cotton goods. We import all in large quantities, some from the United States of America itself.

As already remarked the great test of mineral resources utilised for national industry lies to day in coal, iron and oil, though electricity, developed through water power, has slowly begun to take the place of coal as well as oil. Without probing further deep into the statistics of other minerals, let us examine how we stand comparison with U.S.A. in these matters.

Whereas U.S.A. produces 517 million tons of coal we produce 22 millions, hardly 4 per cent of that production. What we produce is scarcely enough for our railways and the demand from our brethren from Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. The recent development of cotton mills in the country and the three iron and steel factories have added to the demand for coal. We now import 2,44,000 tons every year valued at 58 lakhs of rupees. Before we dream of further expansion of our industry therefore we may have to develop much more of our resources in coal.

In regard to oil the U.S.A. produces 129 million tons. India produces but a million and a sixth of tons. For the ordinary uses that mineral oil is put to in this country we are importing one hundred million gallons of oil from Persia and Borneo. Our readers are aware of the great development of motor traffic in this country and the petroleum consumed is partly on this. It is impossible to count this development as really in the economic interests of our land. It is at present more a luxury of a type and until we are able to put our petrol, indigenous and imported, and our motors wholly imported,

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

to productive uses by developing industries, at least the agricultural industry, we should not have used our natural resource in petroleum to any national benefit.

To examine the question of iron output is to place ourselves last in the list of developed civilised countries. Iron and steel enter so largely into making of other material that a country deficient in iron resources is a country deficient in the fundamental resource for industry. Thanks to the Tatas, of recent years we have been able to lisp iron and steel. But Tatas by themselves cannot go a long way. Our whole pig iron output is but 1,140,057 tons of which almost half goes to the credit of the Tatas. Our production of steel is practically negligible, Tata's recording 4,14,738 tons. United States of America raises 627 millions of tons of iron ore. It makes 386 million tons of pig iron and steel to match.

That we in this country have not touched the very fringe of industry which rests so much on mineral resources is clear. How we can make up for lost time and compete, or rather, stand on an equal and dignified footing, with such countries as the U.S.A. is a problem that has to be faced by all of us. The answer can only be by extensive education of our masses and intensive endeavour by the leaders of the community in constructive fields of national work. May we hope for it in the wake of the shaking awakening that has been so far given to us by a kind Providence and kindlier times?

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND—GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS.

The Government have issued certain instructions in the matter of the Village Development Fund. They state that at present they would make no contribution specifically to this fund; but they have sanctioned grants for village communication and rural water-supply to be disbursed as usual on the part payment system. As when the District Boards claim contributions, they might credit the sum to the Village Development Fund. Contributions to the fund by Local Boards could not be made compulsory.

The committee administering the fund, the Government state, might have plans and estimates prepared and have the works executed themselves. They might also give contributions from the fund to other local boards including the panchayats which were in existence before the 26th August, 1930, for carrying out similar works. They might employ necessary technical staff and debit their cost to the fund. They might also take up the improvement of any road other than trunk and second class roads and debit the expenditure thereon to the fund.

Editorial Notes.

We publish elsewhere instructions issued by the Government in regard to the Village Development Fund. We are disappointed that the Government announce that they would make, at present, no contribution specifically to this fund. Further comment is reserved for the next issue. To make it easier for our readers to understand how the grants system mentioned in these instructions works, we also reproduce elsewhere parts of the Chief Minister's speech in the Legislative Council.

The great economic stress our country is passing through is reflected in all spheres of life. Our political and moral consciousness roused by recent events of importance has, we agree, to do much with the downward trend of liquor income. The picketting movement on a country-wide scale has had its own effect without doubt. But none of these can explain the entire unwillingness of renters to go forward to bid at sales. When pressed and asked, the old renter is seen to come forward and offer not more than twenty per cent or much less of what he had last paid for his shop. Making all allowances for his naive contemplation that he can get things cheap, there is yet the solid truth that money is scarce, too scarce indeed and that men are unwilling to spend on drink. The Government should no longer prop up either their finance or their excise policy by false hopes. It is time that they undertook some measure of prohibition immediately. His Excellency the Governor, with his consort, was recently confronted with a delicate situation. Mr. Chinnarapu Reddi of Pedavadugur, in the guise of praying for a boon, asked for the introduction of prohibition in the Tarimala area of the Anantapur District. This area, of all the areas in the Presidency, is the poorest. Every fourth year it is reported to suffer from famine, having suffered for the remaining three from scarcity. By force of popular will this area has begun to be voluntarily dry. Are toddy and other liquors still to haunt the places here and kill the emaciated men kept alive more by hope than by sustenance. There are other areas in the presidency, we are sure, for instance, the Rasipur taluk of the Salem district, which may be as good as the Tarimala area. Will the Government, taking advantage of the economic position, start prohibition in one or two districts immediately, and help the great cause of anti-drink campaign or will they squeeze money out of the poor drunkard through the thousand and one agents that have sprung up as a consequence of a wrong policy all these years? Whatever the Government may or may not do, the duty of the reformer appears to be very clear. No effort should be spared to make the anti-drink

campaign a complete success leading the way to complete prohibition. Picketing of shops will, by itself, not achieve much. The good nature of man is still alive in the drunkard and, at the sight of decent men, he, no doubt, desists from entering the shop. But we must remember that as long as there are interested people who will provide drink in all sorts of ways and in all manner of places, the drunkard, with the lure before him, would repair to any destination and pay any price to get what he wants. It is therefore necessary to undertake intensive work. Non-official organisations must establish their own honorary inspectors in every street and require them to make up the individual history of every drunkard finding out where he drinks, what he drinks, who his friends and companions are, using all possible channels of correcting him through influences of home, friendship and association in business. This is no doubt difficult work. Even for effective prohibition, once a law is passed, it may become essential to stop illicit manufacture and use, by a similar effort. Therefore, let us be awake and astir. Let us no more lapse into inactivity in this matter. Every village and town must have its organisation. Here is very good work for earnest Panchayatdars also.

RESETTLEMENT
IN KISTNA
AND GODAVARI.

Enhancement of rates at the resettlement in Kistna and the two Godavaries has raised vehement protest. The Government appointed the Arogyaswami Committee because a grievance was felt that the settlement officer had not taken sufficient notice of the real economic condition of the people. The Committee worked at the problem and recommended that the proposals for enhancement of assessment contained in the Scheme Report should not be given effect to. Thereupon the settlement officer himself was asked to review the report of the Arogyaswami Committee. Virtually the right to say the last word was left to the officer whose proposals were under the scrutiny of the Committee. He has certainly tried to destroy the edifice built by the Committee. The Board of Revenue states that the officer's review is so detailed and complete that it is unnecessary for the Board to examine in any further detail those portions of the Committee's report which have already been examined carefully by him. The Board of Revenue endorses practically all that he says. The Board has gone a step further and attempted to teach the Committee elementary principles of resettlement and economics. It is unnecessary to take our readers through the whole process. It is enough to state that the Board came to the conclusion that the report of the Committee has not shown that the increase proposed in the Scheme Report on the present rate of assessment cannot be easily borne by the ryots in the three districts of East and West Godavaries and Kistna. According to them "on a consideration of the undoubted increase by 100 per cent in the selling price of rice during the currency of the present resettlement a much higher increase in the rate of assessment

would be justifiable." Acting upon this "emphatic" opinion the Government have introduced the new rates. One passage in the Board's review is clear indication that there is a parting of ways between the popular view and the Government view. The passage is this:

"The Committee has started with the fundamentally erroneous idea that the assessment should be regulated with reference to the economic condition of each individual ryot and not the productivity of land. Its suggestions and observations, throughout its report, have, in consequence, been largely vitiated and when it concludes its report with the expression of a hope that Government are in no way committed to the dictum that it is the land that pays assessment and that the well-being of the ryots is not their concern, it is clear that the Committee does not realise that even if the principle it supports is desirable it is not practicable."

The popular side can possibly define the position of the Government equally in unenviable terms. Something to the following effect would certainly be in order:

"The Revenue Board starts with the fundamentally erroneous idea that the assessment should be regulated with reference to the productivity of land founded on misleading averages, irrespective of the rising standards of life, falling capacity for supplemental avocations, and rapidly dwindling returns on capital and labour invested in agriculture. Its suggestions and observations throughout its review have in consequence been largely vitiated and when it concludes its review that on a consideration of the undoubted increase by 100 per cent in the selling price of rice during the currency of the present resettlement a much higher increase in the rate of assessment would be justifiable it is clear that the Board does not realise that even if the principle it supports is technically correct, it is fatally one-sided and is bound to lead the Government nowhere nearer the truth with all the statistics and arguments of Mr. Holderness."

It is a surprise that the Board should misrepresent and twit the Committee with advocating the settlement of revenues during resettlement with every individual ryot and yet in its own scope of resettlement completely ignore consideration of general economic conditions. We invite the attention of the Government to the adjournment motion carried in the Local Legislative Council. We hope the men in authority will not wait till public opinion asserts itself in much stronger ways to correct themselves.

Government Subsidies to Local Boards—Chief Minister's Speech.

The system now prevailing is to distribute the amounts to various district boards according to their spending capacity and also to keep a reserve with a view at the end of the year to give to such boards as have already spent the amounts granted to them something more to complete their works. My hon. Friend from Coimbatore suggested that that system will have to be changed. I shall consider what can be done in the matter.

Then it is stated that the principles on which distribution is made to the local bodies in the matter of subsidies require to be revised, and he strongly urged that a hard and fast rule that the local bodies should give half the amount and the Government should give the other half should not apply. In the case where a local body is found on an examination of its finances, incapable of finding one-half of the amount, the Government have given more than half, and two-thirds in many cases. (A voice : "Higgling.") I do not think it is higgling (A voice : "Bargaining"); nor is it bargaining. I must state that, recently on the recommendation of the Inspector of Local Bodies, a number of village panchayats whose finances were examined and which required the help of the Government were given two-thirds of the amount. Similarly, in the case of districts which my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar represents, Bellary and Anantapur, grants given to the local bodies for improvement of village water-supply have been based not merely on half the grant but on a higher basis, to the extent of two-thirds and three-fourths in many cases. It is similarly done in the case of second-class roads. With regard to the Nilgris District Board, the Government have given grants, in the case of trunk roads, to the extent of full and, in the case of second class roads, to the extent of half. Having regard to the amount of money available, some system has to be found by which those boards which can afford to spend from their own finances should be given money to get on with the work and others which could not afford should be given more than half the amount.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, was complaining that the distribution of these grants to the local bodies was not made in time, so that local bodies are not given chances of spending the money placed at their disposal. I may tell him, Sir, the system under which grants are distributed is that the amount to be distributed among local bodies is placed at the disposal of each district board without any delay. Another amount is placed at the disposal of the Inspector of Local Bodies who was, till recently, the Registrar-General of Panchayats also, for distribution. I may say that this system has been followed for the last two or three years. This year the Inspector of Local Bodies has been able to distribute the whole of the

Classification of Markets, Fairs, Festivals etc.

HOW TALUK BOARDS HAVE ACTED TOWARDS PANCHAYATS

Bandar.—"It is classified that the markets in Panchayats should be panchayat markets from the date the amendment act came into force."

Gobichettipalayam.—"All markets in the taluk board area that are in existence on this date including the weekly markets at Satyamangalam, Bhavani and Modachur, and daily markets at Bhavani and Gobichettipalayam, will be classified as taluk markets and markets that will be opened in future will be panchayat markets. If the total income from all markets in a panchayat is Rs. 500 and less, the whole amount will be paid to the panchayat funds: if the income of all markets in a panchayat is above Rs. 500 the panchayat will be given a lump sum of Rs. 500 together with 50 per cent of the balance of net income of all markets in the panchayat area after deducting the above Rs. 500."

Karur.—"Forty per cent of the net income which each of the markets at Aravakurichi and Pallapatty fetches at the sale of every year should be credited to the panchayats concerned. As for the markets in other panchayat areas viz., Paramathi, Uppidamangalam, Alamarathupatty, Annur and

(Continued from page 198.)

amount. We gave an additional grant in January in order to enable him to distribute it to some panchayats. If, in course of time, the village panchayats increase and the need for more grants is felt, I am sure the Government will come forward to help them to the extent to which the finances of the province would allow.

At the same time, I cannot subscribe to the statement that the district boards have been delaying the distribution of the amounts to the various local boards and that these amounts are not spent. I do not think there is much justification for that statement; because I know that the principle underlying the placing of the amount at the disposal of the district board is to give the whole system a sort of elasticity, so that, if the district board finds that a certain local board is not able to get on with the work, that amount can be transferred to another taluk board in the same district. This system has been in force during the last three or four years; it has been working admirably well, and I do not see any reason why that should be changed. There are many taluk boards which could not find one-half; in such cases the district board takes up the duty on itself and gives a loan or grant to that local board. In the case of taluk boards and village panchayats also, who are not able to find half the amount, they are asked to find from their own funds one-fourth and the district boards give them three-fourths of the amount. Even this one-fourth is nominal, because it is given in the shape of village labour. The work is taken up by the village itself, and the village labour is put down in terms of money.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

Chinnadharapuram, ten per cent of the net income which each of the market fetches at the sale of every year shall be credited to the panchayat boards concerned. This will be in force until such time as the panchayat boards may open markets of their own contemplated by section 168 of Local Boards Act (Amendment), 1930, and subject to the restrictions therein imposed, when it will be time enough for the taluk board to consider the advisability of reopening the question of continuance, alteration or of ceasing the payment of contribution."

Karvetinagar—"This board is not in favour of treating the markets within the panchayats of Tiruttani, Puttur and Vedyangadu as taluk markets from 26th August, 1930. They may be treated as panchayat markets. The following markets will be continued to be treated as taluk markets: Nagari, Kanchiraju Guruvaram, Kandrigai, Palliput; Devalampet; and Pathagunta.

Palghat—"The board approved of the office note to classify all markets in the taluk as taluk markets."

Pithapuram—"The board unanimously resolved to take over the management of markets in Tuni and Pittapuram panchayats as taluk markets and to share equally the net profits after meeting all expenses including capital work. The board resolved to try this arrangement for a period of three years from the date of the amended Act and to reconsider it if necessary after that period. The taluk board agreed to adjust to the panchayat after the closing of every official year the half share due to the panchayat. The panchayat was to hand over the markets, establishments, accounts, moneys, etc., due to the taluk board in the light of the resolution."

Puthur—" (1) The markets at Puthur and Beltangady be transferred to the respective panchayats; the fairs and festivals at Subramania, Dharmastala, Uppinangady and Kulgunda be classified as taluk festivals provided that, in the case of Kulgunda cattle fair, the district board made an annual contribution to the board to meet the deficit."

Vridhachalam—"The board resolved that the Vridhachalam weekly market be declared a panchayat market on condition that the Union panchayat undertook to meet all the expenses of the fairs and festivals within the panchayat area and paid also the land revenue of the site on which the market stood. It was further resolved that the markets at Kammapuram and Seppakkam be declared as panchayat markets."

Trichinopoly—"The taluk board classified all the public weekly markets under the control of the taluk board (hitherto managed by it) as taluk board markets and the market at Illupur as panchayat market with effect from 26th August, 1930 the date on which the new Act XI of 1930 was brought into force."

Udayarpalayam Taluk Board—"The Board resolved that all public markets within the limits of the taluk as defined in section 167 of the Local Boards Act should be classed as taluk markets with the approval of the Local Government, and that half the net income on every market would be given as contribution to the Panchayat within which the markets lay."

The District Board of Trichinopoly which dealt with the question came to the conclusion that Illupur Market should be classed as a panchayat market and decision in regard to others should await opinions of Panchayats.

Andhra Provincial Ryots' Association.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the Andhra Provincial Ryots' Association was held at the premises of the Servants of India Society on Sunday the 2nd inst with Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu in the chair. Several of the members of the Standing Committee attended. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao, a patron of the Association, also attended and made very valuable suggestions during the discussion on the questions relating to resettlement of the Krishna and East and West Godavari Districts and relief of the acute situation in which rural debtors find themselves to-day. The resolutions adopted on the Resettlement question and Relief of indebtedness are given below.

I. Introduction of Land Revenue Resettlement in the Krishna, East and West Godavari Districts. It was resolved to:

- (a) prepare a case against the resettlement proposals and their enforcement resulting in 18½ per cent enhancement of the existing land revenue.

N.B.—In the case to be prepared the question of Island Polavaram water rates be dealt with separately.

- (b) ascertain public opinion of the districts concerned by organising meetings and conferences and inviting the expression of opinion, so as to reach the working Committee before the end of September. A Separate Conference be also called to discuss the Island Polavaram water rates.
- (c) bring up the question for formulation of definite action at the next meeting of the Standing Committee to be held at Ellore on Sunday the 4th October 1931 at 1 P.M.
- (d) request the Madras Government to reduce the price of the "Arogyaswamy Committee Report" which is prohibitive (Rs. 20).
- (e) request Messrs. N. G. Ranga and M. Bapi Needu to prepare in Telugu a small pamphlet summarising the matter contained in the Arogyaswamy Committee Report which shall be printed and published by the Working Committee.

II. The following resolutions were passed with regard to relief in respect of rural indebtedness.

- (a) The Association do address an urgent communication to the Government of India and the Government of Madras urging

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

the necessity to immediately impose a heavy protective import duty on rice imported from outside India and of making the import duty on wheat more effective.

- (b) The Association is of opinion that deflation of currency is responsible for scarcity of money in rural areas, having disastrous consequences on internal prices and causing great hardship. The Association requests the Government of India to take immediate steps to put more money into circulation.
- (c) The Association is of opinion that the conditions created by the present economic depression are so acute that the ryots will not be able to meet the land revenue demand of the Government at the next collection season and requests the Government to take prompt steps to remit a substantial portion of the land revenue that falls due in the current fasli.
- (d) The Association is of opinion that the present abnormal economic conditions justify the passing of emergent legislation to reduce the rate of interest on all old debts and to maintain that reduced limit on future credit as well, till conditions improve, and requests the Government to undertake such legislation immediately.
- (e) The Association appeals to landholders (zamindars) to write off the whole or a substantial portion of accumulated old arrears so as to facilitate collection of arrears from fasli 1338 and later faslis and also to remit portion of such current arrears since 1338 fasli.
- (f) The Association appeals to Co-operative Banks, Commercial Banks and moneylenders to be as lenient as possible with their debtors during the present economic depression by postponing recoveries, giving instalments, reducing the interest and in other ways.

Enterprising Mysore has taken steps to start an experimental orchard with a view to test the possibility of cultivating orchard, vegetable and other semi-dry crops along the new Irwin Canal of the Cauvery between the dam and the Hulikere Tunnel.

'Women manned the cars and drew the ropes, women jostled and pushed and fought for priority in the procession and women made the most successful beggars. The manhood of Puri, alas! is sadly decadent' Thus does Augustus Somerville describe in the Illustrated Weekly of India his impression of the great Jagannadh Car Procession this year. So women score even at the shrine of Jagannadh. Verily, it is the capture of the worlds' Lordship itself.

Extracts from the Report for 1930-31 on the Working of the Scheme of Compulsory Elementary Education in Nattarampalli Area.

The Nattarampalli village lies on the Madras—Bangalore trunk road five miles west of Jalarpet in Tirupattur Taluk, North Arcot District. It has a Panchayat Board of its own and its jurisdiction extends over an area of more than two and a half square miles. There are six hamlets. The inhabitants are none but agriculturists and agricultural coolies.

Since July 1927, the scheme of compulsory education is being worked. Prior to the introduction of the scheme there was only one school. But now three schools are in existence; and they are situated in different localities so as to have them within the reach of all the children of school-going age.

The strength of the schools in March 1931 was 512 as against that of last year which was 421. The average attendance was 337.

All boys of school-going age were admitted, but there were 21 long absentees whose parents were prosecuted. All but three were warned, those three were fined a rupee each. Attendance Committee met four times during the year and did its best to secure proper attendance. There were sixteen teachers employed. Except two instructors and three untrained teachers, the rest were fully qualified, trained and certified teachers.

Institutions observe all the chief Hindu festivals and hold ceremonies in honour of many prophets and saints. Moral instruction is inculcated through daily prayers and religious discourses held at times for the benefit of the older boys.

Besides regular physical exercises, badminton, volley ball and various indigenous games are organised.

451 students underwent medical inspection. Intimation of ailments of the boys was duly given to the parents. Free treatment was accorded by the doctor in charge to almost all the boys that suffered from diseases. Report on the medical inspection was also submitted to the authorities concerned.

The strength of the area as a whole warrants extensions of buildings to be put up at an early date. The management is very much handicapped owing to financial stringency.

The feeling of indifference of the masses in the spread of education, the fear of the people in a higher social scale that the spread of education may take away the labouring classes from their control, the stir and the rambling talk among the well-to-do land-lords that all is not well with the society and that education is unsettling settled facts, the grumbling attitude of the higher class people to allow their children to sit chick by jowl with those of the depressed class—all these have gone for ever.

The Sub-District Panchayats' Committee, Namakal.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT

For the year ending 31st March (1930—1931).

This joint committee of Panchayats continued to do its work from 1—4—30 under section 20, Madras Act XV—1920, till 25-8-30. The Committee continued its work under article 5 in the Schedule under the amended Local Boards Act—1930, transitorial provisions from 25-8-30. to 30-11-30. The General Body met on 30-11-30 and modified its bye-laws in consonance with sec. 30 of the Amended Act XI of 1930. The Committee continue to function, under the new bye-laws from that date.

2. Though this Committee was formed on 27-1-29, the date it made its own constitution, this is really the second year of its existence.

3. *The General Body* consisted of sixty five affiliated panchayats with 599 Panchayatdars and 6 co-opted members. Fifteen Panchayats had not affiliated themselves by paying the affiliation fee under the rules. Though they were not given the privilege of voting at the meetings of the committee, yet their work also was attended to along with the other Panchayats without any distinction.

4. *The Executive Committee* :—Of the 15 members of the Executive Committee Mr. K. Subramania Ayyar, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Namakal, held the Office of the President till 20-4-30 when he vacated the office on his transfer to Virudhunagar. His successor, Mr. M. P. Vijayarayar was co-opted and elected as President and he held office from 6-7-30 to 27-11-30 when he resigned as he was an official and as the new Act does not contemplate officials serving in the Local Bodies. Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiar, Bar-at-law, President, District Urban Bank, (Co-opted member for Co-operation) was elected as President on 6-2-31 and he continues as such. The Honorary Organisers who were co-opted members as such ceased to be members after the repealing of the old Act. But the Secretary had to continue his work to keep up the continuity of work, till the bye-laws were modified. On 30-11-30, the General Body co-opted the three Honorary Organisers (of Namakal, Mohanur & Paramathi) and M.R.Ry. Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Avergal C.S.I. carrying on the rural reconstruction work in the area, under section 30 (2) Madras Act XI 1930. The Secretary was re-elected under the new bye-laws by the General Body on 30-11-30 and continues to do his duties as such.

5. *Meetings* :—Three *General Body* meetings and one meeting of all the Panchayats in Namakal Taluk, were held during the year and they were well attended, thus showing the interest in the work.

THE SUB-DISTRICT PANCHAYATS' COMMITTEE, NAMAKAL

The Executive Committee held four meetings during the year. Owing to the change in the Act, the Secretary (who was a co-opted member as an Hon. Organiser under the old Act) could not call the Executive Committee to meet for nearly four months as he ceased to be a member of the Committee and as such had no powers to do so.

Conferences :—No conference was held during the year as the General Body was fully represented with a strong attendance and as the consolidation work had to be done, besides the modification of the bye-laws, etc.

No meetings were adjourned for want of quorum.

6. *Establishment and Office* :—The Committee's office is held in the residence of the Secretary who carries on both the office and the executive work.

The following staff worked under the committee :—

One work-charged overseer from 1-4-30 to 31-8-30.

One maistry from 1-4-30 to 10-5-30.

One boy-peon worked under the Secretary from 1-4-30 to 23-8-30 and from 6-12-30 to 31-3-31.

The Engineering establishment, i.e. the Overseer and the maistry, was taken over by the District Board, Salem, on the appointment of a separate Engineering Staff for Panchayats in the district.

The Overseer's and the maistry's diaries passed through the Secretary.

The forms, stationery, contingencies and maps for the use of the Engineering staff were met from the Committee's funds. The stationery printing etc of the Secretary's office were also met from the Committee's funds.

Travelling Allowance to members :—Excepting Rs 4/8/ paid to a member who was in office in 1929-30 as his travelling allowance, no other Executive member claimed his travelling allowance.

Office-work :—No clerk worked or assisted the Secretary. Owing to the consolidation and intensive work in the eighty Panchayats that had been organised in the last three years and the consequent office work and the visit of the Panchayat Members and the Presidents to the Head quarters for personal instruction and advice in the administration of the Panchayats and in fusing factions arising therefrom, much of the time of the secretary had to be spent in Head-quarters and office work during the latter part of the year.

7. *Works. Wells and Roads* :—Road and water supply works to the total amount of Rs. 27,000/- were executed in this Panchayat area under

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

this Committee. Detailed figures for the amounts actually disbursed by the Government during 1930-1931 for roads and water supply works are given below :—

			Roads.			Water-supply.		
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Namakal	...	...	1,324	9	0	7,531	8	0
Rasipuram	...	...	281	5	0	4,186	6	0
Adding			1,605	14	0	11,717	14	0
Recoveries as establishment charges paid to the Sub-District Panchayats Committee, Namakal on pay orders Nos. 2904/22-8-30 & 3004/27-10-30						412	11	0
Total			1605	14	0	12,130	9	0

8. *Panchayat School Buildings*:—Ten school buildings costing Rs. 7,792/- were constructed by the Panchayats during the year. Of this amount, Rs. 3,020 was disbursed as school building grant by the Government through the Inspector of Local Boards, direct to the Village Panchayats.

9. *Education*:—There were 48 Panchayat schools working this year and 55 teachers imparted instruction in the three R's to nearly 1550 pupils. Excepting four of lower qualifications who were temporarily approved as teachers, all were qualified hands. There is great difficulty felt in getting trained or qualified hands to accept teachers' places in backward villages where housing accommodation and other social amenities are not available. It is found that the qualified hands make the Village Panchayat schools as stepping stones to the training school or as a spare time occupation to pass the S. S. L. C. Examination. In consequence, the progress in the education of the Village Panchayat school children is not steady. Further, owing to the economic strain on the resources of the villagers, the Village Panchayats are not able to find additional pay for the teachers except in one or two Panchayats.

10. *Markets*:—In Pillur, Pilikalpalayam, and Pachel village panchayats, weekly markets continue to be held this year. Of these, Pillur is under the Taluk Board having developed into a big market. The other two are under the respective Village Panchayats.

11. The Taluk Board, Namakal helped a few of the Village Panchayats with a small amount towards sanitation and lighting etc.

THE SUB-DISTRICT PANCHAYATS' COMMITTEE, NAMAKAL

12. *Other activities*:—Scouting and Cubbing: Four Panchayat school teachers were trained as Cub masters and two as Scout masters. Of these, one joined the training school and the three other Cub-masters started three Cub-Packs at Anapalayam, Tanatampatti (Datadripuram) and Pilikalpalayam village panchayats and they have been warranted by the Provincial Head Quarters. The Cub-Masters have also been warranted as Cub-Officers. Of the Scout-masters, one joined the training school and the other joined the High School to continue his studies. The Secretary, who is the Assistant District Scout Commissioner for this Sub District area, underwent training in the Stanley Park Training Centre in May 1930 at Coonoor when the Commissioners' course was held.

Village-aiders and First-aid dispensaries:—During the end of the year, this Committee sent six Village Panchayat school-teachers for being trained as village-aiders in the Government Hospital at Namakal under Dr. R. Subbiah M.B.B.S., Assistant Surgeon, for opening first-aid-dispensaries in the Panchayat villages where they have been working. An initial expenditure of Rs. 75/- for medicines and appliances and Rs. 60/-, the allowance for the teacher-village-aiders is needed for each dispensary.

Prohibition:—The whole of Puduchatram firka is dry. All the liquor shops have been closed by the effective and zealous work of M. R. Ry. Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Avergal C.S.I. and M. R. Ry. T. Adinarayana Chettiar Avergal, and their rural reconstruction staff. Excepting two villages, all the villages are Panchayats in this firka and the other two will also be organised shortly. More intensive work will be taken up in this area for improving the village Panchayats.

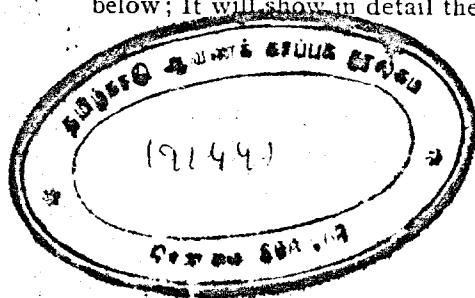
By-agricultural-industries:—*Rasipur Taluk*. Elur Village Panchayat continued its cotton hand-spinning-and-weaving industry under the direction of the Panchayatdar and a member of this Committee, Mr. Sivasamba Iyer. Karadipatti Village Panchayat adjoining Elur is also producing handspun yarn on a small scale. *Namakal Taluk*. In Sungakarampatti, Villipalayam, and Kolaram Village Panchayats and in the hamlets adjoining these village panchayats, handspinning has been started on a small scale as a part-time occupation of the women.

13. *Panchayat Advisory Committee in the Taluk Board*.—After the coming into force of the amended Act, the President of the Taluk Board Namakal was pleased to inform the Secretary that the Panchayat Advisory Committee ceased to exist (in his No. L. Dis 219 G1/31 N. T. B. dated 24-4-31). Steps will be taken to revive it as soon as the elections to the Taluk Board under the amended Act are over and the new Board formed.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

14. *Miscellaneous*:—Mr. T. G. Rutherford C.I.E., I.C.S., the Registrar General of Panchayats was pleased to watch closely the work of this Committee and allowed it to manage its own affairs under his guidance. Owing to the economic strain due to the continuofus ailure of the monsoon in this area for the past seven years till October 1930 and a consequent emigration of nearly half the population in the Panchayat villages and owing to the financial difficulty in the Panchayats, he was pleased to get $\frac{2}{3}$ grants for water supply works from the Government on the recommendation of Mr. A. H. A. Todd I.C.S., the Collector of Salem. Had it not been for the timely help given by these gentlemen, quite a lot of well works would have been stopped in the middle for want of funds and drinking water would have been a big problem in those Panchayats. Those Village Panchayats which did not send their financial statement in time did not participate in this grant. The Committee thanks these gentlemen for the same on behalf of the Panchayats. The Committee thanks the following gentlemen for having rendered valuable help to the Panchayats in their progress: M. R. Ry. Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Avergal, C.S.I., M. R. Ry. T. Adinarayana Chettiar Avergal Barrister-at-law and their unobtrusive rural reconstruction inspectors working in Rasipur Taluk, M. R. Ry. R. Subbiah Avergal, M.B.B.S., Medical Officer, Namakal, for his special lectures on disease, first aid and dispensing work taught to the village-aiders in the evenings and the day time not minding his heavy work in the hospital. All the Hon. Organisers, Messrs. T. Rama Rao, T. P. Subramanya Kandar (the vice-President who took great pains in conducting the meetings of the committee at some expense to his time and money) rendered good service to the Panchayats. Mr. A. D. Samuel, the check-measuring-officer helped the Committee by being present at the meetings and advising the Panchayats which needed it and also gave practical hints in the execution of works. The execution of a culvert (of R. C. Concrete) requiring technical skill had been constructed by country villagers with the help of this gentleman. The Committee thanks the Government for recognising the services of the Secretary by conferring the title of 'Rao Sahib' on him on the King's birthday, in June 30. The Committee thanks the President of the District Board, Salem and the Taluk Board, Namakal for their help.

15. *Finance*:—The account of income and expenditure as stated in the audit report by the elected auditors of the Committee is appended below; It will show in detail the state of finance of the committee.



208

31
V211, 4/11/30
N 31

ACCIDENTS EVERYWHERE

Are on the increase. Prompt medical attendance cannot be had always. It therefore behoves every one to know how to render to injured persons immediate temporary assistance in a scientific way, or First Aid making use of materials at hand in cases such as bleeding, broken bones, drowning, snake-bite, scorpionbite, burns poisoning, epilepsy, sun stroke, fainting, suffocation convulsion, foreign bodies in the eye, ear throat &c. till the arrival of the Doctor or medical aid is sought. The Hon'ble Dr. U. Rama Rao's book "First Aid in Accidents" teaches you how to render "First Aid". The desire to help a fellow-creature when injured exists in most of us but people shrink from giving aid because they do not know what to do and are afraid of doing more harm than good. Many precious lives are thus lost every year which might have been saved by prompt aid had any one been near-by able to render, "First Aid". So get a copy to-day and know how to save people from terrible agony, or injury or even life itself. Written in simple non-technical language and profusely illustrated, the book has undergone several editions and several thousands of copies have been sold. Doctors speak highly of the book. Governments, Railways, Mines, Industrial concerns, and Schools are buying largely. Published in English, Kanarese, Tamil; Telugu, Malayalam.



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