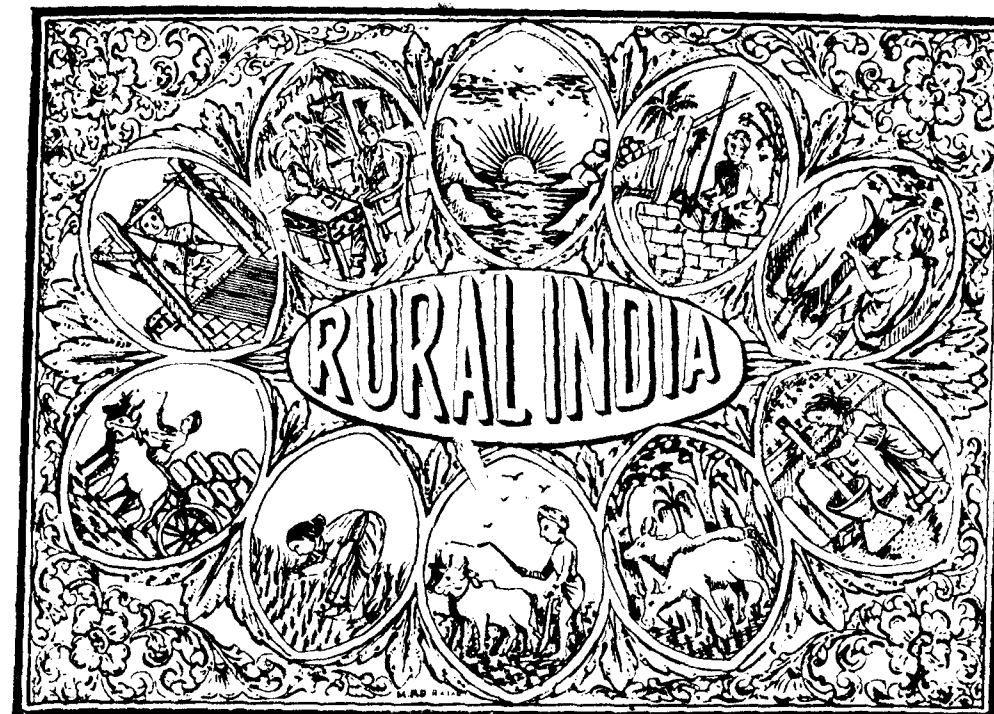




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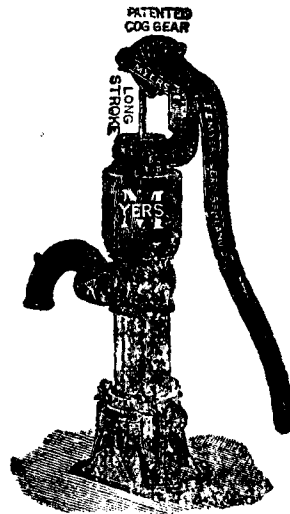
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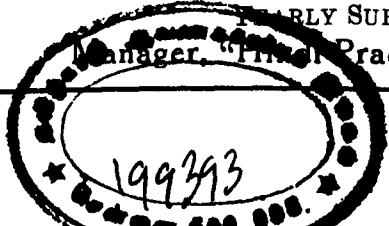
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RURAL INDIA

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

Vol. V.

April-May, 1930.

Nos. 4-5.

"A GREAT EXPERIMENT."

By The Editor.

I



IN THE WORDS OF THE TITLE OF THIS ARTICLE
Lord Goschen, a former Governor of Madras, described
the Forest Panchayat Movement in this Presidency, on
the occasion of opening the second conference of Forest
Panchayats in 1926. This bold attempt to interest the
villagers in the protection and development of State forests by invest-
ing them with the responsibility for management was due to the far-
seeing statesmanship of the Government of Madras. We propose to
give a descriptive account of the origin and working of this system in
the Madras Presidency.

In fulfilment of an undertaking given in the Legislative Council
the Government appointed a committee, in 1912, with the then senior
member of the Board of Revenue, (Mr. W. O. Horne, C. S. I.) as chair-
man, to consider and report upon all matters connected with the
regulation of grazing and the supply of fuel and leaf manure, and to
state whether in these respects the Reserved Forests had failed to
satisfy the agricultural population and to suggest any remedies the
committee might consider desirable. Among the other members of the
committee were Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai C. I. E., M. L. C.,
and Dewan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao, President of the Central
Land Mortgage Bank. The Committee was of opinion that valid reasons
did exist for dissatisfaction with those features of forest administration
on which they were asked to report, and they attributed the alleged
grievances in the main, to the insufficiently supervised contact of the
minor forest subordinates with the rural population.

In enunciating their forest policy in 1890, the Government decided
that all the sources of fuel and fodder supply should be under Govern-
ment control and constituted into Reserved Forests in order to

ensure to the population a continuous and certain supply of fodder, pasturage, fuel and small timber. The intention of the Government was plainly declared in the following words :—"It is, however, most necessary to correct the idea which prevails somewhat widely that, as soon as a forest is reserved, cattle and men are to be excluded, and it is to be worked for the profit of Government rather than for the benefit of the people. It cannot be too strongly affirmed that the chief object of the Reserved Forests throughout the greater part of the country is the provision of pasture, small timber, fuel and leaves for manure or litter. They are to be worked in order to meet the wants of the villagers in these respects and are not to be converted into close preserves for the growth of large timber....."

.....*Speaking generally, the forests in the plains should be worked as fuel and fodder reserves and those on the hills as high forests.*" The declared policy of Government in these respects was reaffirmed in a G. O. of 1894 in the following words :—"It is undesirable that the Forest Department should exercise the strict supervision over these minor areas which is required in the case of timber growing or climatic forests". The G. O. of 1894 is also important as in it, the general policy of the Government of India in relation to forests was definitely laid down.

The Forest Committee found that the clearly expressed intentions of Government had not been carried out and that the administration of these petty forests had been too rigid and the remedy which the committee favoured was *to reduce to a minimum, relations between the forest subordinates and the villagers.* Government concurred in the Committee's view alike on administrative and financial grounds (G. O. No. 3020, Revenue, dated 30-10-1913). As a first step to giving effect to their scheme, the Forest Committee recommended that the State Forests should be classified according to their nature and situation on the lines of the principles of classification approved by the Government of India in 1894. The classification which was accepted by Government in their order quoted above was as follows :—Class I—Forests, the preservation of which is necessary on climatic or physical grounds. These are forests which must be preserved on account of their indirect effects and without reference to their commercial value. These indirect effects which in many cases far outweigh the direct benefits as estimated from a commercial standpoint, may be summarised briefly as the influence of forests on climate, rainfall, water storage and the prevention of denudation. Classes II & III—Forests affording a supply of valuable timber or fuel for commercial purposes; it is in connection with the control of these forests that the Forest Department has been charac-

terised as quasi-commercial. Class IV—minor Forests which are useful chiefly as supplying fuel and fodder or grazing and which should be worked to the greatest advantage or convenience of the people. Class V—Reserves which are mainly useful for grazing alone. The method of treatment proposed by the Committee and approved by the Government was as follows :—Forests of the I and II classes to remain under Departmental management. In these classes of forests, grazing should be limited; forests of the III class, fuel plantations, to be given up. Thus IV & V classes of forests comprise those areas which were reserved principally or solely to ensure a continued supply of grazing, fuel and agricultural requirements. Stated briefly, in forests of classes I, and II, local interests must be subordinated to those of the general public, and in forests coming under classes IV and V, the principal object is the satisfaction of local requirements.

It will be seen that the management of the state forests should not be judged only from the revenue producing point of view. Although this side of the activities of the state forests is unquestionably of importance, the first duty of the State is to provide for the wants of the agricultural population. Forestry has been rightly termed the handmaid of Agriculture and nowhere does this apply with greater force than in India which is predominantly an agricultural country. Apart from their ordinary domestic and agricultural requirements for timber, fuel, thatching and fodder grass, grazing and numerous minor products the people are largely dependent on the forest for their very existence in times of famine and scarcity. Among the recommendations made by Dr. A. Voeleker in his report on the possibilities of improvement in Indian agriculture the one which he regarded as of the greatest importance was that of providing fuel and fodder reserves by means of afforestation. This view has since been endorsed by the recent Royal Commission on Agriculture in India. It is mainly in respect of forests coming under classes IV and V that friction between villagers and forest subordinates had arisen and the Forest Committee recommended that the management of these Forests should be entrusted to panchayats composed of resident cattle owners. The Government in approving the Committee's recommendation was of opinion that the villagers should be entrusted with the management of not only grazing grounds which formed part of the Reserved Forests but also of such unreserved lands in the village as are useful for grazing and are not wanted for any other purpose.

A METHOD OF ERADICATING A BAD WEED (Viswamitra Grass) ON BUNDS OF PADDY-FIELDS.

By K. Venkataraman M. A. (Hons), Superintendent,
Agricultural Research Station, Aduturai.

TMPERATA ARUNDINACEA CYRIL, POPULARLY known as 'Viswamitra grass' is a very troublesome weed on bunds of paddy fields, causing considerable annoyance to bare-footed pedestrians by its very sharp and prickly leaf-tips. It is an erect perennial grass with creeping stoloniferous root-stocks, and aerial stems varying from 4 inches to 19 inches. The creeping stem (stolon) is mostly confined to the superficial layers of the soil.

The growth of this pernicious weed on the sides of bunds is generally kept in check by the trimming which is usually given when fields are dug with mammoties during preparatory cultivation, but the persistent growth on the top surfaces of bunds is an unmitigated nuisance. Ryots usually attempt to alleviate this nuisance by digging up the bund and forming it anew, but such a method has naturally been unsuccessful when dealing with a perennial grass possessed of an underground runner. A method of eradicating this evil is described below, and this was found to work very successfully at the Government Agricultural Research Station, Aduturai. It is hoped that this information will prove beneficial to ryots in paddy areas who wish to get rid of the annoyance caused by the Viswamitra grass on field-bunds.

A layer of paddy chaff 6 to 9 inches in thickness, is spread over the entire length and width of the bund, and this should be done preferably on a still and bright but not windy day. Hot burning cinders are then dropped at intervals of two or three feet on the top of the chaff, and the chaff is allowed to char slowly taking several hours to do so. The slow burning of the chaff and the intense and continuous heating of the bund renders the top layers of the bund baked and indurated and kills the underground stems of the Viswamitra grass spreading in the superficial layers beneath. This treatment has to be extended to every offending bund, and the success of the measure will be apparent next season by the remarkable absence of the prickly leaf-tips of Viswamitra grass.



A LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA

January 26, 1930.

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to receive your letter. Since writing to you, Captain J. W. Petavel (lecturer on the Poverty Problem at Calcutta University, Principal of Kasimbazar Polytechnic Institute, Editor of "Bread and Freedom"), Secretary of the Educational Colonies Association, has asked me to co-operate with this organization to establish the first colony in India. We are now completing plans for the colony where all kinds of farming will be taught as well as ways of physical and spiritual strength.

You will no doubt think it unusual that I have devoted my time to spiritual endeavors (as you see from booklet: Music of the Spheres), and am as well a practical farmer. For the last 15 years I have done most all the work on our 100 acre farm here. Kindly let me know if horses can be used for cultivating in India, or is the climate too hot for them? I am now ploughing and planting barley, wheat, and oats, using 3 horses hitched abreast. Many people use tractors.

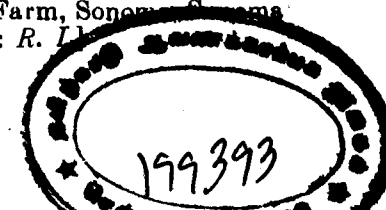
The customs in this country are very different from yours. The caste system does not exist here, although people of wealth and fame generally consider themselves superior to others. We have religious toleration, and remarkable co-operation in business which brings prosperity to the majority. While this is considered to be a materialistic nation, it is founded on the really spiritual basis of fraternity and individual equality: a government "of the people, by the people, for the people". Read carefully the lives of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and the ideals of this country will be better understood. We have neither a Dictator nor enforced socialism, as seen in certain European countries now. Yet we have much to improve.

Kindly let me know how farming is done in India. Do you think the people of your country would like to learn to farm as we do here, with machinery so as to produce the most food per acre with the least hand labor. In this way we keep all the people well fed. We have wonderful cows and dairies here, and the children are well fed. I do not eat meat (except poultry or fish), although many do. Here the poultry business is developed to a very high degree of efficiency,--hens very well kept and high producing. Quantities of eggs, butter, cheese are used in this country, as well as cows' milk.

With kind regards.

Very sincerely,
Miss Reich Maxwell.

[Our reply to Miss Maxwell of Maxwellton Farm, Sonoma County will be published in our next issue. Ed: R. I.]



SCIENCE AND CROPS.

By C. Mahadevan, Berlin.

"The growth and ripening of plants and fruit may be shortened by about half by application of appropriate rays to the seeds", is the startling dictum of Professor Fritz Hildebrand, noted physicist in Berlin as the result of an extensive and exhaustive series of experiments.

It is, of course, well known that beyond the colors of the spectrum visible to the human eye, there are other rays, notably the ultra violet on the one side and the ultra red on the other. There are shortwaved rays still further, beyond the ultra red rays, waves the length of which varies between 30 centimetres and as little as one millimeter. These rays Professor Hildebrand applied to seeds of peas, turnips, cabbages, radishes, tomatoes and sunflowers planted in very poor and shallow soil.

Previous experiments in Europe and in America had demonstrated the possibility of activating the processes of growth and maturity by electrical treatment of the soil or by submitting the nascent plants to electric rays, but the results obtained were not only somewhat erratic, but economically not very practical.

In the case of these tiny rays the situation is an entirely different one. The cost of application is small, the results are not only constant but startlingly good.

It ought to be possible, by the application of the Hildebrand method, experts declare, to obtain even in the northern portions of the hemisphere, two crops per year. Imagination boggles at what this entails, the fructifying of vast expanses of land hitherto unproductive, the turning out of food sufficient to meet the needs of the world's population.

RURAL CIVILISATION.

Under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., Madras, discussions and meetings were held on our rural problems, the principal speaker being Dr. Kenyan L. Butterfield, LL. D. who has been for 18 years the President of the Massachusetts and Michigan Agricultural Colleges, two of the leading colleges in America. He was a member of the Roosevelt Country Life Commission. For many years he was President of American Country Life Movement and is now Vice-President of the International Country Life Commission. He has been sent out on a number of important missions to foreign countries, for example, as a member of the China Educational Commission and

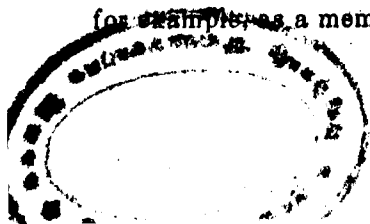
recently as a visiting professor to South Africa under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation. Dr. Butterfield is the author of several widely known works dealing with rural problems. He delivered a series of three lectures in Madras on "The building and maintenance of an adequate rural civilisation". The first lecture on "The Goal" was presided over by Hon. Sir M. Krishnan Nair, the Law Member of the Madras Government. The second lecture on "The Forces and Agencies" was presided over by the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan, the chief minister. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, President of the Corporation of Madras was the chairman at the third lecture of the series entitled "the Statedemanship of the rural affairs". The lectures were well received and were closely followed by intelligent and appreciative audiences. We give below summaries of the three interesting and illuminating lectures.

THE GOAL.

The first lecture was devoted to the goal that should be kept in view in the work of building and maintaining an adequate rural civilisation and the importance of the task. They were dealing, with a problem which was complicated and widespread. It had been approached comparatively recently from the point of view of trying to consider it as a unit, and not as a series of problems. It was impossible for one coming from a certain country to another to give advice about ways in which general principles might be applied. He was equally convinced that fundamentally the problems of mankind were the same all the world over.

In dealing with rural problems, the significance of the rural people must not be lost sight of. The number of people who lived under rural conditions made the rural question significant. Not less than a thousand million people, probably two-thirds of the world's population, lived under rural conditions. They were the suppliers of food to all the world's people. They were the furnishers of an infinite amount of raw material for the manufacturing industries of the world. They were the maintainers of the fertility of the soil and the sustainers of an increasing population. The welfare of industries was dependent to some degree on this great mass of rural people and a slight increase of their consuming power would be to influence commerce, industry and every aspect of business.

There was further an increasing competition between the urban and the rural aspects of civilisation. He did not know how far or how rapidly the movement for industrialisation was likely to go. It carried with it the expansion of commerce, strengthening of finance and a great array of new opportunities and outlooks. In fact, some said they



were entering a new age, and industrialisation had affected their civilisation profoundly. Cities were growing and this growth carried with it the concentration of economic, political and cultural power in the cities. This had produced a competition with the rural civilisation inasmuch as migration from the country to the city followed industrialisation, and the new and larger occupational opportunities. There was indeed some truth in saying that the best of the country's blood was robbed by the city. Rural people, because of their environment and their way of thinking had a contribution to make to the progress of a land. Could they in these circumstances hope to build alongside the industrial urban civilisation an agricultural and rural civilisation which in its turn would minister to all the needs of rural people as the urban civilisation would to the needs of the city? If he had the power, he would like to bring home to the students in colleges and universities the great issues that lay in the villages all the world over.

FORCES AND AGENCIES IN RURAL CIVILISATION.

Dr. Butterfield said that in the first lecture he dwelt on the significance of rural problems and the growing competition between the urban and rural aspects of civilisation. In this second lecture, he would set forth some tests for an adequate rural civilisation and then refer to the forces and agencies that must be utilised in building such a civilisation. He asked them not to take the tests he would mention as the only tests. He was of the view that an adequate rural civilisation ought to be sufficiently social. The farmers ought to be considered as the trustees of the soil. It was incumbent upon the agriculturists to utilize the soil to the very best advantage of not merely themselves but of the society as well. They should make the best of each acre of land. Land was to be thought of and treated in terms of public interest, because society had got more stake in land than on anything else. For an adequate rural civilisation, another test was that cultivator should have just reward for the work. But the speaker had never heard of a formula by which they could guarantee a farmer an equivalent to a real wage. It was more difficult to determine the wage of the cultivator than the wage of an industrial worker. There were the exigencies of weather and the difficulty about determining the cost of production. But as researches progressed, as education became more widespread, and as the call for food became even more insistent than it was now, the difficulties for determining the just reward for the farmers' work would become easier of solution. The third test was the satisfying quality of rural life. Some used to say that if people were satisfied why should they be disturbed. The answer to that was that it was against the character of human

nature. They had all the passion for progress. Therefore satisfying country life meant a rise in the general level of intelligence of the people, an intelligence which could grasp new things and ideas. Till now tradition and experience had been the teacher to the tiller of the soil. But now science had come on the field and the cultivator must have that type of intelligence which would be able to grasp what science had to teach. Illiteracy was not the same as intelligence. He did not hold the view at all that a group of people must be literate in order to be intelligent and educated. Nevertheless they must not take up this attitude and remain inactive. The demands of modern life and modern civilization were being heaped upon them and they could not but try to abolish illiteracy as early as possible. There must also be a measure of culture in adequate rural civilization. By culture he meant an appreciation of the social and economic environments in which the rural life was cast. He also thought that in adequate rural life there must be an opportunity for those who were competent to change their status. The last test he desired to lay stress on was that the people of the rural areas should participate politically and contribute their peculiar share to the common civilization of the times. The forces or agencies that must be utilised to build up this civilization were; (1) the Government, (2) education, (3) associated effort or co-operation and (4) religion. In these modern days, the aid of the Government was necessary. The government could do certain things to build rural civilization which no other agency could do. By education, he meant not merely the education that came out of the schools and colleges, but the continued education of the people all through life. Without co-operation and organisation, rural people would not be able to work together for common ends. The utmost that one could do for people to help them was to see that they helped themselves. People could not be lifted *en masse*. There was a moral, spiritual and cultural experience that came out of the principle of collective action. It was his firm conviction that they were not likely to have an adequate rural civilisation, unless the activities of that civilization, whether economic, political or social, were governed pretty fairly by that attitude of spirit that was perhaps best exemplified in the life of Jesus. Something of that spirit must permeate their civilisation if it was to be adequate.

STATESMANSHIP IN RURAL AFFAIRS.

In his third lecture Dr. Butterfield urged the need for statesmanship in rural affairs and said that in the task of building of adequate rural civilisation, attention must be paid to at least half a dozen things. The first and foremost was that the actual tiller of the soil must have access to the land on terms that encouraged sufficiency. Secondly education

must be considered as fundamental and the type of education should be such as to make those who could stay in the village and take to farming to do it. If rural people were really to be educated they must have among them an increasing army of trained young people who understood the elements of rural reconstruction, more than the mere rearing of better crops and breeding of better animals. He then emphasised on the need for a continuous and continuing education of people in the village, the advantages of which he explained were indeed great. Adult education even in America, was in a fluid condition. The system of education of the youth was under the fire of criticism; and necessity for reorganisation was never before felt so great. If they came to understand the situation in America in respect of this matter, they would be simply amazed at the chaos; but he must say it was a healthy chaos. It was a challenge to the traditional methods.

Dr. Butterfield then elaborated on the advantages of co-operative movement in relation to rural areas; and said that every possible encouragement should be given by the Government and private interest to the fostering of co-operative spirit in the villages. He then spoke of the establishment of local units which he considered to be vital in the programme of rural statesmanship. Students of the subject and great farm associations were coming to the same conclusion that the strength of rural civilisation must rest on the strength of local units of small villages. He did not know whether rural reconstruction in India meant reconstruction of the old Indian village as a civilising unit. He could not but feel that the average village was too small. He had discussed this matter with those who had given thought to this question and he was much impressed with the opinion expressed regarding the grouping of small villages so as to form really strong and self-sufficing units.

Referring to the tendency of Government departments, each to work in its own particular channel and to the need for some co-ordinating method, so that these could work together on a common programme Dr. Butterfield said that in America, only in recent years, they had been successful in making this principle recognised. He said that leadership was wanted among farmers. Those who cared for democracy must admit that leadership could come from the wiser and the more competent and from those among the educated who understood the rural affairs. Interests of rural people, he said, were to be the first consideration in any national legislation or in any arrangement for the economic and social development in the country. It was not a question of politics, but it was a question of statesmanship. It was not a question of matching the interests of the rural group against the urban; it

was a question of making sure that all arrangements made by the Government promoted the well-being of the nation as a whole. He appealed to the educated young men of India to get interested in rural affairs and said it was of national consequence that some of them at least should find their careers in the farm. He was told that the educated youth were not prepared for this sacrifice. But he must say that the most essential element in true patriotism was willingness to sacrifice and that if they were to have statesmanship in rural affairs, they must make provision for leadership which would devote its wisdom and energy thereto.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

SIR MUHAMMAD HABIBULLA SAHIB BAHADUR. "*Rural India*", extends a hearty welcome to Sir Muhammad Habibulla Sahib Bahadur on his return to Madras. He comes back to us full of honours in the service of his country and the Empire in positions of great trust and responsibility and on delicate and diplomatic missions. In the performance of these varied activities Sir Muhammad's high administrative ability and statesmanship were requisitioned to the fullest extent and he has come out successfully in winning the confidence of both the Government and the people. Such a worthy public servant cannot be allowed to rest on his oars yet. The Empire has need of his great services particularly at the present juncture when the Indian Constitution is in the process of undergoing important changes. May he be spared many many years of useful and happy life.

RURAL CIVILISATION. We in India are the inheritors of a great rural civilisation. The vastness of the country, its situation and climate and its immense population have destined it for such a civilisation. Considering that there are nearly seven-hundred thousand villages in India as against two thousand towns and that as many as nearly three hundred crores of the total population of India are living in villages as against thirty crores in towns, it may be said that Indian civilisation is really a rural civilisation. The art and culture of India have come from the villages and therefore every endeavour should be made to perpetuate this civilisation and to get rid of its acknowledged defects. In other words, rural life and civilisation need to be reconstructed. As well pointed out by Dr. Konyan L. Butterfield, summaries of whose illuminating addresses in Madras on this interesting topic we are able to publish in this issue, the problems of rural life throw a challenge for recognition, understanding and sympathy, and India with her hoary rural civilisation and traditions has to play a great part in this endeavour.

MADRAS FOREST PANCHAYATS. We understand that the Draft Standing Order containing rules and regulations for the working of Forest Panchayats in this Presidency as revised by the Committee recently appointed by the Government under the chairmanship of Mr. H. A. B. Vernon, C. I. E., Member Board of Revenue has been issued as a G. O. for an expression of opinion by the public before 1st. July. We hope to be able to deal with the subject in the next issue of "RURAL INDIA". For the benefit of our readers we propose, beginning with this issue to give a short account of the origin and development of this interesting movement which a former Governor of Madras characterised as "A great experiment".

RURAL MATTERS IN THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE. The discussions in the Legislative Council during the Budget Session are of importance as it is the occasion in which Honorable members are enabled to draw the attention of the Government to defects in the administration in its various departments and to get the Government to enunciate the policy which they intend to pursue. In accordance with our custom, we propose to devote this month's notes mainly to a general review of the discussions in the Legislative Council on the subjects which come within the scope of the objects of this Journal.

DEVELOPMENT OF HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY The Hon. the Minister for Development, replying to a question on the improvement of handloom weaving, stated that a proposal was under consideration for the employment of a Research Engineer with a view to the evolution of suitable machines to improve the various processes employed in weaving. Among other proposals taken up which would be placed before the Textile Advisory Committee were the introduction of a hire-purchase system for the sale of comparatively costly appliances, or loan of such appliances to Cooperative Societies; reduction of railway freight on yarns and handloom cloths; development of the trade of Madras handkerchiefs; the establishment of special weaving schools; and the introduction of fiscal measures to protect cottage industries from mill competition.

IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS. The Hon. the Minister for Development stated, in reply to a question, that the Agricultural Research Engineer had experimented with seed drills, wind mills, cane mills and various other types of appliances and machinery, but experiments were handicapped through lack of workshop and testing facilities. Suggestions were made to manufacturers for the improvement of their products and the suggestions had received their careful consideration.

THE ECONOMIC ENQUIRY COMMITTEE. By the device of a cut which was moved under the demand for Land Revenue and Settlement, the need was urged for giving an opportunity to the Legislative Council to express its opinion on the Report of the Godavari Resettlement Enquiry Committee before final orders were passed thereon by the Government. Member after member expressed dissatisfaction at the delay in placing the report on the table of the House and of the unwillingness of the Government to take the Legislative Council into their confidence on an important report which raised far-reaching issues. The Hon. the Revenue Member assured the house that the Government intended to place the report on the table of the House together with the report of the Government experts and that before final orders are passed, the Legislative Council would be given an opportunity to discuss the report.

LAND REVENUE LEGISLATION. Token motions to reduce the allotment for Land Revenue have been an annual event during the Budget discussions. The token motion which was moved at the last session was virtually a censure of the policy of the Government in regard to the present system of Land Revenue Assessment which it was contended was uneconomic and oppressive and was intended to emphasise the urgent need for revising the Land Revenue policy and to expedite legislation to settle the form and the extent of the Land Tax to be collected. The Hon. the Revenue Member was hard put to give a convincing reply to the criticisms of the nonofficial members.

All that he could advance on behalf of Government was that an attempt was made to introduce a Land Revenue Bill but without success and that when a new council came into existence, the question would be revived. The Hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell added that everything that the Government could do was done to see that the Resettlement did not impose any undue hardship on any particular individual. This halting reply was hardly reassuring and was regarded as unsatisfactory. The Bardoli enquiry and the findings of the Godavari Resettlement Enquiry Committee have shown that enquiries made by the settlement officers prior to the introduction of resettlement rates for the purpose of what is known as the scheme report are of doubtful value being admittedly based on data which cannot be regarded as either complete or reliable.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND. The much advertised rural development fund has not materialised and the Ministry was administered a well deserved rebuke for its indifference in this behalf. On the demand for the grant of salaries for Ministers and Council Secretaries, a cut was moved to criticise the Government for the poor provision

made for schemes of rural development and to urge the need for the enunciation of a more liberal policy and programme. The object of forming the nucleus of a fund was to develop rural areas by improving health and sanitation, water supply in villages including rural communications and generally providing rural amenities. The matter has been under discussion for over two years and nothing so far has been done. The Finance Member was not able to provide the necessary funds and matters have been allowed to drift with the result that rural communications and rural health and sanitation continue to be in a woeful condition. It was pointed out that Government were really apathetic. When the raising of additional revenue was thought of, it was said that the land should bear the main burden, the province being agricultural. But when expenditure was incurred, Government seemed to forget the Land and spend all the money in providing amenities to urban areas. The severest critic of the policy of Government or their lack of policy was Dewan Bahadur B. Munuswami Naidu, leader of the Justice Party, who took the Government to task for spending nearly all the amount of the provincial contribution released in favour of the Government, on urban schemes; 59 lacs for the remodelling of the General Hospital; 39 lacs for shifting the Christian College to Thambaram; 27 lacs for the Andhra University; another 27 lacs for the Annamalai University and other urban schemes while "not a pie for rural development" was provided. It is a pity that the motion was rejected but it is significant that the entire opposition in the Legislative Council except the European group voted for the motion.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RELIEF. Justifiable criticism was levelled against the administration of these departments. Medical relief is woefully inadequate in rural areas and owing to the unsympathetic attitude of the Taluk Boards, medical officers in charge of rural dispensaries are finding it more and more difficult to carry on their work. Maternity relief work is admittedly defective. It is, however, gratifying to note that the Government have realised the need for starting more child welfare, maternity relief, and anti-natal institutions. Having to live in unhealthy surroundings without clean and sufficient drinking water supply it is no wonder that the villagers who contribute the main revenue of the province are subjected to the ravages of malaria, cholera and small-pox which cripple the agriculturists and interfere with their normal avocations. Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliar, a former Minister for Development put in an earnest plea for taking on hand anti-malarial work and steps to increase the disease-resisting capacity of the people.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS. Dewan Bahadur R. N. Arogya-

swami Mudaliar, another ex-minister and others said that it was the duty of the Government to find ways and means to make agriculture, the main industry of the Province a paying proposition which it was urged was possible only by increasing the yield of land and reducing the expenses of cultivation. Considering that the agriculturists contribute nearly 80 per cent of the revenues of the province, it was almost a scandal, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliar said, that Government could not provide more than a paltry 19 lacs of rupees on a nation-building department. In order that the work of the Agricultural Department may be more effective and capable of yielding greater benefit to the people, it was necessary, he contended, that it should concern itself with the question of the adequacy of irrigation as much as the Revenue or the Irrigation Departments. Apart from the question of irrigation, the supply and quality of manures was very important and proper advice should be made available to agriculturists by the department. The work done by the demonstrators did not command confidence for the simple reason that there was no supervision over their work.

THE FOREST POLICY OF GOVERNMENT. Government sustained a defeat on the general policy of the Forest Department on the token cut of the Forest demand. The working of the Forest Panchayats was also discussed and Mr. Harisarvothama Rao blamed the Government for making a profit of two lacs of rupees by way of income from Panchayat Forests while all that money should have gone towards the improvement of the forests and the lessening of the assessment, these forests having previously been worked at a loss by the Government Forest Department.

Panchayat forests.

Transfer of certain reserves in Bellary district from military to civil authorities.

* 1971 Q—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the repeated requests made to them for taking over the reserves near Thornagal and Kudithini of Bellary district from the military authorities and handing them over to the civil authorities; and (b) the steps they have taken to secure the necessary transfer, either by addressing the Government of India in the matter or otherwise?

A.—(a) & (b) The reserves near Thornagal and Kudithini are the Thornagal reserve, its extensions and Daroji foreshore reserve. These are under the management of panchayats. Twelve forest reserves were formerly worked by the military grass farm department but these were handed over to the management of forest panchayats under an order

of Government of October 1927 and are now under Panchayats management. There are now no reserve forests in Bellary district which are under the control of the military authorities.

There are, however, military grass farm lands known as 'Rumnahs' in Kudithini and Haragandona villages in Bellary taluk and in Yerrabanahalli and Chikkanthapuram villages in Hospet taluk. They are not forest reserves but are poramboke areas belonging to the Military department. The Government are not aware that any requests have been made for the transfer of these areas to this Government.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Indian Sugar Industry. By Khan Bahadur S. M. Hadi, M. R. A. C., M. R. Ag. S., Director of Agriculture, Bhopal State, Published under the auspices of the Govt of Bhopal., C. I. (1929)

Mr. Hadi who for several years was Asst. Director of Land Records and Agriculture in the United Provinces, was on retirement appointed to the Department of Agriculture, Bhopal State. In that capacity he had to prepare a programme of remunerative agricultural experiments likely to prove beneficial to the ryots of Bhopal. In the programme which he prepared, the sugar cane crop occupied the most prominent place as the soil and climate of Bhopal are admirably suited for the successful growth of sugarcane.

The author has given a detailed account of the experiments conducted by him in the state in the cultivation of sugarcane and the manufacture of *gur* (raw sugar) which have shown that a considerably larger output of raw sugar of high grade was obtained per acre from imported canes, combined with smaller cost for cultivation and manufacture. The results of the experiments are interesting and valuable in that they prove that India can be self sufficient in respect of the production of sugar for her requirements but can also produce considerable quantities for export.

The publication of Mr. Hadi's book is opportune when schemes for rehabilitating this important industry which is threatened with foreign competition and placing it on a sound basis is under serious consideration.

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Mr. Sarma who has studied the science of Nature Cure both from the western and the oriental stand points has interpreted the significance of both the systems which agree in essentials as stated in the interesting Foreword contributed by Justice Sir V. Ramesam Pantulu. The discovery of vitamins has as pointed out by Sir Vepa Ramesam brought the system of Nature Cure to the front in recent days and the theory and practice of dietics on the rational understanding and use of which the success or failure of the system of Nature Cure expounded and advocated by the author depend. After a careful perusal of the two volumes we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Sarma has succeeded in giving a systematic and rational exposition, of the principles of Nature Cure. We commend Mr. Sarma's books to those who value health as a precious possession not only to seek but to keep it when got.

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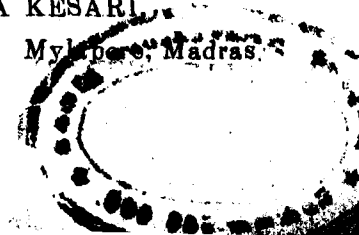
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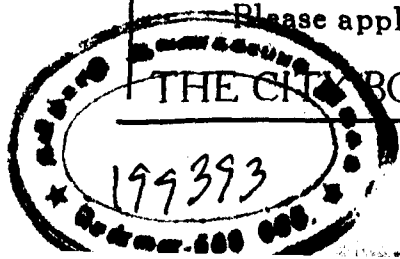
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