

Mr. Dharmaranga Raju is ill and not able to attend this Conference. It is the first time that a family that has done so much for the welfare of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union is entirely unrepresented. It is a matter of great regret, and it will be most fitting if I ask the Secretary to convey to Mr. Dharmaranga Raju our sympathy during his illness and hopes for his speedy recovery.

The Secretary next read the Annual Report of the working of Union during 1913-14 (Printed in Appendix).

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S., then delivered the following address :—

Mr. Wood, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is usual for your President at this juncture to address a few remarks to you. I do not propose to take up much of your time. It is always a difficult matter to select a subject, but as Head of the Agricultural Department, I think it will not be out of place if I offer a few words of encouragement and advice to past and present students.

The calling you have chosen is one of the most useful in this world, and especially so in this country where so large a part of the population depends upon the soil for its employment and existence. I want to impress upon you—though I think you all fully realise it already—how very much depends upon your devotion to duty. We do not want in the Department the man who does as little as he can without being found fault with, or who carries out his work in a slipshod way without a care of what the result may be. The interests at stake are enormous, and you workers are only units among millions. We cannot afford to make mistakes, and thereby sow, amongst the people whom we wish to help, the seeds of distrust in our efforts. It is necessary, therefore, that every member of the Department shall throw his whole heart into his work and make up his mind that everything he does shall be done to the best of his ability;

and I am thankful to say—I congratulate you all upon it—that, judging by results, that is what the Department has set before itself as its ideal. The Department has been in existence for a considerable period, but in its early days it had not a chance of vindicating its usefulness. It was starved; it had to serve too many masters who quarrelled about its management; it received but scant encouragement, and the site of the Institution to which men were sent to learn their work was ill suited for practical purposes. Yet, in spite of all, the College at Saidapet turned out a faithful few of excellent merit. In recent years, however, a new policy has been conceived, a broad and generous policy which we owe to the all-embracing genius of Lord Curzon (cheers) and which the Government of Sir Arthur Lawley was quick to act upon here in Madras. The result of that conception, so far as we are here concerned, is this College, of which any country might be proud, and the staff of young and keen officers who are to-day employed either in this College or scattered about in various parts of the Presidency. Already the need for further expansion has been realised, and it is an open secret that the Department is to be considerably strengthened. (Applause). You, first year men here, of whom I am glad to welcome 40 in place of the usual 20, are evidence of the first step towards the contemplated expansion, and I have no doubt you will all be gratified to hear that a proposal for the improvement of your prospects goes hand in hand with the proposal for the increase in numbers. (Applause.)

The good the Department has been able to do in the past few years of its existence has been great, but there are still innumerable fields for you to conquer and your power for doing good is infinite. You—I speak of the Department—have shown what you can do in the childhood of your new existence; let every one be determined that you will more than fulfil the promise of your early days.

Amongst us, Britishers, there has for many generations been a feeling of deep love, reverence and gratitude to the school and College where we have been fitted for our life's work. This feeling has led to a sense of common brotherhood between those who have sat in the

same seats and learned within the same walls, but, more than that, it has helped to fix a high standard of duty, lest anything which may be done by one of her sons should bring discredit on the school or College. I am glad to see that such a spirit is growing up here in connection with this College. The existence of your Students' Union and your Annual Meetings, at which so many old boys attend, are proofs that you have grasped the underlying principle. May the spirit ever flourish, and it will make you better men and better servants of the people whom it is your work to serve!

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for the honour you have done me in asking me to preside to day and I am glad to take this opportunity to say how great a pleasure it is to be here (Cheers).

After the President's address was over, Mr. D. Balakrishnamurti, Farm manager, Anakapalle, read an interesting paper on "Agriculture in the Vizagapatam District and what the Department can do to improve it," a summary of which is printed in Appendix.

This was followed by another interesting paper by Mr. Y. Ramachandra Rao, Assistant to the Government Entomologist, on "the Problems of an Economic Entomologist," (summary printed in Appendix). In the discussion which was invited by the President, Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar supplemented the remarks of Mr. Ramachandra Rao.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, I. C. S., Director of Agriculture, as President of the Committee of Judges appointed to value the Munagala Prize essays, for which a gold medal of the value of Rs. 50 had been offered by Mr. K. R. Ramasastrulu Naidu, in reporting on the competition, remarked that 10 essays had been received on "Paddy cultivation in the Madras Presidency with suggestions for improvement" and that several of them showed good powers of observation and an intimate knowledge of local practices and expressed a wish that more of the senior members

of the Union would compete for the prizes in future years. He then announced that, Mr. G. Jogi Raju having obtained the highest number of marks, his paper had been pronounced by the judges to be the best and therefore eligible for the Munagala Prize.

The President then presented the gold medal to Mr. Jogi Raju and congratulated him.

The proceedings were adjourned to the next day.

The Conference re assembled on 20th July, the Hon'ble Mr. Ll. E. Buckley, I. C. S., presiding. There was a very large gathering, as on the previous day.

Before the reading of the papers, Mr. Vengail Krishna Nayanar moved the following Resolution, the audience standing :—

“That the members of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union assembled at the Conference on the 20th July, 1914, beg to give expression to their profound regret at the demise of Lady Hardinge and request the President to convey their heartfelt sympathy and condolence to H. E. Lord Hardinge.”

The Principal moved a resolution to the effect “that the members of the Union regret the absence of Rao Bahadur J. Dharmaranga Raju, one of their Vice Presidents, on account of illness and pray for his speedy recovery. This was duly seconded and carried.

The Secretary then read out the names of members and well-wishers of the Union from whom letters or telegrams of good wishes had been received. Amongst others he mentioned the names of the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Cardew, Dewan Bahadur Audinarayaniah, the Zemindars of Uthukuli and Parlakimedi, Messrs. Dharmaranga Raju, Selvaranga Raju, Ranga Raju, Ramabhadra Naidu, Vengail Rama Nayanar, Raman Nair, Vijiaraghavachariar, Guthrie, T. B. Fletcher, Tirumalpad, Badami, Alwa and a number of old students of the College.

Mr. M. R. Ramaswami Sivan, read a paper on "The Madras Agricultural Students' Union.—Possibilities of doing more useful work," (Summary printed in Appendix).

Mr. Chadwick exhorted the members of the Union, especially those in charge of Farms or doing district work, to help the editor with contributions based on practical knowledge, then and there. He farther said that the Union had done good work and the journal, but for the delay in publication, had been conducted on proper lines so far and it remained with the old boys to make it more useful and interesting, and remarked that the agriculture of this Presidency, which had a vast field for development, would be greatly helped by the members of the Union passing on their knowledge of their practical observations in the fields and in other spheres of work to the other members of the Union through the medium of the Journal.

The next paper was on "Agriculture and its improvements" and was read by Mr. M. Gangaraju Pantulu, Proprietor of Potuluru Estate, Honorary visitor of the college and Honorary member of the Union and the Secretary of the District Agricultural Association, Berhampore (Summary printed in Appendix).

In the discussion which followed, Mr. C. R. Lakshmi Varaha Aiyangar of Kumbakonam said that the Kumbakonam Agricultural Association had been working consistently for the last 9 years, with modest, but definite, programmes. He spoke appreciatively of the help given by the Departmental officers, especially by Mr. C. Narayana Aiyar, when he was Farm Manager in the Tanjore District. He also referred to the institution, by the Association, of a medal, named "the Couchman medal" for the best plot of paddy planted single by the members.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick said that, in connection with prizes for competition amongst cultivators, a local prize was better and would

be valued more, than a Government prize. The members of most of the Agricultural Associations, with the exception of a few like those of Ganjam and Kumbakonam, took little personal interest in the matter and did not care to understand what was going on.

The President thanked Mr. Ganga Raju Pantulu for coming such a long way from Berhampore to Coimbatore to take part in the conference and remarked that he was one of the few who managed to keep alive one of the District Agricultural Associations, the Ganjam Association being one of the few in the Presidency showing best promises.

Mr. C. R. Lakshmi Varaha Aiyangar, High Court Vakil, and the enthusiastic secretary of the Kumbakonam Agricultural Association, then read a very interesting paper on "The Need for Agricultural Organisation" (Summary printed in Appendix).

This was followed by an interesting discussion in which several members took part.

Mr. H. C. Javarayya (Mysore) said that the Kannambady project would not interfere with the wet cultivation of Tanjore District.

Mr. T. V. Rajagopalachari (Farm Manager, Nandyal) gave his experiences of the co-operation work done by Rev. J. Thompson of Bapatla. Mr. Thompson secured 50 acres of *para* land on which there was no cultivation before and which were subject to floods. He bunded these lands and assigned them, through the cooperative association, to 20 men at 2 or 3 acres each. The share capital of Rs. 50 was payable by each cultivator in 10 yearly instalments. He purchased the Union rubbish for Rs. 50 and made a compost with Patimannu producing 500 to 600 cartloads of manure which were sold to the members at 4 annas a cartload, the amount to be paid in harvest time. As a result, one to 1½ putties (1 putty = 10 bags, each containing 165 lbs) of paddy were

obtained in fields where one or at most 2 bags could not be obtained before. Above all, he has enlisted the confidence of the poor ryots who have now appreciated the useful effects of cooperation. Mr. Rajagopalachari said it was a model cooperative society the working of which he had occasion to study while he was in charge of *patimannu* special work in the Guntur District.

Pao Bahadur N. Subba Rao of Mangalore said that the District Agricultural Association of South Canara failed for want of sympathy of the ryots, and not for want of funds, having over Rs. 2000 to its credit. What is wanted is real interest by persons who have opportunities of knowledge.

Rev. Beck who has joined the Agricultural College and is learning practical Farm management as Honorary additional Farm Manager of the Central Farm said, in a telling speech, that landlords and tenants should co-operate, the former to sink money and take the latter into their confidence. Profits, beyond interest on capital at 6½% and working expenses, should be divided equally between the two. He himself had taken up waste land of 400 acres in an out of the way place in South Canara and, after working for 4 years, thought he could learn practical work on the Central Farm and, to that end, joined the Institution as an Honorary worker. He felt it was shame to Indian people who possessed money to leave it to European missionaries like himself to give employment to poorer classes to earn their living. It should be the ambition of every one not only to know, but also to do, every thing at its best. Every one might contribute his little mite, *wholeheartedly*, to help agricultural people. He also said that agricultural associations should be started in villages and the work of organisation should then be expanded. He finally extorted the members "uplift your own mother India, and you can do this only by increasing the prosperity of the cultivating classes and this can be achieved only by a sympathetic cooperation between the landlords and tenants."

The President, in his concluding remarks, said that he agreed with Mr. Lakshmi Varaha Aiyangar that there was a great future before the Agricultural Associations. They formed the medium of communication between the Department and the ryots and, if worked on those lines, they were bound to succeed and expand. At present, they were only units among millions.

Mr. H. C. Javarayya, L. Ag. (Supdt. Maharaja's garden, Mysore) read a paper on Apple cultivation (summary published in Appendix).

Mr. Couchman expressed that it would be more useful if Mr. Javarayya actually stated that he worked some Apple gardens himself and realised so much income than giving many hints for good cultivation.

For want of time, and as the gentleman was absent, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar's paper on sugarcane cultivation was taken as read (Published in Appendix).

The Hon'ble Mr. Buckley said that they had come to the end of a very successful meeting. He thanked the members for the very interesting papers they had read and the interesting discussions that followed each one of them. He congratulated the Union on the very successful termination of the fourth Conference, and, after giving some words of advice to the students at the College, he thanked the members of the Union for the honour they had done him in asking him to preside.

It was then announced that the Munagala Prize would be awarded every year for the best essay on a subject to be chosen by the Union, and that Mr. T. S. Venkatarama Iyer, Assistant to the Sugarcane Expert, would give a prize this year for the best essay on some subject to be selected by the office-bearers of the Union.

With a vote of thanks to the Secretary and all office-bearers of the Union for the very satisfactory arrangements made for the comfort and

convenience of the guests and visitors proposed by Mr. Lakshmiwaraha Aiyangar, the Conference was dissolved.

STUDENTS' ENTERTAINMENT.

It was once again a happy idea of the present students to provide an interesting programme of entertainment to the guests and old students at the time of the celebration. They successfully staged 3 dramas on the night of 19th July, "Robert Maccaire" in English, "the murder of Peshawa Narayan Row," in Telugu and "Vasantika" in Tamil, the success being largely due to Mr. B. V. Nath (of the chemistry section) and Mr. K. Rajagopala Aiyar (Sub-postmaster). While every one did his part well, it is difficult to single out names, but the actors, Manickam Mudaliar, Seetharama Aiyar, Dharmalingam, Vittal Rao and Sanjiva Rao showed considerable histrionic abilities and the performance was so successful that medals for these amateur actors were offered by the minor Zemindar of Nandigam and Messrs. Dwarakanath and Govindarajan.

BUSINESS MEETING.

The Business meeting was held on the afternoon of 20th July with Mr. R. C. Wood, President, in the chair. Prior to this, two preliminary meetings were held. At the first, Mr. Wood presided when a letter from the Director of Agriculture was read concerning the journal. The Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of Agriculture, the Scientific Experts, the Farm managers and Asst. Farm managers and officer members were present. The delay in the publication, it was pointed out at the meeting, should no more occur. A smaller monthly journal was recommended; and the all the members, executive District staff in particular, promised to send contributions to the journal as often as possible. At the 2nd Preliminary meeting at which Mr. Vengail K. Krishnan Nayanar, Vice President, presided, only old students and officer members