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**The Royal Public Service Commission and
the Agricultural Departments.**

First of all we should say that it is gratifying to see that European members of the Indian Agricultural Departments have not spoken disparagingly of the work of the Indian staff, as was unhappily the case in the other departments; on the other hand, testimony is borne by them to the fact of Indians, those trained in India and those who had received foreign training, having done substantial work so far. At the same time there was not that acrimonious feeling expressed by Indians against European officers which was also unfortunately the case in other departments. The reasons for this may be stated. The European officers realise that they are new to Indian conditions of soil and climate and to the ways of the people. As Mr. Mackenna said in his Presidential address at the Board meeting "The only way to progress is a sympathetic appreciation of local conditions based on an accurate study of indigenous methods (for which a good knowledge of the language is essential) and a sympathetic co-operation with the cultivator. Unless we have the sympathy and co-operation of the cultivator we can do nothing." They cannot reach the people without the help of the Indian staff who have an advantage in possessing an intimate knowledge of the conditions of the country, and the latter have given that help cordially to the former. The Indian staff, on their side, know that agricultural

methods require the application of science and that science and scientific methods are foreign, more or less, to Indians trained in India, and therefore they look up to the European Experts for direction in scientific matters. There is the spirit of give-and-take so far. When the Europeans know more of the country and the Indians have advanced further in scientific knowledge, it is possible for European and Indian officers each asserting their rights for precedence, patronage and increased pay.

The work of the newly organised Agricultural Departments may be classified under three headings :—

1. Scientific Research.
2. Teaching in the Agricultural Colleges and
3. District or Executive work.

Scientific Research, it must be admitted, is foreign to India. The work must be initiated by the best scientists of other countries, men well versed in their respective subjects of Chemistry, Entomology, Mycology or Botany. As we stated in a former issue, the primary work of the expert should be to produce a number of Indians, each in his own subject, capable of imbibing the spirit of research and carrying on useful scientific work on their own account. Quoting Mr. J. Mackenna again, he said in his evidence before the Commission that he was looking forward to a time when more Indians would be recruited in the Agricultural Departments. The consensus of opinion, both European and Indian, is that the Indian officers should have, either prior to, or after, entertainment in the Agricultural Departments a scientific training in a foreign University before they are appointed to the superior Indian Agricultural service. That a foreign training is not considered essential even for scientific work is seen from the fact that Rai Bahadur K. Rangachari of the Coimbatore College and Mr. J. N. Sen of Pusa Institute have been appointed Botanist and Chemist respectively. All the same we consider that, while Indians will, in future, be more largely available for doing Scientific Research work as a result of the training they receive at the hands of the European Experts in India, it will be to their advantage if they get a wider outlook and incidentally beget greater confidence by a sojourn in foreign country.

Mr. G. Clarke of the United Provinces said that the Cawnpore Agricultural College was much better equipped than the majority of Agricultural Colleges in England and that as good a training could be given at Cawnpore as at Cambridge. In reply to Mr. Gokhale, he said that he considered that no taint of inferiority will attach to those trained in India as the instruction which could be given in India was equally good and suggested that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the appointments of the Imperial Service might be made over to Indians and that the number might gradually be increased to one half. He further said that for a long time a sufficient number of Europeans would be required to carry on Research work though this would depend on the number of qualified Indians that became available. Both Mr. Clarke and other experts said that a large volume of original work had already been turned out by the European and Indian staff of the Agricultural Departments, work which would bear most favourable comparison with any other country in the world. Dr. Barber, Govt. Sugarcane Expert, Coimbatore, while holding the view that Indians need not generally be sent to other countries for training, said that he would like to see them sent for special training in set subjects. Dr. Barber goes into details of selection, recruitment and training of European scientists, but would oppose strongly direct recruitment of Indians who had passed examinations in English Universities—a position with which we are unable to agree. Of 2 candidates, one European and the other Indian, who pass out from the same University and who satisfy other conditions of recruitment, we consider that the Indian has greater claims of preferment, because he has the advantage over the other of a knowledge of the country, its people and its conditions.

The Scientific Research section of the Agricultural Departments in India has therefore, judging from the opinions of the witnesses before the Royal Commission, to be at present largely in the hands of experts trained in European Universities; and there is every reason to believe, from the testimony already given, that sons of India will more largely take their proper place in the march of progress, for progress in all countries is measured by the application of science and scientific methods.

With regard to the teaching section in the new Agricultural Departments, the Indian staff has been certified to be at its best, and it is no wonder. Indian teaching staff in the different agricultural colleges form the pick of their respective colleges and a large number of them possess, in addition, degrees of Indian or foreign Universities. Knowing intimately the kind and manner of teaching obtaining in Indian schools and colleges and the capabilities of these students equipped with different educational attainments, the Indian teachers in the professional colleges are able to meet the difficulties of students in a manner not always possible even for a good European Professor newly imported, unaccustomed as he is to the ways of Indian students. While the European staff is engaged to some extent in actual teaching, and, in some cases, in supervising the work of the Indian teachers, the bulk of the teaching work is being done in all the agricultural colleges by the Indian Assistant Professors; and so far their work has been pronounced to be of a good standard. Opinions seem to be equally divided whether Teaching and Research work should be combined in one person or whether they should be done by separate persons. We hold the former view; but there is a tendency in the Departments as far as we can see, to delegate two kinds of work to two sets of people. When that view is more generally held in the departments, we dare say Indians will be more largely drafted into the Teaching section, for the same reason that Europeans are now preferred in Research section. When such a contingency arises, we are perfectly certain that the demands of the Indian staff of the Educational Department to be put on the same cadre as European Professors will be conceded so far as Agricultural Colleges are concerned.

The Third section of the work of the Agricultural Department is District or Executive work. The work consists in disseminating among the cultivators knowledge which has been acquired by the scientific experts. Measures of improvement which have been proved by experiments to be useful have to be brought to the notice of the ryots. The work, therefore, requires an intimate knowledge of the conditions of the

country, a knowledge of the ways of the people, and tact and discretion in approaching them. It is obvious, therefore, that the Indians will turn out better work in this section than in the other two. If there is any department in India which can be manned completely by Indian officers, it is the district work of the Agricultural Department. The policy of the Government of India is, as expressed by Mr. Mackenna, to recruit the higher offices of the Agricultural Departments, as fast as possible, from Indians.

The Royal Public Service Commission has, we believe, as its function the duty of eliciting information and evidence which will form the basis for making recommendations, for the better administration of the country and for the country's good. But the question has unfortunately drifted into one of the claims of Indians as against those of European officers, as to who shall have preferment and patronage. It is the firmest conviction of Educated India in general that the two countries, England and India, are knitted together by the hands of Providence for the good of both the countries. Both are fellow subjects under the King Emperor. Englishmen come from distant England to work in India. So long as any of them has only a selfish interest in his heart, of making as much money as he can during his stay in India and returning to England at the earliest opportunity, he cannot be supposed to have done much good to the country. We would like to see a large number of them make India their adopted home, work in India for India's good and lay their bones in Indian soil after giving the benefits of their experience after retirement. Indians will do well to consider that these Britishers have come out to India at some sacrifice and therefore deserve their warm help, sympathy and support.

Dr. J. C. Bose of Calcutta in his evidence said "I wish to impress on the Commission one idea which is this "I do not regard the educational service as a profession. I regard it as a calling just like the missionary work ; a missionary is born, so also is the teacher and he should not take it as a profession." This remark applies with even greater force to Indian Agricultural

Service. Indian or European, both should look upon their work as of a missionary character, working for India's good and for India's poor people. A true hand of fellowship should be extended, one towards the other, each with the impression that he is a pioneer in Agricultural Reform. Educated Indians are becoming more and more sensitive. They have always felt it as a sense of their inferiority whenever a difference was shown in the pay of Europeans and Indians doing the same work. Quoting Dr. Bose once again but applying it to the Agricultural Department, we would earnestly urge upon all workers in the field of Agricultural Reform feeling a sense of their solidarity because they were all serving for one cause namely the agricultural and material progress of the country. Consequently we would keep the whole world open and select the best men for doing the greatest work which has yet to be done in India, namely, of making the land yield more than what it has done so far.

Agricultural Co-operation.

Co-operation, as applied to agriculture, is gaining ground rapidly in Southern India. The Board of Agriculture, at its meeting at Coimbatore, laid stress upon this important subject. In some provinces, the Director of Agriculture is also the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies. In others where the two offices are held by separate men, a more intimate working together than mere exchange of opinions and advice, has been sought for. At the instance of Mr. Burns of Bombay the Board passed a resolution, thanking educated landowners on whose lands and with whose help agricultural experiments were conducted from which valuable results were achieved. While assistance from any agency for the carrying out of agricultural improvements and the diffusion of agricultural information is welcome, the real co-operation between the Director of Agriculture and the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies is bound to produce more permanent effect and the resolution passed by the Board at the instance of Mr. Chadwick is most appropriate, namely, that "where Registrars of Co-operative Societies are independent of the Directors of Agriculture, the Board wish to emphasise the importance of the closes