

courses, as this would tend to dissociate the student from the idea that it is agriculture he is learning all the time. At the end of two years the successful student gets his certificate for proficiency in agriculture, when he will be qualified to proceed to a further course of training of eighteen months.

The second course will follow much the same lines as the first two years of the present course, and will consist of scientific courses in pure and applied Chemistry, Botany, Mycology, Entomology, Veterinary Science, Engineering and Agriculture. The students should have by then a basis of agricultural knowledge, on which they can fit the science they are to learn and since it will only be possible to enrol twenty students each year for the second course, they will have undergone some selection and will, it is hoped, be of a more uniform and higher standard, so that the teaching of these subjects can be made more advanced than is possible at present. The Diploma of Agriculture will be given to those students who are successful in this second course.

The advantages claimed for this alteration may be briefly outlined. The department will gain in the superior training which its recruits will obtain, and, with the great advances which are being made in the study of scientific agriculture, this is most necessary. At the same time, the college claims of the practical farmer will not be overlooked, and though the demand at present for a purely practical training may not be large, there are signs that it will increase; at any rate the college will be ready for it when it comes. We ask all our readers to wish the new courses success and to co-operate with the department in getting them known amongst those who are likely to take advantage of them.

Agricultural Associations.

Malabar.

A successful meeting was held at Otapallam at which Mr. C.A. Innes, Collector, and Mr. D.T. Chadwick, Director of Agriculture, were present to meet the representatives of various Village Associations, 50 of them being present, to talk over the results of their experiments, to discuss with them the means to remedy the defects and to draw up the programme for the coming year.

In the course of his speech the Collector said that the reason for establishing those Village Associations was to introduce improved

methods of cultivation. Happily Mr. Chadwick, the Director of Agriculture, was with them that evening. Government had established farms all over the Presidency, including one at Taliparamba. At those farms the Agricultural Department had discovered many advantageous methods. But it could not be said that the ryots had taken to those methods readily. Their serious problem then was how to get in touch with the ryots and make them understand the value of the new methods. Their first idea had been to start Divisional Associations; but that method had failed, because they (the Department) could not get into touch with the actual ryots, the cultivators of the soil. And hence, last year, a fresh start was made in the shape of those Village Associations, and a modest beginning was thus made. They had not much money to spend. In all there were twenty-two such Associations in the District. Mr. Innes continued by saying that he had a very successful Conference at Tellicherry on the 2nd instant and at that Meeting representatives from the Village Associations in North Malabar gave the results of their experiments with the new methods. He would particularly request them to tell him what their actual experiences were and not anything simply for the sake of pleasing him. On the other hand, if they were beset with any difficulties, the Department would be ready at hand to remove them.

REPORTS OF EXPERIMENTS.

Reports of the experiments carried on in seven of the Village Associations in the Malappuram Division were laid on the table by Mr. N. V. Gopala Menon, the Honorary Secretary.

At the invitation of the Collector each of the ryots assembled gave his experiences with the economic system of planting paddy with single seedlings. With the exception of three members, all said that they gained immensely in seed-rate and in the yield. As regards the three who sustained loss, it was mainly attributed to bad soil and unfavourable season. All present expressed their intention to extend the areas for the coming year in the new methods.

A PRESENTATION.

Mr. Innes presented Mr. Narayanan Nair of Triknangode Association a gold ring—a gift from Mr. Mankada Krishna Varmu Rajah—for the best cultivated piece of land with the economic system of planting. Mr. Innes hoped that the example of this ryot would be

largely imitated by others in the district. It was found that under that method there was a clear gain of Rs. 5 per acre. Malabar has 8,00,000 acres of wet land, and if that idea gradually spread, there would be a saving of Rs. 40 lakhs per annum.

Touching on the programme for the coming year, the Collector said that the first thing they had to do was the careful preparation of manuring seed beds, by which they got healthier, stronger and better seedlings. The second thing was the economic planting as they have been doing. People who were satisfied with their present experiments should extend the area of cultivation and those who were not should confine to small areas, carefully selecting their plots and thus giving the crops a fair chance. Thirdly, the most important item was seed-selection after harvest. Their crops would grow better and would be 20 to 30 per cent. more than the ordinary yield.

Mr. Chadwick said that by seed-selection the crops tillered better and there would be increase of straw.

Mr. Innes stated that the next thing was the collection of manure. He had known the Division for a pretty long time, both as Sub-Collector and as a Settlement Officer. The ryots found great difficulty in obtaining green manure. There the Agricultural Department came to their aid by giving instructions how to collect the manure and use it to the best advantage.

RYOTS' GRIEVANCES.

The Collector then invited the audience to represent any grievances they might have, as the Director of Agriculture and the District Collector were in their midst.

A ryot from Vatakumpuram village wanted facilities for lifting water from a *nullah*.

The Collector replied that so far as a *nullah* was concerned he had no objection to allowing water to be so taken.

Mr. T. Narayanan Nair from Triknangode, submitted that many of the cultivating ryots were *Verumpattakaras* and were in state of chronic indebtedness, paying usurious interest, paying even 48 per cent. interest, and hence loans might be given them at small interest.

The Collector replied that loans could be granted at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on good sureties. The difficulty mentioned could be got over by starting Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies. There was a special officer

appointed by Government for that purpose. If such Societies were started in their midst, their troubles would easily disappear.

A Moplah ryot prayed for a gun license, and the Collector promised to consider his application.

As regards the dearness of labour due to emigration, Mr. Innes said that it was not in the province of the Collector to interfere in that direction.

MR. CHADWICK.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick also made a short speech. He said he was very glad to meet them there and learn the results of their experiments. None of the methods had been suggested to them until they were thoroughly tried on Government Farms, so that, they were not going to mislead them. Even so he would particularly request them to try those methods and satisfy themselves whether they were improvements or not, and then freely tell him what good they found in them. He, for his part, would rely on the Presidents of these Village Associations to keep up the membership. They need not be afraid they would be left without help. The Department was always there to help them, and he hoped to be in Malabar in September or October and see for himself the experiments they would then be carrying on.

Both the Collector and the Director then thanked the members for their presence. Mr. Govinda Kidavũ, Inspector of Agriculture, acted as Interpreter throughout the proceedings.

Chidambaram.

Mr. P. N. Mahomed Miran Sahib Bahadur, Deputy Collector, Chidambaram is responsible for the very successful Agricultural Conference organised for the second time during the great Arudhra Darsanam Festival at Chidambaram. Mr. D. T. Chadwick, Director of Agriculture, opened the Conference and there was a large gathering of Revenue officers of all grades and a large number of cultivators. Specimens of single seedlings, combodia cotton, cholam varieties and fodder crops were exhibited. Some stud bulls purchased at Tirupur Show were also exhibited. Mr. Miran Sahib offered a hearty welcome to those present and requested the Director of Agriculture to open the Conference.

In declaring the Conference open, the Director of Agriculture, expressed great pleasure to know how the Conference was got up by the