

The Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore rightly insists on those who enter the service of the Department in superior or subordinate posts to be either natives of the State or to agree to settle in the State after retirement in agricultural pursuits. We beg to commend to Dr. Coleman's notice that there are a good number of passed students of this college who will be glad to take service under these conditions. The Committee of the Agricultural Students' Union acts as a bureau for procuring appointments to old students and will be glad to place such of them as desire Mysore service in correspondence with Dr. Coleman.

NOTES.

Mr. T. V. Srinivasacharlu, Agricultural Inspector, Pudukotta, gives the following particulars regarding the reclamation of a piece of saline wet land :—Paddy is cultivated in the State under tank irrigation on clay soils, more or less alkaline, yielding, however, good crops when heavily manured with green leaves. Two or three feet below the plastic clay is generally a layer of kankar, gravel or sand. On a piece of land of this nature in the State farm, a ploughing was given after the harvest of paddy in March 1912 with the moisture available. Half a Madras measure of Daincha was sown broadcast and the seed was covered by a ploughing. Germination was uniform and the plants grew 9 feet high in 6 months. A considerable quantity of leaves had shred on the ground, forming a thin but close spread over the whole field. Towards the end of September, the N. E. monsoon broke out and there was a continuous downpour for a number of days, and the plot was submerged to a depth of 6 inches for 4 days. The stems of Daincha were easily pulled out. The land was puddled, 3 cart loads of stable manure were applied and the field was then planted. The yield was 180 Madras measures as against 38 Madras measures of the previous year. The area of the plot is 12 cents. It was found after the harvest that the white excrescences were no longer visible.

A valued correspondent sends us an extract from an article by Mr. Archibald, the author of *Lincoln, the greatest British Long Wool Sheep in New Zealand* "I have come to the conclusion that, in breeding

as in all other matters, there is a certain amount of luck. It is too often the case that many of the lambs promiscuously got are nearer the ideal than those in connection with the making of which we have taken so much of pains". The above quotation does not mean that principles of breeding are to be given up. The above case may be cited as an exception proving the rule than otherwise. It is always highly beneficial if the parentage of sire and dam be known and careful records are maintained.

Forest Panchayets. We are glad to learn that steps have been taken by the Hon'ble Mr. R. C. C. Carr, I. C. S., the Forest Commissioner, to start the experiment of introducing the Panchayet system in connection with the management of grazing areas, in accordance with the recommendations of the Forest Committee. The seven Districts of Chingleput, Nellore, North Vellore, South Salem, Central Coimbatore, Tanjore-cum-Trichinopoly and Kistna, have been selected for the trial of the scheme, which will be carried out under very careful supervision. Every endeavour is being made to ensure that the first trials of the new system shall prove a success. Mr. Carr has already made an extensive inspection of central Coimbatore, with Mr. F. R. Hemingway, I. C. S., the Collector, and has had talks with many villagers, impressing on them how anxious he is that the scheme should succeed and urging them to put forth their best efforts in that direction. The experiment is being started almost immediately, and we sincerely hope that the leading men in the several Districts will do everything in their power to secure the proper working of the scheme so as to ensure further development in other suitable areas. The experiment is fraught with great possibilities of good to the agricultural classes, who have been long complaining of difficulty of finding pasturage for their cattle, and it behoves them to respond to the move which the Government have been induced to make in this matter.

Extracted from The Madras Mail.

At the last annual meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., the Hon'ble Mr. Barber remarked that the Scientific Officer's term of five years would expire in May and the question of the continuance of Mr. Anstead's services and also that of the post of Scientific Officer were before

Government. It was unanimously resolved at Bangalore that both should be continued. The question was still before Government and it was expected that the contribution of Rs. 3,000 made to Government would possibly have to be increased to Rs. 4,000. The U. P. A. S. I would meet the additional Rs. 1,000.

In this connection it was also pointed out that it was proposed to remove the Scientific Officer's headquarters to Coimbatore.

The Meeting unanimously resolved to instruct its delegates to vote for the retention of Mr. Anstead's services at an increased contribution if such be necessary, and left the question of the transfer of this Officer's headquarters to Coimbatore open.

The final general memorandum of the cotton crop of the current season estimates the total outturn for India at 5,200,000 bales of 400 lbs each, being an increase of 591,000 bales, or 13 per cent., as compared with the revised total of last year. The Report adds in this connection—"These are the largest figures ever returned, and to that of the outturn might be added some 1,000 bales estimated as the production in Native States in Behar and Orissa, which make no returns".

In the course of his address at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Dewan of Travancore, in complimenting Dr. Kunjan Pillai, said

"The Agricultural Department did good work during the year. Copies of Dr. Kunjan Pillay's Report—in English and in Malayalam—will be placed in the hands of the members. It is a matter of satisfaction to the Government that the efforts of this Department are being responded to, to an increasing extent, by the ryots. The cocoanut palm disease in middle Travancore continued to engage serious attention. The inspection of the infected areas and the numbering of the affected trees in them, the segregation of the infected trees in isolated areas, the issue of special manures, the propagation of disease-resistant varieties of the cocoanut, and other measures, were vigorously pushed on."

H. H. the Gaekwar opened the first Co-operative Conference of Baroda State held a few months ago. Over 3,000 people attended.

In his inaugural address, His Highness said that Co-operative Societies were most beneficial in encouraging business habits among people, in bringing in improvement of industries and the consequent

raising of their standards of life. To him co-operation appeared a splendid means towards the solution of problems of town and country life. The principles of the co-operation should permeate village activities. The outstanding remedy for all economic troubles was co-operation. In conclusion, His Highness paid a well-merited tribute of praise to Mr. Manilal Nanavati on his successful organisation of Co-operative Societies in Baroda.

We understand that elaborate proposals involving creation of more posts and increased scales of pay have been submitted by the Department for the consideration of the Government.

At the last meeting of the Board of Agriculture, the President, Mr. J. Mackenna made a felicitous reference to the work of the Superintendent of his office, Rao Sahib Nagarji who, after a service of 32 years, is expected to retire shortly. A native of Guzerat, Mr. Nagarji served in Bombay and the Central Provinces and was taken to Pusa by Mr. Mollison where he rose to the rank of a gazetted officer as Superintendent of the office of the Inspector-General of Agriculture, now Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India. The title of Rao Sahib was conferred upon him by Government in consideration of the satisfactory work he did in the Department.

We have seen two pamphlets from Mr. C. S. Ramalinga Vadhyar, D. A., an old Saidapet student, a pensioned Settlement officer of Cochin State and now teacher of nature study in a High School at Allepey in Travancore. The first pamphlet "a few suggestions on agricultural improvements in Cochin State" deals with subjects of local interest like kole-cultivation, irrigation in Chittor, cocoanut plantations, etc. The other pamphlet deals with the suggestion for the introduction of Agricultural Bounties in Travancore. Mr. Vadhyar suggests that, from a course of nature study in the lower classes, pupils may take up the study of agriculture in the higher forms of the School Final course, this being one of the optional subjects of that course. Those who pass out with agriculture as their optional subject may be induced, unless they join the agricultural colleges or the intermediate course, to take to the profession of cultivation instead of seeking an employment as a clerk in the Sircar cutcheries. To bring about these results he

proposes that small pecuniary bounties be given to them under certain conditions. They should not be Government servants but should, however, form part of the Sircar Department of Agriculture and be under its control. In addition to the School Final men who take up agriculture, the bounties may be given to diplomates in agriculture, so long as they are practical farmers as land holders, tenants, agents or bailiffs of small farms or become demonstrators of school farms or school gardens. The continuance of these bounties should depend upon the improvements effected by them in the practices of ryots as may be advised by the Director of Agriculture from time to time. They should send periodical reports of their work to the Director of Agriculture. Mr. Vadhiyar considers that, by the institution of pecuniary bounties, there will appear among school-going population a section who will look up to agriculture as a paying career in life.

It is curious, but none the less it is the fact, that several educated men consider that agriculture is not a paying concern, under the uncertain conditions of rain fall on one side and the increase in the cost of labour and rent on the other. If it is not paying, it has to be made paying, by having recourse to intensive cultivation to meet the demands of the increasing population. That the wealth of the country is buried in the soil and has to be dug out of it is a commonly accepted saying. A certain amount of education and discrimination is required in a business man and it will bring more money to him than to one who is not educated and is too conservative to change when necessary. A School Final man or a diplomate in Agriculture is certainly equipped with more knowledge than an actual field labourer; and the former is sure to succeed if, apart from directing and supervising the work of his labourer, he will himself take pleasure to labour with his own hands. If Mr. Vadhiyar thinks that the man he speaks of will not despise manual labour but will take pride in taking his own part in it, the system of bounties to help him to launch on the introduction of improvements suggested by the Department is bound to prove useful to the State. These men will form a nucleus of non-official helpers for the Department of Agriculture. The idea is not new, the growth of cotton seed farms in Tinnevely, for instance, being due to the Agricultural Department of Madras guaranteeing to make good the loss, if any, to the owners of black cotton soil on which the Departmental officers helped to grow cotton according to their improved methods. We beg to commend this idea of bounties, whether in kind or

in money, to the notice of the Director of Agriculture, Travancore and will watch the experiments with interest.

Central Farm, Coimbatore.—A new implement shed and museum with a curved roof, open all round, 40' long, 20' wide, has been attached to the farm, where implements recommended to the notice of the students and visitors to the college are displayed. Of these implements the following will be found useful to several.

1. Nahan's Sultan Sugarcane crushing mill.
2. Rajah Plough from Messrs. Volkart Brothers.
3. Turn Wrest Plough and Meston Plough from Messrs. Burn & Co.
4. Black cotton soil plough from Messrs. Massey & Co., Madras.
5. Ridge plough with turn wrest parts from Octavius Steel & Co., Calcutta.
6. Steel Bar Plough,
7. Gallows Plough,
8. Steel Eagle Plough,
9. Monsoon Plough,
10. Kolar Plough,
11. Punjab Plough,
12. Reis Plough,
13. R. I. S. Plough,
14. Junior Hoe and,
15. Two-furrow Disc Plough.

Of these, the two-furrow disc plough deserves some special mention. This was tried on the farm during 1913-14. It is priced at Rs. 225 and can be had of Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Calcutta. This requires 4 pairs of strong cattle. In the beams and other parts subject to great strain, best steel has been used. Thus great strength, light weight and easy draught are combined in it. The plough is specially suitable to plough land in a dry state and is invaluable in dry localities, where it is important to have the land ploughed ready to utilise the first rains. This should not be used in sticky soils in a wet condition or in gravelly or stony land. However weedy the land may be, there is no chocking in this plough. The furrow and hind wheels are connected with rods, and wheels are controlled by a lever arrangement which helps the driver to regulate the plough in any direction or to

old both wheels rigid. The width of the furrow can be adjusted by lifting the disc bodies on the beams and moving the furrow wheel, either inside or outside, as the case may be. Draft is 8 cwt. Area worked is $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres per day.

During the year 1913-14, nearly 115 acres were ploughed by this plough on the Central Farm and the discs can work 100 acres more, without much difference in depth of ploughing. This plough can be used under co-operative farming by villagers with great advantage.

During the year 1913-14 two new crops were tried in the Central Farm and both of them happen to be fodder crops. One is Tift grass and the other is Silver Beet. Mr. H. C. Sampson introduced them and it is too early to pass any definite opinion on them. The grass was obtained from South Africa probably to try in pastures as a pasture grass, along with other grasses, such as Coimbatore grass ('Kolekatty Pillu'). About half an acre was grown with this and the crop should be considered as a fair one in growth, but how far this will succeed in pastures is yet to be decided after further trials. The silver beet was grown in rows live beetroot and the leaves were cut from time to time and fed to Dairy cattle. The cows no doubt relish the leaves well. It is yet to be seen whether this will be so paying a crop as Pēriya Manjal cholam grown for fodder.

Diploma Examinations

The following are the results of the Diploma Examinations held during the last term.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

Examiners. Messrs. W. H. Harrison & F. G. Plymen.

(15 appeared & 14 passed.)

II Class.

- 1 { B. Virasami.
M. V. Raghava Rao.
- 3 { S. Pranatharthiharan.
U. Vittal Rao.
- 5 L. Sankarakumar.
- 6 C. Narasinga Raju.
- 7 M. Muthayya.
- 8 S. Sitharam Pathrudu.

III Class.

- 9 K. Manga Razu.
- 10 V. Manicka Mudaliar.