

were present. The rules of the Union were considered and recommendations were made to the General Body regarding the necessary modifications.

The business transacted at the General meeting at which student members also were present, consisted of passing a number of resolutions and the election of office bearers. The quaterly journal, it was decided, should be discontinued and a smaller monthly journal should be published at the same rate of subscription. Officers who are not old students could, with some restrictions, be elected to the Council and hold office. The names of the newly elected officers are printed elsewhere.

The taking of the group photograph of the Members of the Union (for copies, please apply to C. S. Gurusamy Pillai, photographer, Coimbatore, at Rs. 1—0—0 per copy) before the Conference sits, the holding of a social gathering after the business meeting when the labourers are ended and the lighting of the *bon fire* on the maidan to cheer up everybody, are events which, as usual, have added to the success of the celebrations on which everyone who has had some work to do in connection with the College Day may congratulate himself.

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### **Jottings from the Note Book of a Director— being mainly scraps of Travel.**

I heard very recently of a gentleman who was thoroughly sceptical about the economic transplantation of paddy and green manuring. It was not that he doubted whether they would be suited to his own land; he actually doubted whether any one in his senses in the Madras Presidency really practised these processes in good faith. They might be done on Government farms which did not publish accounts; they might be done on a small scale by a few people who wished to be in the fashion, but he

was sure that they could not be practised by cultivators who had to make their living out of the land. It needs somewhat of an effort to follow this line of thought and it is a statement which would be immediately contradicted by many a ryot in many a village. In Vikravandi in South Arcot, for instance, there is a fair sized tank, all the wet land—some 300 acres—under which is owned by Reddis. Economic transplantation and single seedling transplantation were started there on a small scale about 3 or 4 years ago. Now, with barely an exception, the whole area is transplanted singly or practically so. The villagers have no doubt about the value of the process. The only criticism I could make upon their seedbeds was that insufficient attention had been paid to the drainage of the larger beds. It is also an interesting village because they have been practising a sort of system of green manuring for years. The rotation on the higher wet land is cumbu followed by paddy; in lower parts ragi takes the place of cumbu. Among the cumbu they sow a legume locally known as Nalakkulikki (*croton* sp.) which they plough in after the cumbu is harvested and when they are preparing the land for paddy. In order to provide seed they cultivate patches of this legume on the higher dry land among the millets. It gives only a moderate amount of green leaf and much poonac is also imported for manurial purposes even from Ongole and Guntur. The retail trade in this cake is in the hands of some of the more influential villagers and, although the ryots individually are obviously shrewd and fairly enterprising cultivators, they scouted all idea of the co-operative purchase of poonac on the ground of deep rooted village factions. The green leaf from Nalakkulikki is not comparable in bulk with that from daincha, yet the idea on which this village is working is perfectly sound. They found places near by where they could allow their green manure to ripen so as to get seed for sowing for manurial purposes in the wet land. This is what, we hope, those ryots who

have tried and tested daincha will do and so ensure for themselves a cheap supply of seed.

It is usually only a matter of time before supply grows to meet demand. In some parts one of the obstacles to the use of oil engines is the difficulty or the cost of getting a driver. At Valavanur there is a 14 H. P. engine driving two decorticators and at other times a rice huller. It is managed, started and attended to by a bright Brahman boy on Rs. 10 a month. Repairs of course are beyond him; but the number of oil engines for driving pumps is increasing so in the neighbourhood i. e. South Arcot, that I was assured that it was not at all difficult to find boys who had picked up how to manage them. The use of power is bound to become more and more general and all who can should try and obtain some familiarity with such engines.

In the extreme south of Chingleput District, just north of Cheyyur adjoining the backwater, is a long narrow strip of reddish sandy soil. It extends for several miles and is very like a shaving from Malabar dropped on the East Coast. It is covered with coconut trees. And just as in the West Coast each holding is walled off from the next and in the middle of each compound is the house of the tenant or owner. The land is ploughed every year, especially the soil round each tree, which receives a dose of cowdung and ashes (potash). Vegetable ashes are especially prized. There are few fruit trees which show more readily than coconuts the results of neglect and inattention. The few compounds in which the soil had not been turned near the trees could be picked out from a distance by the pinched starved appearance of the trees. The trunks of many of the trees had been hacked about. The climbers stated that they had cut off soft reddish patches which had appeared there. I did not see any of these patches, but it sounds somewhat like bleeding disease. As far as I could see the ryots only recognised two main varieties,

the large green and the red. There were, however, 4 trees which they said had come from Nicobar. They were much thinner and rougher in the trunk, fruit small and they were said to bear at a somewhat younger age. They were not attractive to look upon. The nuts are apparently picked as soon as they ripen and are sent to the Madras market. I understand that, in Amalapur Taluq in Godavari where coconuts are grown, it is the custom to store them for a year before sale. Perhaps someone from the Northern division will send a short paper on coconut varieties, cultivation and sale in Amalapur.

From Chingleput to Ganjam is a far cry, but September is a good month for seeing crops in Ganjam. In that district some of the members of the Association, with practically no assistance from outside, have been doing excellent educative work in preparing the way for new ideas in agricultural practice. Several have tried and adopted economic transplantation in varying extents and some with very considerable success. In the time at my disposal I only saw a few of these efforts but those were excellent crops from single seedlings in the home farm at Parlakimedi and in a village near Goalantri. The introduction of this practice requires probably harder work in Ganjam than in some other districts because single seedling transplantation means care and I have never seen such weedy rice fields as some of the fields in which paddy had been broadcasted in Ganjam. Whoever undertakes pioneer work in that district will have to wage a holy crusade against weeds.

In the April number Mr. Couchman describes a peculiar water lift introduced into South Canara from Bombay. From the description it appears to be very similar (certainly on the same principle) to the one in common use in Egypt-the sakiyeh. But in Egypt they are not so careful of the kind of animals they use for this work as I have seen a camel and a donkey unequally

yoked together. As Mr. Couchman hints it is not as efficient as the mhote.

D. T. C.

### Practice better than Precept.

We have received a number of contributions detailing actual experiences of cultivators, in connection with agricultural improvements suggested by the Department. A few *actual experiences* count more in the eyes of cultivators in general than any amount of *precepts*. We propose, therefore, to devote a portion of our columns to this subject in every issue.

### FISH MANURE ON PADDY.

On 30th September 1913, having learnt that fish manure is a good one for paddy from M. R. Ry. W. Raghavachariar Avl, Farm Manager on special duty and having been induced by him to purchase it, I obtained through him 10 bags of it and applied 5 bags for an acre of Karthigai Samba paddy in the Brahmanaperia Agraharam village, Erode Taluk. I raised thin paddy nursery using  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Madras Measures for a cent and the seedlings therefrom were transplanted singly. In one acre of the field planted in this way, 5 bags of fish manure were used. This second crop Karthigai Samba tillered well, was of dark colour and extremely healthy with very long ear heads in which the grains were closely set. This crop was much better than that manured with Kolingi and yielded as follows:—

In ordinarily planted fields which received Kolingi leaves costing Rs. 20 the yield per acre was	...	...	...	10 salagais.
In an acre of field which received fish manure costing Rs. 14 per acre the yield per acre was	...	...	...	13 salagais.
Thus the gain per acre in the cost of fish manure				Rs. 6—0—0
The value of increased yield per acre, 3 salagais, by the use of fish manure	...	...	...	18—0—0
			Total.	<u>Rs. 24—0—0</u>