

REPORT

OF THE

Working Committee

OF THE

The Madras Agricultural Students' Union.*for 1921—1923.*

The Working Committee begs to submit its report for a period of 19 months ending 30th June 1923.

This is the second time in the annals of our Union that a committee has to record its activities for a period exceeding 12 months. The first instance was in December 1919 when the College Day was shifted from July to December, but the present case is the resultant of extraordinary circumstances created by an outbreak of plague in the colony in 1922. The effect has thus been a reversion to July 14th—the Foundation Day of our College and Research Institute. We are glad to record that owing to the careful preventive measures adopted on the Estate and by the mercy of the Almighty the plague epidemic passed off without taking toll of any human life.

The period under report has been marked by a steady and uniform progress of our department under the care and guidance of our popular Minister for Development—
OUR the Hon'ble Sir K. Venkata Reddi
MINISTER. Nayudu, Kt.,—and we take this opportunity of congratulating him on the richly deserved honour recently

conferred on him. Though greatly handicapped by the universally felt financial stringency, Our Minister has been finding funds for the Department as far as possible. Moreover he has invariably been giving us his staunch support in spite of hostile criticism—a circumstance for which we sincerely thank him.

The period under review will always serve as a landmark in the history of Agricultural Education in South India. In March 1922, the affiliation of this College to the University of Madras became an accomplished fact, and the first B. Sc. Ag. examinations were held in March and April of the current year, as a result of which eight of our students were declared to have become eligible for taking the degree of B. Sc., in Agriculture.

At the same time, the old Diploma course automatically came to a close when the last batch of L. Ag.'s passed out in December 1922. Other changes are also impending. It is understood that an Intermediate course, which is intended to lead to the present University Degree in Agriculture and to which S. S. L. C. eligibles alone will be admitted, is likely to be introduced.

The period under report is likewise important in that it has witnessed the inauguration of Vernacular Agricultural Education in the Presidency. Two Agricultural Middle Schools have been opened, one at Tali-paramba, in North Malabar and the other at Anakapalle in the Northern Circars: and we only wish more schools of this nature are started in the near future.

The 30th June 1922 saw the laying of the Foundation Stone by His Excellency the Governor—Lord Willingdon—of the “Freeman Buildings” designed to accommodate the teaching section of our Institute.

The “Knapp's Scheme” as to the re-organization of the salaries of the subordinate staff was given effect to, but, though it is felt, on the whole, to be a step in advance, the prevailing feeling has been that it has not given adequate relief to all—especially the officers in the lower grades. We are glad to state that the discriminative treatment in the starting pay of Diplomates and Graduates in the Agricultural and Science sections—mentioned in the last Annual Report—was done away with by the Government as a result of representations made in accordance with the resolution of the General Body Meeting of the Union held in December 1921. It is, however, regrettable that this equalisation has been brought about by a process of levelling down the pay instead of by the more desirable one of grading up. This has naturally created some dissatisfaction and we trust this situation will improve when better financial conditions prevail.

The severe financial stringency has, we believe, been the cause of the delay in providing appointments to several of our students who passed out during the year and we are sure this is only a passing phase in a progressive department like ours.

PAY AND
PROSPECTS.

We regret the absence from our midst of Mr. H. C. Sampson, C. I. E., who was our Director at the time of the last College Day and Conference. He has retired from the Indian Agricultural Service and is, we hear, employed as a Cotton Specialist in Nyassaland and we welcome the promotion to this place of Mr. Anstead who has been connected with, and has always been of great help in, the celebration of many College Days in the past.

Consequent on the changes in the Principalship there have been three changes in the Presidentship of our Union. Mr. R. Cecil Wood, M. A.,—who was President of our Union for several years in succession dating from its very foundation—left Coimbatore in April 1922 on two years' deputation to Tanganyika as Cotton Expert under the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. We very much miss his genial presence to-day, but rest content in the hope that he would be with us for the next College Day. To Mr. Wood, to Dr. R. V. Norris who was also our President for sometime and to Mr. F. R. Parnell, who has been Our President for a year now—our sincere thanks are due for the warm interest evinced by them in the affairs of the Union.

The last College Day and Conference were held during the three days 19th to 21st December 1921 under the Presidency of Mr. N. MacMichael, M. A., I. C. S., Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement. In the course of a short and interesting address, he congratulated the officers of the Agricultural Department on the steady and satisfactory

PAST CON-
FERENCE
AND SPORTS

progress made and warned them of the possible danger of substituting "eyewash" or showy work on paper—for honest unostentatious work.

The following papers were contributed for the Conference :—

1. "Agricultural Bacteriology"—Mrs. Dorothy Norris.
2. "Agricultural Production."—Mr. E. V. Sundara Reddi.
3. "Harvest Exhibitions."—Mr. K. Venkata Rao Badami.
4. "Juniors & Research Work."—Rao Sahib Y. Ramachandra Rao.
5. "Why the Department has not impressed the public so far."—Mr. K. T. Alwa.
6. "Possibilities of Plant Breeding."—Mr. M. Anandan.
7. "Coconut cultivation in the Laccadives."—Mr. K. Govindan Nambiyar.
8. "The Management of Alakaline Soils."—Mr. B. Viswanath.
9. "Paddy varietal experiments."—Mr. G. Jogi Raju.
10. "Gogu cultivation in the Vizagapatam District."—Mr. S. Sitharam Pathrudu.
11. "Agriculture as a profession."—Mr. Huidekoper.

At the close of the Conference the President announced a donation of Rs. 1,000 by the late Mr. Vengail K. Krishnan Nayanar—one of our Patrons—towards the establishment of a prize for the best student in practical Agriculture. The annual sports were held on the afternoon of the 19th December 1921 and were a notable success. Mrs. Parnell kindly gave away the prizes. One note-worthy feature of the sports was that in as many as four of the items, previous records were broken. The Champion of the Day and the winner of the Vengail Nayanar Cup was C. S. Duraiswami, who also won the Mrs. Anstead Cup for One Mile Race, and the Dr. Norris Cup for Cross-country Race. The "Saidapet Old Boys' Cup" for 100 yards Race was won by H. Balraj. We congratulate Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan on his wards winning the Ramnad Shield for Inter-tutorial Tug of War. After prize distribution, Mr. Parnell announced the news of the promised offer by one of our Patrons—Mr. V. Arumugam Pillai of Sundakamuthur—of a cup to be styled the "Prince of Wales Cup" for one of the College Day events for which the Union feels very thankful.

The Committee wishes to place on record its feeling of thankfulness to the President, Mr. MacMichael, Mrs. Parnell, Mrs. Anstead, Mr. R. M. Savur and other ladies and gentlemen who contributed to the success of the function in various ways. The Committee tenders its thanks to the Volunteers and to their Captain, Mr. K. Ramiah, and to Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Ayyar, the Hostel Warden, for their ungrudging help, and to the Local troop of Estate Boy-Scouts for the splendid services rendered.

The Committee is very much pained to have to record the loss by death of no less than five of its members during the period under report. The late Mr. Vengail Krishnan Nayanar is a name—we daresay—
OBITUARY. very familiar to most of our members. He took genuine interest in the Union and has helped it in many ways in the past and we take this opportunity of placing on record the deep sense of loss of the Union in his untimely demise. We lament the recent death of Mr. S. Subbayyah, one of our older members; and we likewise grieve for Messrs: B. Pushpanatham Thomas, C. Arulnandanam Pillai and T. K. Sambamurti—some of our young members whom death has carried away in the prime of their youth.

An amount of Rs. 504 collected by the Provisional Secretary—Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao—towards the “Ramasastrulu Nayudu Memorial Fund” was handed over, as
MEMORIAL FUND. per resolutions passed by a meeting of subscribers, to the Union with a request to institute an annual prize for the best piece of research work bearing on Agriculture done by one of its members. Thanks to the generous offer of Mr. D. Balakrishnamurti to round up the amount of interest to Rs. 50 towards the cost of the Medal, a prize—to be styled as the “Ramasastrulu—Munsgala Prize”—was advertised in the Journal and as a result three papers were received. We are glad to announce that it is this year awarded to Mr. V. Ramanathan as adjudged by a Committee consisting of Messrs: F. R. Parnell, A. K. Yegnanarayana Ayyar, Dr. John Mathai and the Editor, Rao Sahib Y. Ramachandra Rao—to whom our thanks are due.

We congratulate Mr. P. V. Isaac, M. Sc., one of our
 PERSONAL active members in the past who went to Eng-
 land for further studies, on his appointment as
 Imperial Dipterist in the Entomological section at Pusa.

During the period under report Messrs: S. R. Venkata-
 krishna Mudaliar and K. Ramiah were promoted to
 gazetted rank and we offer our congratulations to them.
 We also congratulate those of our members who have been
 officiating in the Indian and Madras Agricultural services.

Messrs: C. Bhakta Samuel and C. M. Ranga Reddi,
 our old students who left for Scotland a few years ago,
 are now back in India after taking their degrees.

OUR YOUNG FRIENDS ABROAD. Mr. A. Chinnathambi Pillai, L. AG., who had
 proceeded to Sierra Leone on deputation as
 Technical Adviser in Rice Culture has finished
 his work there and, after staying for sometime in England
 on study leave, has now returned. We welcome him back.
 Mr. Krishna Rao Nayudu is still in Edinburgh. Messrs:
 T. Lakshmana Rao, B. A., K. Adinarayana Rao, L. AG.,
 and H. C. Javarayya, L. AG., are now in England under-
 going a course of higher studies. We wish them every
 success. We hear Mr. Sankarakumar Pillai has proceeded
 to Java on leave to study the conditions there and we
 wish him success in his efforts.

Messrs: C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, B. A., B. L.,
 M. L. C., and Rao Sahib C. S. Ratnasabhapathi Mudaliar,
 now President, District Board, Coimbatore,
 OUR PATRONS. have become our patrons, for which we express
 our thanks. We are proud to note that among
 our Patrons, Lieut. the Raja of Parlakimedi has been

given the hereditary right to the title of Raja, Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, B. A. B. L., M. L. C., has had the title of Rao Bahadur conferred on him and the Hon'ble Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, Member of the Executive Council, has been made a C. I. E.

From the funds at the disposal of the Union pecuniary help in the shape of a loan was given to the extent of Rs. 300 to student A. Sivaraajan who took his Diploma in December last. The loans given to students in the past have in great part been recovered.

In response to our appeal, contributions to the extent of Rs. 1,300 have been promised by members, of which about Rs. 200 have been collected so far. The Committee is glad to be able to state that as a result of its efforts, the Government have sanctioned the lease of a site of about 37 cents to the south of the Post office on a rent of annas 8 per year. They have also sanctioned the grant of Rs. 670 towards the cost of construction of the Building under the proviso that the Union be first registered under the Indian Registration of Societies Act 1860. Further steps can therefore be taken only after the discussion of the question of registration in the ensuing General Body Meeting.

A present of curtains for use for dramatic entertainments on the occasion of the College Day was promised by Messrs: K. Venkata Rao Badami, K. Ramiah and J. Ranga Raju. The hearty thanks of the Union are due to those donors for their generous offers.

The Committee is glad to report that the publication of the Journal has been regular except for a short period of two months when plague was severe in town. The Journal, they regret to point out, has not been self-supporting at the present rate of subscriptions and the Committee feel that the subscription should be enhanced to enable it to have more funds at its disposal.

THE
JOURNAL.

The indexing of the previous ten volumes has kindly been undertaken by Messrs. Rao Sahib T. S. Venkataraman and T. V. Rajagopalacharya and we understand considerable progress has already been made. Our thanks are due to them for their kind undertaking.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the General Body Meeting in December 1921, for the recovery of arrears totalling to about Rs. 1,700/ the Committee are glad to state that as a result of strenuous efforts made the amount under arrears has been very much reduced.

ARREARS.

Owing to various reasons, Mr. Anandan, who was elected Treasurer in December 1921, was unable to assume charge of his duties and eventually resigned. In these circumstances, the Secretary had to look after the work of the Treasurer in addition to his own duties. Otherwise there were no changes in the personnel.

COMMITTEE'S
PERSONNEL.

Before concluding, the Committee begs to express its warm thanks to Mr. F. R. Parnell, the President, and to Mr. R. D. Anstead—the Director—for their continued interest in the Union and to the Auditors Messrs. K. Krishnamurthi Rao and V. Ramanathan.

B. VISWANATH,
Honorary General Secretary.

Statement of Receipts and Charges of the Madras Agricultural

DETAILS OF RECEIPTS.	AMOUNT.			TOTAL.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Opening Balance as it stood on 1-12-1921.						
Cash on hand ...	740	15	2			
Fixed Deposit in the Dt. Urban Bank ...	1,200	0	0			
Post Office Cash Certificates ...	232	8	0			
Advances recouped :—						
From the Printer Rs. 300.						
" Clerk Rs. 10.						
" Students Rs. <u>450.</u>						
	760	0	0	2,933	7	2
Donations for the Building Fund ...				159	0	0
Ramasastrulu Munagala Fund ...				504	0	0
Contribution towards the making of curtains...				50	0	0
Interest on fixed and current deposits, on Post Office Cash certificates and on loans to students ...				272	3	4
Collections under Permanent Fund ...				556	12	10
" " College Day Account ...				845	8	6
" " Journal account ...				2,240	7	5
TOTAL ...				7,561	7	3

Checked and found correct, 10th July 1923.

Students' Union for the period ending 30th June 1923.

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.	AMOUNT.			TOTAL.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Postage ...				74	7	0
Expenditure under Permanent Fund. ...				33	4	6
" " College Day Account ...				744	7	4
" " Journal Account ...				2,968	0	1
Miscellaneous ...				18	15	0
Closing Balance on 1-7-1923.						
Amount deposited in Fixed Deposit ...	745		7	0		
" " Ramasastrulu Fund ...	536	11	1			
" " in the Current Account...	241		6	11		
Advances to be recouped	Rs.	A.	P.			
From the Artist for the curtains	30	0	0			
" " Clerk	10	0	0			
" " Students (excluding interest)	330	0	0			
For the purchase of curtains	172	0	0			
				542	0	6
Cash on hand ...	1,656	11	10	3,722	5	4
TOTAL ...				7,561	7	3

K. Krishnamurti Rao,
V. Ramanadhan,
Auditors.

N B.—Of the amount of Rs. 1,656—11—10 shown above as cash on hand, Rs. 1,000 has since been deposited as "Fixed Deposit" in the Coimbatore District Urban Bank Ltd.

11-7-23,

B. Viswanath,
General Secretary and Treasurer.

DETAILS OF RECEIPTS.	Rs.		A.		P.		DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.	Rs.		A.		P.	
Permanent Fund.													
Subscriptions from Members ...	256		12		10		Stationery and purchase of books ...	33		4		6	
Donations from Patrons ...	300		0		0								
TOTAL ...	556		12		10			33		4		6	
Journal Account.													
Advertisement charges ...	212		4		0		Printing charges ...	2,195		14		10	
Subscriptions ...	2,028		3		5		Establishment charges ...	313		10		0	
							Stamps ...	363		4		9	
							Stationery ...	58		3		0	
							Miscellaneous ...	36		15		6	
TOTAL ...	2,240		7		5			2,968		0		3	

DETAILS OF RECEIPTS,	RS.		RS.		DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.	RS.		A.	P.
	A.	P.	A.	P.					
College Day Account.									
Collections by way of subscriptions	845	6	157	0	Entertainment	157	0	1	1
					'At Home' charges	169	0	4	4
					Sports	247	8	0	0
					Photo	21	8	0	0
					Rosettes and Badges	51	12	6	6
					Stamps and stationery	85	4	0	0
					Miscellaneous	42	6		
TOTAL ...	845	6	744	7					5

Checked and found correct.
10th July 1923.

K. Krishnamurti Rao
V. Ramanadhan.
Auditors.