

REVIEW.

Arokia Deepika.—A Tamil medical monthly edited by Dr. U. Rama Rao.

Health is a primary consideration with all individuals and it is common knowledge that agriculturists in this country in spite of open air, fresh food and invigorating work suffer equally with the urban population from maladies which are preventable. It is essential that they should be made fully aware of the conditions which can maintain people in health and keep them free from diseases. We therefore welcome the publication in Tamil of a monthly journal known as "Arokia Deepika" by Dr. U. Rama Rao, M. L. C., Madras. We are glad to know that with a view "to afford an opportunity even to the poorest to subscribe for it," the annual subscription has been fixed at Rs. 1-8-0 and remittance should be made to the Manager, 'Arokia Deepika' 323, Thambuchetty street, Post Box 166. George Town, Madras. We congratulate the doctor on his patriotic effort. This is not his first attempt. His English monthly "Health" which is about a year old is already very popular amongst the English knowing public. We hope that, under his Editorship, the "Arokia Deepika" which supplies a distinct want will flourish and continue to serve the public, the promotion of whose welfare has been his chief concern, since the days of his collaboration with the late lamented Dr. T. M. Nair, in the publication of the "Antiseptic".

GLEANINGS.

Banana Coffee.—A scheme for the development of Norfolk Island by growing bananas and turning them into coffee has been brought to Sydney by an American dehydration expert. "Banana Coffee" is simply the banana dried, roasted, and ground. It smells just like ordinary coffee. The fruit must be well matured and of good flavour.

Tropical Life JUN. 24.

Catching Cold. You never catch cold through the nose, though this organ is most demonstrative once you catch cold. You catch cold—or the cold catches you to be more correct—through the body.

T. S. V.

Some Curious Tit-bits regarding Sugarcane Cultivation. There are three things that are said to delight in an excess of water—the Buffalo, Sugarcane and Paddy.

A man who does not possess 7 sons and 12 grandsons should not engage in sugarcane cultivation.

On the day of sowing, cultivators in certain parts do not use salt in their food for fear the juice of the crop may become saltish to taste.

In some places women are not allowed to walk across the freshly sown fields, as it is supposed that the weaker sex might induce the production of a weak crop.

K. K. RAO.

Experiments with Indian Raw Cotton in the United States of America.

The following is an Extract from the *New York Journal of Commerce* (dated 17th October, 1923) :—

In quarters where Indian Cotton is being imported into the United States interest is described as having increased 100 per cent, since the 1922—23 season. A large number of mills making coarse cotton goods are conducting experiments, many of them having ordered 25 to 50 bales for delivery in March, 1924.

Altogether approximately 8,000,000 pounds, or 16,000 bales were imported during the current year. Of this amount, rightly 60 per cent was cotton for imitation wool in cotton blankets. The balance represents cotton intended for consumption in spinning plants. The quantity is negligible but the subject commands interest because an increasing number of spinners and cotton mills are giving the subject their attention.

Indian Cotton staple varies between $\frac{5}{8}$ and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length. The latest quotation for $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch short was 20.50 cents landed at the mill, or approximately 8 cents below the cost of the identical length American staple. Ordinarily the price differential would be 5 cents to 6 cents, but the elimination of Japan as a consuming factor, due to the earthquake, limited the market for the product.

The Indian Trade Journal Vol. LXXII No. 916 of Jan. 10th, 1924,



SUMMARY OF CROP FORECASTS.

INDIA.

The following is a summary of the various crop forecasts relating to the season 1923-24, published in the *Indian Trade Journal* on various dates :—

Crop	Tracts comprised in the figures and percentage of total Indian crop represented by them.	Estimated area in acres.	Estimated outturn.
Jute	Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam (100 per cent of the total Jute area in India).	2,313,000	8,996,000
Sugarcane	United Provinces, * Punjab, Bihar & Orissa, Bengal, Madras, Bombay and Sind, * Assam, North West Frontier Province, Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi, and Baroda (99 per cent of total sugarcane area of British India).	2,787,000	(a)
Cotton	All cotton-growing tracts.	21,845,000	4,913,000 bales
Sesamum	Burma, Madras, Central Provinces and Berar, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa Bombay and Sind, Punjab Ajmir-Merwara, Kotah (Rajputana).	3,016,000	(a)
Indigo	Madras, United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Punjab, Bombay, and Sind* and Bengal (containing practically the whole area under indigo in British India).	185,400	36,100 cwts.
Rice	Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Madras, Burma, United Provinces, * Central Provinces & Berar, * Assam, Bombay and Sind * Hyderabad and Baroda (99 per cent of total rice area of British India.)	75,454,000	(a)
Groundnut	Madras, Burma, and Bombay (*99 per cent of total groundnut area of British India).	1,687,000	(a)

Crop	Tracts comprised in the figures and percentage of total Indian crop represented by them.	Estimated area in acres.	Estimated outturn.
Linseed	Central Provinces and Berar *United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Bengal Bombay* Punjab. Kotah (Rajputana) and Hyderabad (99.1 per cent of the total linseed area of British India)	2,575,000	(a)
Rape and Mustard.	United Provinces, Bengal, Punjab Bihar and Orissa, Assam, Bombay and Sind* North West Frontier Province Delhi, Baroda. Alwar (Rajputana) and Hyderabad (98.7 per cent of the total area under rape and mustard in British India.)	3,357,000	(a)

*Including Indian States.

(a) Not yet available.

(*The Indian Trade Journal* Vol. LXXII No. 916 of
10th January 1924.)

Sugarcane Crop of 1923-24—Third Report (Final).

[On an average of the five years ending 1921-22, the area under sugarcane in the Madras Presidency has represented some 4.3 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in British India.]

The area planted with sugarcane up to the end of December 1923 is estimated at 121,600 acres against an estimate of 132,200 acres made at the corresponding date last year or a decrease of 8 per cent.

2. The area is either the same as or less than in the last year in all districts except Vizagapatam and Cuddapah. The reduction is most marked in Bellary, Anantapur, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, and Madura.

3. The crop in the Coastal taluks of Ganjam and Vizagapatam was damaged by the cyclone in November. The cane lodged badly in parts and had to be repped. The crop in South Kanara was affected by the abnormal rains and floods in the period of early growth and the subsequent drought. The harvest has commenced and yields are comparatively low. Elsewhere the crop suffered from

drought during the south-west monsoon but improved with the general rainfall in September and October. The north-east monsoon has been poor since November but yields will not be much below normal except in Anantapur, where the crop is largely dependent on rainfed tanks, Chittoor, North Arcot, and Salem where both monsoons have failed and South Arcot. Red rot has affected the crop to some extent in parts of Bellary and Coimbatore and shootborer in parts of North Arcot.

4. The yield is estimated at 308,200 tons of jaggery.

5. Figures are given in the appended statement.

Area in hundreds of acres, i. e., 00 being omitted; yield in hundreds of tons of jaggery, i. e., 00 being omitted.

Group.	Estimate of area planted with sugarcane up to the end of			Estimated yield of the area in	
	Sep. 1923.	Dec. 1923.	Dec. 1922.	Column (3)	Column (4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Circars	53,9	54,3	54,4	129,8	151,3
Deccan	11,9	12,4	14,8	30,6	32,4
Carnatic	8,7	7,4	9,6	19,4	25,0
Central	38,1	39,8	43,9	110,3	124,0
South	3,7	4,0	5,8	10,0	15,0
West Coast	3,7	3,7	3,7	8,1	9,0
	120,0	121,6	132,2	308,2	356,7

(Department of Agriculture Madras)

Castor Crop of 1923. The area under castor in 1923 is estimated at 389,500 acres. There is an increase of about 44 per cent over last year in the upland portion of Kistna, Bellary, and Anantapur Districts due to the favourable early rainfall which was, however, insufficient for food crops. Elsewhere, except in Godaveri and Salem, there is a general reduction in area which is greatest in Guutur, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly.

2. The crop in parts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam was affected by the cyclone in November. Very low yields are reported from Anantapur on account of the drought in July-August. The season was slightly better in Kurnool and Bellary, but the crop in Bellary was damaged to some extent by caterpillars. The Crop in Cuddapah

and Nellore recovered with the September–October rains and yielded nearly up to the average. The yield in Chittoor, North Arcot, and Salem districts was reduced by the unfavourable season. Elsewhere fairly good yields are reported.

3. Figures by districts are given below:—

Are in hundreds of acres, *i. e.*, OO being omitted, yield in hundreds of tons, *i. e.*, OO being omitted.

Group.	Estimate of the area sown with castor up to the end of November 1923.	Estimated yield of the area in column 2.
Circars ...	88,7	9,9
Deccan ...	160,4	8,2
Carnatic ...	27,9	3,1
Central ...	51,9	7,2
South ...	9,8	1,8
West Coast ...	8	1
	339,5	30,3

Department of Agriculture, Madras.

The British Empire Exhibition. Among the various exhibits those of the most direct interest to the trade will be the Australian display of food products, including dried fruit and cereals; the Canadian array of fresh and preserved fruits and agricultural products; the teas and spices of India; the canned and dried fruits in the South Africa Pavilion; bananas from the West Indies; rice from Burma; Ceylon teas; Palestine wines; fresh and preserved fruit, jams and honey, the products of new Zealand. Besides all these, a general summary of the trade and activities of the Empire will be shown in the British Government Pavilion by means of numerated maps and charts.

“The grounds at Wembley will reproduce in miniature the entire resources of the British Empire. There the visitor will be able to inspect the Empire from end to end. From Canada it is but a stone’s throw to Australia, from Australia a short step to India and the Far East, from Hong Kong a few minutes’ walk to New Zealand or Malaya. In a single day he will be able to learn more geography than a year or hard study would teach him. And he will be able to see in each case the conditions of life of the country he is visiting. That is the importance of the British Empire Exhibition. It is a stock-taking of the whole of the resources of the Empire.”—*The Produce Markets Review*.

(The Planters’ Chronicle, Dated 26th Jan. 24.)

U. P. A. S. I. Statistics of Shipment of South Indian Produce upto 1st Dec. 1923.

(*The Planters' Chronicle, December 29, 1923.*)

Article.	Ports.	Period	Total Shipment.	To other		United Kingdom.	Other countries.
				Indian ports.	Ceylon.		
Tea (lbs.)	Madras ports.	1—1—1923.	24,213,664	476,312	2,347,726	21,333,305	77,656
		From.					Chiefly.
Coffee (cwts)	"	1—1—1923	173,807	16,785	82	62,736	(America.) 71
Rubber	"	"	6,996,634	285,418	2,763,135	£,738,185	(Europe) 1,126,006
							(America) 53290
							(Europe)

V. M. A.

Wheat in Foreign Countries.

Year.	Country.	Extent in 1000 acres.	Yield in 1,000 tons
1923	Canada.	...	12,702
"	United States of America	... 58,308	21,047
1923—24	Australia	... 10,000	3,214
"	Argentina	... 17,216	6,932
1923	France	... 13,656	7,781
"	Italy	... 11,555	6,022
"	Spain	... 10,489	4,208
"	Roumania	... 6,648	2,746
"	Germany	... 3,653	2,775
"	Hungary	... 3,411	1,813
"	Poland	... 2,514	1,293

(Indian Trade Journal, 31st January 1924.)

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS.

A Conference of Mirasdars at the Paddy Breeding Station Aduturai, on 5-1-24. As an outcome of the suggestions made at the Agricultural Demonstrators' Conference held at Tanjore in October 23, a conference of the Mirasdars of Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts was arranged to be held at the Paddy Breeding Station, Aduturai with the object both of demonstrating the lines of work pursued at Aduturai and of having an exchange of views and experience with the landholders on the recommendations made by the department on various Agricultural matters. The 5th of January was fixed for the Conference as that was the best time to visit the Farm, the paddy varieties being then expected to be fully in ears. Most of the leading Mirasdars were invited to take part in the Conference and in response more than 150 attended it inspite of adverse weather.

During the forenoon the visitors were taken round the farm in batches by the staff of the station who explained to them the various lines of research pursued to get a good and useful strain, the progeny of artificial crosses and the subsequent selections, trial of varieties imported for main and second crops and numerous other objects of interest. Many of the paddy varieties were appreciated and individual experiences on these points exchanged. On returning from the fields, the visitors were taken to the Laboratory where the Assistant Economist Botanist explained with the help of charts and paddy