

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

exhibits the various lines of work done at the station, cheap model sheds had been put up demonstrating the preservation of cattle manure by the loose box and dry earth systems which attracted the attention of the visitors. In one of the farm fields there was a ploughing demonstration with the Meston and Kong ploughs, side by side with the country plough, which was much appreciated.

At 3 p. m. all the visitors took their seats in the large conference pandal erected in front of the laboratory. A large number of the actual cultivators mustered strong from the neighbouring villages to witness the proceedings of the Conference. The special feature of the Conference was that the proceedings were all in Vernacular Tamil and everybody was able to follow and take part.

After the President-elect M. R. Ry, Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar, Avl., had been formally proposed to the chair M. R. Ry. N. S. Kulundaisami Pillai Avl., Deputy Director of Agriculture, V circle, opened the proceedings by welcoming the visitors in a short speech. In the course of it, he regretted that in Tanjore progress made in scientific agriculture was very slow and said that many mtrasdars had not taken as keen an interest in the improvement of agriculture as could be desired. He emphasised the point that the root of all trouble lay in absentee landlordism. To remedy the defect it was urged a system of the proprietor working with the tenants as existed in some of the European countries could easily be copied.

In an extempore speech, the President said among other things "the ryots and departmental officers had met there for mutual discussion and exchange of views based on actual experiences. It was gratifying to see the Aduturai Breeding Station had begun to show some improvements in the proper direction. He regretted to note that very many restrictions had been placed on the demonstrators. He said that the department's foremost duty was to educate the villagers in the latest methods of agriculture, and since this task chiefly fell on the demonstrators, any expenditure to cover the travelling expenses of these useful men of the department should be generally provided for in the annual budget. The very little advantage so far secured he added, had been entirely due to the ungrudging services of the hard working but poorly paid demonstrators.

The President then in view of the need of phosphatic manures for the Tanjore soils spoke on the urgency of the Government taking steps to prevent the exports of bones, oil cakes, &c., to foreign countries. A manure society he said had been started recently at Shiyali on a co-operative basis. It was upto every mirasdar present

then to take as many shares as possible. Bones, rock phosphate, oil cake, etc., could be powdered, mixed and supplied to the members at a very cheap rate.

Another factor to be considered was in his opinion, the reduction in the railway freight for transport of manures, etc., for agricultural purposes. In England and other countries railways allowed concession rates for transport of milk, vegetables and other perishables.

The President further suggested that the Government as in all other countries should come forward to help the poor ryots by granting subsidies for agricultural improvements adopted as result of the teachings of the department.

M. R. Ry. K. Ramiah Avl., Assistant Economic Botanist explained the origin and development of the Aduturai farm and how it differed from other farms like the one at Manganallur, closed two years back. He dwelt at length on the work done so far on Kuruvai, White Sirumani, Red Sirumani and Nellore Samba. He concluded by pointing out the benefits the mirasdars could derive and the care they have to bestow towards every operation in gaining the highest return.

At the request of the President, several mirasdars spoke at length in appreciative terms on the good results and benefits they had derived in following the several recommendations of the department. They exhorted their co-mirasdars to follow their examples.

The President in bringing the proceedings to a close appreciated and certified to the 20% increase in yield he had obtained from his lands by using Aduturai No. 1—Red Sirumani Strain No. 76—on of the farm strains, and the following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried unanimously :—

It was resolved to request the Government to provide larger allotment in the coming budget towards the improvements of the Agricultural Department and agriculturists to take to improvements by granting subsidies.

To prohibit exports of oil cakes, bones, etc.

To encourage earnest and well-to-do agriculturists by appointing them Honorary Assistant Directors as in the case of Co-operative Department

To address Railway Companies to grant concession rates to the transport of manures and seeds.

To maintain breeding buils at the Adutural farm.

At the close of the proceedings Mr. K. Ramiah, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chair and to the various landholders and visitors who had come from distant places in spite of the inclement weather.

There was an exhibition of magic lantern slides, in the course of which, short speeches were delivered for the benefit of those present. With this the Conference came to a happy close at 7-30 p. m.

T. K. BALAJI RAO.

Mr. B. Ramiah, B. Sc., Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture under training at the Central Farm, left Coimbatore on the 10th instant on transfer to Guntur as Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture, II Circle,

Mr. F. R. Parnell, M. A., Govt. Economic Botanist and Principal is going to South Africa as Cotton Specialist under the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation,

We all understand that Mr. G. R. Hilson, B. Sc., Cotton Specialist will leave in March for Bombay to act as Secretary, Central Indian Cotton Committee in place of Mr. B. C. Burt, proceeding on leave to England. It is believed Mr. R. C. Broadfoot will officiate as Cotton Specialist.

Cotton Pest Act Conference. On the 23rd instant the Honourable the Minister for Development, Dewan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai in company with Mr. F. Noyce, Secretary for Development and R. D. Anstead, the Director of Agriculture held a conference at the Agricultural College in connection with fixing of the date of the enforcement of the Pest Act for Cambodia Cotton Pests which a large number of Coimbatore Rvots attended. Among the Officials were Mr. H. A. B. Vernon, Collector, Mr. G. R. Hilson, Cotton Specialist, Mr. C. Narayanayvar, Dy. Director of Agriculture, VIII Circle, Rao Saheb Y. Ramachandra Rao, Govt. Entomologist, Mr. Loveband, Sub Collector, Messrs. C. V. Venkataramanayyengar,

M. L. C., Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M. L. C., Mr. Vellingiri Goundar, M. L. C., Rao Saheb C. S. Ratnasabhpathi Mudaliar, Rao Saheb A. Vittal Das Sait of Tirupur attended on behalf of the ryots. Mr. C. V. Venkataramanyangar spoke at length on the position of the ryot as regards the date of enforcement and urged its permanent change from August 1st to September 15th or at least to September 1st. There was much discussion and the Honourable Minister after taking note of the salient points promised to give the question his careful attention.

ESTATE NEWS.

Officers' Club.—On the 2nd Instant the Officers' Club organised a tea in honour of Mr. P. Susainathan who left to join his appointment as Assistant Entomologist, Agricultural Department, Basrah.

On the 10th Instant there was a gathering at the Club to bid goodbye to Mr. B. Ramiah on his transfer to Guntur as officiating Dy. Director. On the 9th Instant the Agricultural Section was "at Home" to Mr. B. Ramiah.

On the 7th Instant Rev. H. A. Popley gave a very interesting conversation at the club on the "Excellences of Tiru-Kural", the well-known ancient Tamil classic.

Visitors. Mr. C. V. Sane, Director of Agriculture, Baroda, visited the Farm, College and the Research Institute.

Mr. Aitchison visited the Estate in connection with the Serum simultaneous inoculation of cattle on the Farm.

The Hon' Rajah Vasudeva Rajah of Kollengode paid a hurried private visit to the College and Farm.

M. Petiot of French Indo China visited the College and Research Institute in connection with an enquiry regarding the cultivation of cotton in South India.

Mr. C. B. Francis, Supt. of Plantations, Messrs Parry & Co. Nellikuppam visited the College and Research Institute and the Chettipalayam Cane Breeding Station.

On the 23rd, at 6-30 p. m. the officers' club was "At Home" to the Hon' the Minister for Development. Messers F. Noyce and R. D. Anstead and C. V. Venkataramanyangar were present. This is the second time a Minister has graced the Club with his presence—the first time being in 1921 when Sir K. V. Reddi visited the College as Minister.