

Great problems are immediately ahead of us, well worth the study and thought of every one connected with the technical development of the industry. Eliminating the refinery operations and making refined sugar direct from the cane is one of them; recovering the sucrose now lost in our final molasses and amounting to from 6 to 8 per cent of the total supplied to us by nature is another. (Extract from the Planter and Sugar Manufacturer 17-10-25.)

The Arts of Husbandry.

Mr. Clement Heigham's review on Malden's book on "Actual Farming." 1925

Mr. Malden's view of the relation of the farmer to the rest of the community is one that is not uncommon among farmers, but is seldom adequately expressed. He says that "the farmer has every one as a critic", and that he has to carry on an extremely complex business and an unending war with the climate, in face of the freely expressed opinions of the mass of his uninstructed fellow-countrymen. Open criticism, even when it is ill-informed, matters very little when it is not accompanied by power of one sort or another. In this case of the farmer, the critics represent that urban majority which must influence the political views of any government to a very great degree. Farming and politics are widely removed from each other in most respects, but political neglect or misunderstanding can make the farmer's task very much more difficult than it need be.

The attitude of farmers towards change and so-called agricultural progress is very generally misunderstood, and Mr. Malden finds space to express a view which will gain support among those who have some knowledge of farming conditions, and of the ill-concieved and expensive reforms which are sometimes urged upon agriculturists. The history of agricultural development in Great Britain during the past fifty or sixty years shows that great progress has been made in the application of the sciences to the business of farming, and that the farmer of today is in a far better position to solve his problems of crop and animal husbandry than was his great-grand-father. Unfortunately, a closer study of the course of progress reveals the fact that this advance has been made at very great cost and that a larger number of individuals have been ruined in the process. So many well-meaning but unwise people, and so many interested rogues, have set out to advise farmers in the development of their business; so much incomplete discovery and unbalanced recommendation has been lavished upon agriculture, that the sturdy conservatism of the farmers might very well have become hardened to an incredulous contempt for all new ideas. That this has not happened is well known by the

orth the
develop-
l making
ring the
n 6 to 8
(Extract

present development of agricultural education and research, which depends upon the support of the farmers all over the kingdom. Mr. Malden quotes from Wren Hoskyns to show that real progress finds a welcome on the farm as elsewhere, and that apparent lack of enterprise is often only wise caution on the part of the farmer. (Extract from "Nature" dated 26th December, 1925)

REVIEWS.

"Actual

The Madras Bulletin of Co-operation (Dec. 1925.)

rest of
, but is
is every
complex
e freely
ntrymen.
le when
his case
ch must
degree.
in most
ake the

In his interesting note on the co-operative sale of cotton in Bombay, Mr. S. H. Acharya admirably sums up his views on conditions which affect the progress of the movement in that Presidency. "The cultivator should be given all the facilities and all his requirements should be satisfied through co-operation and co-operation only. The supplying him with one of his requirements and leaving him for the others to the open world would not bring him that good for which he is asked to labour. His difficulties in times of famine should also be redressed, for in the whole history of Banking restrictive method has always failed and the expansive has succeeded. Writing on the co-operative movement in Bombay and Madras, Bhisma observes that Madras employs a huge but poorly paid staff, while Bombay pins its faith on a small but highly paid staff commanding influence by reason of their capacity and position. Non-credit work is under the Agricultural department in Bombay and seven agricultural organizers work under this department, while in Madras the agricultural department is not charged with the work of developing agricultural co-operation. There are Taluk development associations in Bombay consisting of individuals and societies subsidised by the agricultural department to a maximum of Rs. 2000, employing agricultural demonstrators and aiding the agricultural officers in non-credit co-operative work. They are recognised as agents for propaganda and supervision of non-credit societies. In Madras, the local unions should learn to utilise the services of agricultural officers and be subsidised by Government for appointing agricultural demonstrators and spreading agricultural improvements.

gricultural
ds space
ho have
ved and
ulturists.
ring the
made in
that the
blems of
Unfortu-
fact that
a larger
o many
es, have
ness; so
has been
farmers
ontempt
n by the

The Tanjore District Co-operative Manure Society Limited No. 1885.

NIDAMANGALAM.

The annual report on the working of the Society for the year ended 30-6-1925, together with the audit report of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies has just been received.