

Notes.

Education and Trade. The waste of young life which has been going on increasingly since 1919 could not continue without awakening the gravest misgivings as to the future of this realm. Thousands upon thousands of youth, having reached the completed age of 14 years, have passed out of our schools, the majority of them without having secured their qualifying certificates. If there had been openings for them in which they could have secured handicraft employment the detriments to the state would not have been so disquieting. Had they even found employment for their hands it would have been well, but unhappily thousands of them during these years have never learned to do any work not even of the blind alley order. That something should be attempted to stay this wastage is a common place of patriotism, and Lord Salvesan and his colleagues have before them no common or easy task.

In the cities there are in connection with the Ministry of Labour Juvenile Advisory Committees, the members of which do their best to see that youths to whom the "dole" is being paid attend the classes opened for their special benefit and are constantly on the outlook for work. These Committees also meet with the boys and girls who are leaving school and their guardians and endeavour to get the latter advised to send the young people to the continuation classes, and thus have their time occupied until they obtain work. Some success has been achieved in this endeavour; but it is a heart-breaking experience to witness the unwillingness of girls to undertake employment as domestic servants. The boys are much more amenable to advice, and not many of those who have come under our notice would be ideal if work were available for them. The most disquieting feature in this connection is the ever increasing number of those who have never done any work. It is much easier to place a boy in work who has just left school than one who has been out for three or four years. Unhappily also too many employers are only too willing to exploit boy and girl labour between the ages of 14 and 16, and then cut the youths adrift when national insurance has to be paid on their account. The problems thus created are terribly involved; they are almost baffling; and unfortunately we have in our midst too many eager to upset the existing fabric of society, who have no particular desire to see things better. The straitness of the hour is their opportunity and they utilize it for ends that do not make for national stability.

(Scottish Farmer; dated 28th November 1925.)

Rules for Tree Planting.

1. Remember first and last that a tree is a living; thing it thrives with good treatment, struggles for existence when indifferently treated and dies when neglected.
2. Plant in properly prepared soil, ploughed well and cross-ploughed and subsequently harrowed. The finer the tilth, the better the start the trees will get.
3. Dig square holes, not round, and fill with well pulverised surface soil; leave no grass or roots in the holes, as these may form air cavities.
4. Use small transplants, 6 to 9 inches. They stand the shock of transplanting better than large ones.
5. See that the plant has a good bushy system of fibrous roots. Discard plants without. Shorten any very long tap or side roots.
6. In removing plant from tray or seed bed take great care not to break the small roots. Between this operation and planting do not expose roots to sun or wind. Do not press a firm ball of earth round the roots.
7. Plant the tree the same depth as or a fraction of an inch higher than it stood in the seed bed or tray. Do not cram the roots.
8. Plant on a dull or rainy day, and if not actually raining give each plant a little water.
9. Hold the plant slightly above the correct height in the hole, with complete root system naturally spread. Gradually fill in well pulverised soil. When finished, firm down evenly all round with the feet and give a little water to settle the soil.

(Rhodesia Agricultural Journal January 1926.) S. N.

Farmers' Weather Lore. Being constantly out of doors and being engaged in an industry that is largely controlled by seasonal influences, farmers in all countries naturally take great interest in weather conditions. Before weather forecasting was placed on a more scientific basis, much attention was paid to the happenings on certain days, which were considered ominous of the ensuing weather. Thus the twelve days preceding Christmas were in France believed to represent month by month the weather of the ensuing year. In

this country there was a similar superstition with regard to the twelve days beginning with 31st December. Christmas day, however, was regarded as portentous; if it fell on a Friday, the early part of the winter would be severe but the following spring and summer would be favourable. When Christmas came while the moon was new, and especially at new moon, farming would prosper during the ensuing year.

Possibly there is some truth in proverbial observations with regard to the effect of different kinds of weather at particular periods on the subsequent progress of crops. "If you see grass in January, stock your grain in the granary." Tusser observed that "A kindly good Janiveer, Freezeth the pot by the feer (fire) The prejudice against wet weather in this month is indicated by the couplet "December's frost and January's flood never hoded the husbandman's good." The somewhat unusual occurrence of thunder in November and December recalls the old belief that this presages abundance of corn.

(Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture January 1926).

The prognosticatory significance of weather at Christmas time, mentioned above is strangely reminiscent of the belief of the importance of the "Garbha-Ottam" period, also falling about the same time, prevalent in the Tamil Country.

EDITORIALS.

The Task Before the Union.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture has been appointed and will assemble in India in October next. How is the country preparing to meet it and profit by its coming? The Union is celebrating the Golden Jubilee in July next. In the country there are yet no signs of any activities except perhaps in official quarters. Considerable changes have taken place in the agricultural conditions since 1871 when the Suez Canal was opened and India was brought into more intimate touch with European and American markets but no investigations of a very comprehensive nature have been undertaken in the past and the progress of science during the last quarter of a century has accelerated developments in all industries in the