

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.

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## EDITORIALS.

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### 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



West including the agricultural and it would be against the natural order of things if India alone would persist in following the course that was suited for conditions that no longer exist. She is at the parting of ways and must choose now and choose rightly, for, upon this depends her future existence as an agricultural country. The Union also has a duty to perform in this connexion. For it is, so far as we are aware, the only organised body of scientific agricultural workers of several years' standing and circumstanced as it is, fit to give a lead in guiding public opinion towards correcting the existing defects in the agricultural practices and anomalies in the status of the ryot. The subject bristles no doubt with difficulties but these are not insurmountable and should serve as stimulants rather than deterrents. A few points on which correct information is necessary seem to us to be (1) whether the land is really producing as much as it could, (2) whether it is possible to increase production, (3) in what directions India can change her crops, (4) how far she can rely upon her present cattle-manure and water-supply, (5) in what ways she can sell her products to the best advantage, (6) how the ryot spends all his income, 7) what impediments, if any, there are towards the amelioration of his present condition. We would request our readers to forward their-considered views on these and allied questions so that they can be collected and submitted if necessary in the form of a memorandum before the Royal Commission and used in oral evidence, should the Union be called upon to do so.

### **Agricultural Museums.**

India is an agricultural country. Yet in this land, there are few centres where the products of husbandry are collected and housed in a decent way, and where seekers after knowledge can see them and learn for themselves. The London Exhibition of 1851 and the later exhibitions at Paris, Philadelphia, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague and a number of other towns in the west during the past 75 years brought the growers and consumers together to the immense advantage of both and tended to stimulate interest in agricultural production. A jack fruit which weighs 50 lbs., a pine-apple which weighs 8 lbs., a paddy ear with 700 grains, a plantain bunch with 470 fruits, a cholam ear which gives 2 lbs. of grain are not met with every day, but are objects of attainment when steadily worked up to. The history of the development of sugarbeet since 1,800 furnishes a very good example of what knowledge and industry can do to improve a staple.

It is the boast of enthusiasts that Dacca in ancient days produced muslins of superior quality—such knowledge has come to them through records. But how many of us are aware that for this information we are indebted to places outside India where Indian products have been preserved for hundreds of years. It would seem appropri-



ate that each distinct agricultural tract should be provided with a museum of agricultural products. Preferably they may be located near or attached to agricultural colleges and may contain productions of other countries, obtained through exchange. This will encourage co-operation between workers and tear the veil of suspicion hanging over ignorant men or interested self-seekers. Will the Golden Jubilee in July next afford an opportunity to discuss the subject?

### **Two distinguished visitors.**

During the month the staff and students of the College were entertained to two intellectual discourses by Prof. Oscar Buck of America and Dr. James Cousins of Adyar. Prof. Buck gave an enlivening address on the 16th on the student movement in China with special reference to the enormous influence it exercises in moulding the character and widening the outlook of the modern Chinaman. Dr. Cousins' was pitched in a sweeter tone and dealt with the philosophical aspect of Rabindranath Tagore as illustrated in one of the choicest verses of Gitanjali.

### **Our Director and Subordinates.**

Mr. R. D. Anstead's visit during the month was availed of by the Artists' Association and the Lower Subordinates' Association to place a few facts concerning their salaries, travelling allowance and prospects generally. Messrs. T. S. Alwar Aiyangar, P. Doraisawmy Mudaliar, and S. R. Srinivasa Ayyar represented the artists while Messrs. P. M. Appaswami Pillai, S. Muthusami Ayyar, R. Narasimhan and C. V. Sankaranarayana Ayyar were deputed by the Lower Subordinates' Association. The Lower Subordinates rightly felt that if the rate of promotion was based on last year's figure it would take them far beyond another 20 years before the existing number is absorbed into the Upper subordinate service as they were encouraged to hope. Their second point was that for the filling in of posts in Science sections and in the allied activities under the control of scientific heads, non-agricultural men were being brought in and that this system placed them at a very great disadvantage in the matter of promotions. Another point on which they laid stress were the difficulties they undergo with the limited salaries and allowances they get when they are obliged to be in camp in a particular place or two even sometimes for two to three months all the time being compelled to pay house rent and water-tax for houses standing in their names on the estate which they cannot vacate as under the rules of the College Board once a house is vacated the claim for a house later on is not entertained. We hope these representations will receive due consideration.



### Departmental Notifications.

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*Appointments and Transfers:*—Mr. K. Raghavacharya, agricultural Demonstrator posted to Central Cattle Farm, Hosur on expiry of leave.

Mr. A. K. Annasamy, to officiate as Upper subordinate, Vth grade and posted to Central Cattle Farm, Hosur.

LEAVE ETC.

*Second Circle:*—Mr. K. V. Seshagiri Rao, assistant demonstrator, Tenali, leave on average pay for 10 days from 22-2-26.

Mr. A. J. Mascarenhas, farm manager, Guntur, leave on average pay for one month from 2-3-26.

*Third Circle:*—Mr. M. Vi araghava Rao, agricultural demonstrator, extension of leave on average pay on medical certificate for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  months.

*Fifth Circle:*—Mr. L. S. Netesa Aiyar, Agricultural demonstrator, Karur, leave on average pay from 17-1-26 to 16-2-26.

*Sixth Circle:*—Mr. C. J. Balraj, assistant demonstrator, Madura, leave on average pay for one month from 12-2-26 or date of relief.

Mr. C. S. Namasivayam Pillai, assistant demonstrator, Melur, leave on average pay for 20 days from 10-2-26 or date of avail.

*Seventh Circle:*—Mr. E. Achyuthan Nayar, assistant farm manager, Taliparamba, leave on average pay for 15 days from 7-2-26.

*Live-Stock:*—Mr. M. V. Narasimha Sastry, assistant manager, Chintaldevi leave on average pay for one month from 6-2-26.

*Central Farm:*—Mr. V. Viswanatha Aiyar, assistant manager, two weeks leave on average pay from 4-3-26.

*G. M.'s Section:*—Mr. C. Krishnan Nayar, assistant, leave on average pay for three months from 1-3-26.

*G. A. C.'s Section:*—Mr. S. Suryanarayana, assistant, leave on average pay for two months.

Mr. S. Kasinatha Aiyer, assistant, leave on average pay for two months from or after 1-3-26.