

Bombay Cattle Breeds:— The Bombay Agricultural Department is to be congratulated on its up-to-dateness in bringing to the notice of the public a short account of the 8 existing cattle breeds in that province. The leaflets issued on this subject give a fairly full description of the tracts in which they are found and of the characters and prices of the several breeds. Of the 8 breeds it is satisfactory to note the Scindhis are the best milkers. Their reputation, as our readers are aware, has extended beyond the limits of the Bombay Presidency. We find Scindhi cows in requisition in Madras, Ceylon, Java, and other countries. Of the dual purpose Breeds Kankrej, Gir, and the Thar Parkar hold an unrivalled position though the last by virtue of its location in the arid tracts of Thar Parkar in Sind is fitted more for tracts where pasturage is scarce. The three draught breeds are reported to be the Krishna Valley, Khillari and the Amrit Mahal, which last has become a special feature of Mysore Agriculture.

Y. M. C. A's Rural Work:—Of the organizations, the one that has given a very practical turn to rural reconstruction work in this province is the Y. M. C. A. now under the able guidance of Mr. K. T. Paul. Since his return in August last, from the World Congress at Helsingfors, he has been devoting his utmost attention to this aspect of the Y. M. C. A. The number of lectures he has delivered on this subject in several centres, the enthusiasm he has evoked amongst his hearers and the practical scheme he has laid down for rural rebuilding through honorary or paid workers deserve commendation. Mr. Paul seems to believe more in concentration and this is all for the good as satisfactory work done in one centre becomes infectious very soon and spreads even uninvited to places otherwise inaccessible.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Cottage Industries:—Mr. S. K. Sundaracharlu, whose name was prominently before the public as Assistant Labour Commissioner and in connexion with the Labour Conference at Geneva 3 years ago, has been placed on special duty to investigate the actual requirements of power from the Hydro-Electric works at the Pykara Falls and will after its completion make enquiries on the Cottage Industries in this Presidency. The unemployment problem is staring in the face. All are agreed that in an agricul-

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tural province like this, the amount of unemployment cannot be inappreciable or reduced unless efforts are put forth on a colossal scale to induce the agricultural population to take up cottage industries. Several industries have been suggested and it would be well that in the agricultural college a few such industries are taught as optional subjects. This would not only be popular, but would also gain the approbation of all sections of public opinion and make the college more useful and better appreciated.

Agriculture in schools :—The Guntur District Educational Council has resolved that agriculture should be taught in schools under its control. (Hindu dated 2-2-27).

Special lectures :—A series of special lectures was given this month to the final year students of this College.

7th to 10th.—Revenue by Mr. M. V. Vellodi, Pers. Asst. to Director.

16th and 17th.—Hydrogen-Ion concentration and phosphatic values by Mr. T. Lakshmana Rao, Asst. Agri. Chemist.

18th.—Plant Breeding Mr. R. O. Iliffe, Paddy Specialist.

21st and 22nd.—Experiments—How to conduct them by Mr. B. V. Nath, Govt. Agri. Chemist.

23rd.—Bacteriological technique by Mr. P. D. Karunakar, Agri. Bacteriologist.

24th.—Factors affecting growth and sugar content of cane, by Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Asst. Sugarcane Expert.

25th.—Plant Breeding—Millets, by Mr. G. N. Rangaswami Ayyangar Millets Specialist.

Students' Club :—On the literary side this club has been more than active recently and it had the unique fortune this month to have an extremely lucid and thoughtful address from Dr. S. K. Datta, Secretary, Y. M. C. A. India a practical exposition of the principles and working of farm implements by Mr. S. Ramachandra Iyer D. A. and a valedictory address by Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam, Chettiar.

Dr. Datta traced the apparent race conflict that rages very furiously in the modern world between 'whites' and 'nonwhites' to the bed-rock of economics, drew for his illustration events from the present position of the Indians and the Whites in the Fiji Islands and incidentally referred to the communal conflicts in this country which was a very unwelcome feature from his point of view. Everyone in the audience having heard Dr. Datta felt that one's weight should be thrown on the side of humanity and against narrow sentimentalism which bulks largely in the present day controversies.

Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar deplored the condition of the Indian cultivator and suggested in a descriptive manner the one means of securing through waterlifts and ploughs increased crop production in regions where the country plough now simply scratches the soil and where wells are possible but do not at present exist.

Officers' Club :—The annual meeting for election of office bearers was held in the last week of this month. Our President, Mr. Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan retired and Mr. K. Krishnamurthi Rao has taken his place for the current year. The meeting excited mirth and conviviality as is usual in a unique colony as the Agricultural College Estate. The retiring President was congratulated from all quarters. Mr. M. C. Cherian becomes the Secretary and Mr. B.V. Nath, again Vice-President, the other members of the Committee being, V. Gomatinayagam Pillai, K. M. Thomas and C. Vijiaraghavan.

Co-operative Stores :—The local branch of the Coimbatore Co-operative Stores and Bank has as the result of a general body meeting held at the College on the 13th secured a local pensioned officer in the person of Mr. T. A. Subramanya Ayyar on the Directorate. On the initiative of Mr. Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan, the meeting enthusiastically constituted a local consultative body consisting of Messrs. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar (Sanitary Inspector.) R. Chockalingam Pillai (Cotton Botanist.) S. Ramasubramanya Sarma (Accountant, Central Farm), the Warden of the Students' Hostel and the Secretary Officers' Club to help the Director.

Honorary Visitors :—The institution of Honorary Visitors to the College does not seem to be popular. Few have the

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required time at their disposal or the inclination to visit the College, busy men that they are, and plunged in their local affairs. This month Rao Bahadur Nallathambi Chakkarai Mandradiyar, the Pattagar of Palayakottai, the famous breeder of Kangayam cattle, paid an official visit to the College and acquainted himself with the work of the various sections, the Central Farm and the Dairy.

The Madras Paddy Crop:—1926-27—Final Report.
The area sown with paddy up to Decr. is estimated at 10,954,000 acres against 11,050,000 acres estimated on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The area under second crop paddy will be much less than in the previous year owing to insufficient or poor supplies in most of the irrigation sources, especially in rainfed tanks, as a result of the partial failure of the North east monsoon. The reduction of area under the second crop has more than set off the increase in area under the first crop and main crop for which there were sufficient supplies in the irrigation sources.

The harvest of the main crop has been finished in most districts. On the West Coast, first crop paddy and single crop paddy gave good yields owing to the well distributed rainfall. The crop has been affected by drought in the other districts. In Chingleput, South Arcot, Salem, Madura, and Ramnad, the yield per acre was the lowest reported. In parts of Coimbatore, the crop suffered from the attack of insect pests. It was less than in the previous year except in Godaveri, Anantapur and Coimbatore and on the West Coast and the Hills.

On the seasonal factor basis, the yield works out at 92,777,000 cwt. of cleaned rice as compared with 106,440,000 cwt estimated for the previous year, a decrease of 15.9 per cent. The present estimate is less than the average estimated yield of 107,814,000 cwt. by about 14 per cent.