

Officer, the agricultural departments, the irrigation engineer, and the registrar of co-operative credit. The isolated efforts of all these has achieved much, but their co-operation and co-ordination will achieve much more.

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### **The Village School.**

*A powerful potential factor in rural improvement.*

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As an agency for rural improvement, the village school has a great potentiality. It occupies a very advantageous position for the extension of all government activities in the rural districts. Geographically, it stands in the midst of potential wealth, the lands that surround it, farms, forest and pastures and, in addition, along the coasts, the fisheries.

The village school, through the school children and otherwise, is in contact with all people in its rural district. This contact is constant and friendly, and it can be used to advantage. No institution created for the improvement of rural conditions can attain the highest degree of usefulness and efficiency unless it can maintain constant and friendly contact with the people. The rural people look toward the village school for leadership and guidance. For them, the school is a source of information, instruction, and inspiration. Tradition ties the village people to the school.

All government activities that have anything to do with the education, health, public welfare, agriculture, etc., for the rural people can be most economically consolidated and extended through the village school. There is no agency in the rural community that is more stable and is held in high respect than the village school. Of all the Government institutions only the Bureau of Education has a wonderfully efficient system of agencies that keeps it in contact with the families in the remotest corners of the Archipelago. By the nature of their organisations, the other government institutions cannot be furnished with like systems. Economy forbids. It is not necessary that they are furnished with such a system. Means must be sought so that the several institutions concerned may find a way to use the village school for the extension of their activities. Co-operation is an all-powerful means under the present system of government organisations. It opens a way for the solution of vexed



administrative questions and overlapping activities. Bureaus must co-operate for the extension of their activities to the rural districts for the sake of efficiency. The village school can be made a central agency for these activities.

The improvement of the village school as an educational and social centre needs the most urgent consideration. Most of the pupils that fail to complete the primary grades are children in the rural districts, the future producers of agricultural products of the country. There are several reasons for their few years in school. Rural people are too poor to let their children continue schooling in towns where the higher grades are taught. They need their children to help them in their farm work. Also many rural children are so poorly prepared in their school work that they cannot catch up with the town children. Generally they quit school before completing the primary grades. Most of the graduates in the elementary schools are city children. Among the high school graduates there are very few who come from the rural districts. This is one reason why our high school graduates do not go to the farm. They do not come from the farm.

The farmers do not come from children raised and trained in cities. With the exception of a few who were trained in the farm and agricultural schools, the farming population come from the children in the rural districts. City families rear city people and rural families, rural people. Therefore if we want to raise the proportion and standard of our rural population we must keep in mind that the village schools in the rural districts are the places where the people get their training.

The village school can be used as an educational centre for the older people, as a social centre of the rural community, as a health centre and as a recreational centre. The rural people know very little about what is going on in the towns and provinces, much less about what is going on in the country and in the world. A provincial or regional newspaper and a Philippines weekly, at least, should be in the village school library. A weekly or bi-weekly gathering of the older people to learn the current news will help to raise the educational level of the rural community. Rural people are oftentimes misinformed about agricultural, economic and political conditions. Correct news and information can be transmitted to the older people in the rural districts through the village school children. Civic-educational lectures adapted to the needs of the rural communities are of great value.



Social intercourse among the rural people should be promoted. Social intercourse begets friendship and understanding, and understanding begets co-operation. There should be a room in the village school for social purposes. The village school can be used as a health centre. Health work in the villages should be carried on in connection with the village school. A small cabinet containing first aid remedies in the school building would be very handy for cases not needing expert medical treatment.

We are spending much of the government income for the aggrandizement of the city institutions. We are making city conditions very inviting to the rural people. The flow of the rural population to the cities should be curtailed. Improvement of rural conditions and spirit will tend to dam the flow. The improvement of the village school in physical plant, equipment, and personnel should take precedence over all projects of the Government in the rural districts.

The taxes that come from the rural districts should be spent for the improvement of rural conditions. A law so providing would be a blessing to the country. The insular aid to the academic high schools—most of it—should be shifted to the schools in the rural districts. Part of the municipal income for general and school purposes should also be set aside for the improvement of rural conditions.

The expenditure of more money of the government in the rural district will be conducive to symmetrical and well balanced development of the country, educationally, socially, and economically. We need it to stabilize conditions, political and economic. How many times the countries of Europe have been saved from political chaos and economic crisis by the rural class! We must develop a rural class to produce our food and to produce the raw materials for industry and manufacture. The development can be most advantageously made by means of the village school or consolidated school or any kind of school in the rural district. We cannot develop a rural class in the city. The rural atmosphere is not there. The rural problem must be attacked first and foremost in the rural districts.

(From the Philippine Agriculturist, Vol. XIV, No. 10, March, 1926.)

### **A Labour view of agriculture.**

Mr. F. Montague. Labour M. P. :—said “to start a socialist state in this country while dependent on a foreign food supply would mean that they would be at the mercy of international financial might”



and it was desirable that most of the food required in this country should be homegrown. There was nine and a half million acres of land in this country capable of cultivation which were now derelict, and on six and a half million acres wheat could be grown at 40 bushels per acre which would supply all the wheat required for this country.

In 1920 the cost of production of homegrown food was £ 400,000,000, or £ 400 per head of the agricultural population. In 1920 the agricultural worker received somewhere round £ 75 to £ 80 per year, and the farmer got about £ 120 to cover his costs. That amounted for roughly £ 200 and another £ 100 was accounted for by bad business methods among the farmers.

When the representatives of farming said that farming did not pay, they meant that capitalism did not pay.

(Farmer and Stock Breeder of 29th March '26).

### **The Maximum of Encouragement with Minimum of Control**

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. W. Guinness was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Hunts Chamber of Agriculture at Huntingdon, over which Mr. A. G. Dilley, High Sheriff of Cambe and Hunts presided.

Mr. Guinness responding to the toast of "Success to Agriculture" proposed by Mr. C. K. Murchison, said not much complaint could be made on the technical side of British agriculture. although they had got behind on the economic side and on the measures taken to benefit the home market. The measures which the Government were able to take to help agriculture were designed to give the maximum encouragement with the minimum of Government control. The Government had been severely criticised for not having competed with other political parties in the fundamental principles of land-tenure which were now being put before the country. He did not think that would bring any benefit.

The only method by which agriculture could be benefited was by getting it on to an economic basis. He considered they ought to



study the possibility of following the experience of some of our efficient competitors, and see whether the crops which sold at a profit might not profitably repay in other ways when turned into stock made on the farm. They were spending £ 50,000.000 a year on pork and bacon and he could not see why, with the markets at our doors, some of that large business should not remain at home instead of going abroad. The political situation of the country debarred the Government from helping farmers' receipts either by import duties, taxing food or subsidies,

*Party sacrifices.* The party now in power made very great sacrifices on two occasions to try to induce the country to give protection a trial but not even the agricultural districts would support it, and in view of that decision it was merely blinding one's eyes if one went on harping back to the programme which was put to the country in 1923.

They were justified in giving aid to the new sugar beet industry and help it through its teething troubles. He was justified in saying that the Government was out to lighten the burdens of agriculture and hoped to be able to satisfy those against the proposals to dip into the Road Fund by increased relief in the form of increased maintenance in the rural roads. It was hoped to deal with agricultural credits and make amendments in the law so that banks might be able to grant credits to the farmer, which at the present time was not possible. This year the Government hoped to come to an arrangement with the county councils for an extension of small holdings under suitable conditions. The Government had examined carefully whether it would be possible to have a scheme of cash-on delivery applicable only to agricultural produce, but it was found that any such restricted operation of the system would have involved such high charges as to have made it quite useless from the point of view of the agriculturist who wanted to get into direct touch with the consumer.

The Government hoped to pass a measure this year for the marketing of imported merchandise. As the measure would not be restricted to a few specified products, but would be applicable to any article proved suitable before a standing committee which would be set up, he thought that they would get a wider publication of the mark of foreign agricultural art in quicker operation than if the government had tried to deal with the matter by a schedule to a special act of Parliament.

It was no use setting people on the land unless they could make a livelihood out of it. The object would not be obtained by land



nationalisation. On the contrary, the precarious tenure proposed under nationalisation would make profit almost out of the question.

He did not deny that there was room for improvement in agriculture, but that improvement would come without turning every thing upside down. Now that we were back on the gold standard there was every reason to think that with stabilised prices our great industries would recover, and if they did recover it was the teaching of history that agriculture always recovered with them.

### Coimbatore Canebreeding Station.

#### AN APPRECIATION OF ITS WORK.

#### *Report of the Government Sugarcane Expert for 1924—25.*

Since the formation of the office of Sugar Cane Expert at Coimbatore, India, in 1912, the work of this division has been confined largely to the production of seedling sugarcanes and a study of the root developments of the sugar cane. The report for 1924—25 which we have just received, contains interesting and instructive data pertaining to the research and investigation work conducted by this office which is in charge of T. S. Venkatraman B. A.,

During the year under review much progress has been made in their research work and investigations on the technique of breeding operations and we especially note the advancement made in the control of male fertility in sugar cane arrows. After a number of attempts to influence the fertility of the arrow of the sugar cane by various manipulations, and noting an observation recorded at the commencement of this office in 1912 that the arrows obtained from canes grown in saline lands showed a comparative absence of healthy anthers and pollen, while in good soil the same variety of cane was rich in pollen, experiments were conducted in the feeding of the cane arrows on special solutions after separating them from the stalk. Tests show that these solutions reached the top portion of the arrows in less than twelve hours. While the results have not yet reached a positive state, it has been shown that certain solutions appear to have an effect on the color as well as the degree of opening of the anther sacs. The discovery of this susceptibility of the cane arrows to artificial feeding and its use in sugar cane breeding, enabling the control of the fertility of sugar canes grown