

letters—some suddenly appearing and disappearing in floods of light, some revolving and others projecting in terrible searchlights. My experience alone can realise the effect produced on a perfect stranger on the first day of his stay in a city like this.

SAN FRANCISCO,

16th June, 1927.

T. V. R.

MADRAS FORECASTS.

Paddy. First Report:—The area in Madras is 13.2 per cent of the total area in India. The area sown up to the end of September is 7,443,000 acres,—an increase of 7.5 per cent over last year. This increase is mainly in Tanjore and in the Circars. Deccan, Nellore, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad and Malabar have shown a reduction.

Harvest of first crop is over on the West Coast and has just commenced in Tanjore, Madura, and Tinnevely. The yield on the West Coast is slightly above normal. It is expected to be normal in Tanjore and Madura, while in Tinnevely the effects of water scarcity will be visible. In other districts the condition of the crop is fairly satisfactory.

Sugarcane. Second Report:—Madras contributes 4.3 per cent to the total area in India. Up to the end of September 101,300 acres are estimated to have been planted to sugarcane. There is a decrease of 7 per cent this year. The reduction is general and is due to the partial failure of the North East Monsoon and consequent scarcity of water at planting time. The condition of crop is fairly good except in South Arcot and Chittoor where it has slightly suffered from draught.

The estimated yield of raw sugar (Jaggery) is 287,400 tons.

Cotton. Second Report:—Madras raises 10.5 per cent of the total area in India. The area sown up to the end of September is estimated at 680,300 acres—a decrease of 7 per cent. The area in the south and central districts relates partly to last year's

crop and partly to new sowings. Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely and Trichinopoly have shown a large reduction in the last year's crop. August rainfall was poor in Bellary and the area went down. The rest of the Deccan showed an increase due to timely rains.

In Kistna owing to late rains, sowings are late by a fortnight.

The condition of the crop is fair.

Gingelly. Second report—12·6 per cent of the total area in India is found in Madras. Up to the end of September 557,700 acres are estimated to have been sown. This is an increase of 45 per cent over last season. The increase is due to timely rains and occurs in most districts. West Godavari, Chingleput, South Arcot and North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly alone show 227,000 acres against 94,100 of last year.

In the Circars the early crop was harvested. The yield was below normal. This was due to water—logging and damage by rains in Ganjam and Vizag and to insect pests in Godavari (East and West.)

Drought affected the crop in Bellary, Chittoor and North Arcot. In other districts the crop is fair.

Groundnut. Third Report—61·3 per cent of all area in this country is found in Madras. The area sown up to the end of September is 2,813,900 acres or an increase of 42 per cent. The increase is general and is due to good rains and remunerative prices in recent years. The greatest increases are in Guntur, the Deccan, South Arcot, North Arcot and Trichinopoly. In Guntur, Kurnool, Bellary, Chittoor, North Arcot, and Coimbatore the area sown has exceeded the final area sown in any previous year. In Guntur the area has risen from 2,500 acres in 1918-19 to 120,000 acres this year.

The harvest of summer crop is over.

Heavy rains have affected Ganjam, and Vizag and drought, Bellary and South Arcot. Elsewhere the condition of crop is good.

T. V. R.