

DEPARTMENT'S WORK—OFFICIAL DIGESTS, No. 58 & 59.

APRIL.

Weather.—April was generally characterized by bright weather except in the last week, when there were heavy rains in Ramnad and Tinnevely and good showers in Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura and the Nilgiris, and on the West Coast.

Irrigation supplies were adequate only in Kistna, Tanjore, Tinnevely and the Nilgiris, and generally inadequate elsewhere.

The rains were useful in promoting the growth of good second flush of cotton in the central districts and the south. Standing crops were adversely affected in parts of Bellary, Nellore, Chittoor, and Coimbatore. Dry crops in parts of West Godavari, Guntur, and Trichinopoly were not satisfactory. Standing crops were generally fair in other districts.

Prospects were not satisfactory, especially in parts of the Deccan.

Stations. Anakapalle.—The Vizagapatam District Co-operative Conference was held here this year and the visitors came to know very intimately of the nature of the work in progress and the improvements, possible thereon, in the District.

Samalkota.—Here the sugarcane harvest was completed. J.247 which ripened late and was under a large area, gave 10,462 lbs. of jaggery per acre. The line planting of canes showed its superiority over broadcast and the use of Chattanooga cane mill showed an increased extraction of 4.6 per cent juice.

Hagari and Nandyal.—An unusually dry month was experienced. Yet the usefulness of an improved heavy plough like the S. A. E. Gallows Plough was clearly visible, in that 21 acres at Hagari and 15 acres at Nandyal could be ploughed.

At the Pelakuppam groundnut station 1.60 inches of rain was received which benefitted the standing crops and helped in ploughing and the sowing of groundnut and cholam for fodder.

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A little rain received at *Palur* facilitated ploughing and sowing of dhaincha.

At the *Kasargod* cocoanut station the crop harvested during the month was smaller than last year. This was due to prolonged drought. Female flowers showed much reduction and marked shedding was noticed.

In *Tinnevely*, cotton selection work was done by the Deputy Director until 1923 when it was taken up by the Cotton Specialist and an Assistant was posted to *Koilpatti*.

Now the whole station has been handed over to serve as the Cotton Breeding Sub-station. Here 10 inches of rain was received in the month, season picking was over and plants flushed a second time.

At the potato Experiment station, *Nanjanad*, the main crop planted between 15th and 25th March had not germinated upto 30th April on account of drought.

At the *Coimbatore College Farm* the highest acre yield of *Kapas* (seed cotton) was obtained from *Cambodia* farm mixture (irrigated) and was 948 lbs., while *Uppam* (dry) gave an average acre yield of 431 lbs., over an area of 30.90 acres and *Uppam* strain 34.779 lbs., an acre.

At the *Pomological Station, Coonoor*, plums of the varieties *Hale*, *Alu Bokhara* and *Rubio* were producing heavy crops and quinces, apples, figs, and persimmons were fruiting satisfactorily.

Cattle Farms.—Lack of rain was the feature of the month. Fodder problem was severe. Silage was largely fed. Of the cows that dried off in the month a daily average of 14.5 lbs. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ Madras measures) of milk was credited to an *Ongole* cow which milked for 234 days in this, her 5th lactation (or calf) period. One buffalo cow gave 15 lbs. on an average over a period of 268 days, and 15.3 lbs. of milk was the average of a *Bangalore* cow over a period of 322 days in her first lactation period.

Demonstration.—Exhibitions were held in *Madura* in connection with the Provincial Co-operative Conference, in *Kariangla* during the *Potali Chendoo Utsavam*, in *Cuddapah* during the *Health Week*, at *Tiruvadi* in *Tanjore District*, during the *Sapthasthanam* festival and at *Manchovla* and *Kavali*. In all these, the Department took active part; several exhibits were put up and demonstrations and lectures given.

The District Officers visited 976 villages during the month, and engaged themselves in demonstration work in manifold directions.

77 iron ploughs—36 in Madras and 41 in Madura circles and 30 bags of sunn-hemp seeds in Madura, were sold. 24,856 lbs. of paddy were distributed from Aduturai, 19,943 lbs from the College Farm and 18,757 lbs. from Samalkota.

Demonstration work on the use of calcium cyanamide, an artificial nitrogenous fertiliser, to be undertaken by Mr. Frattini was arranged in the West Coast Circle:

As the result of operations conducted under the Pest Act in 1926, it was ascertained that 15,411 palmyra trees were operated upon and saved from death in Godavari, Kistna and Guntur and the number of affected trees has been considerably reduced.

The *Spodoptera* campaign started in the Kole area of Ponnani, in Malabar was brought to a close and a new one was begun in dry sown paddy areas of Chirrakal, Kottayam, and Palghat tracts. It was also proposed to continue the campaign with the villages of Elakulli, Kollengode, Alathur, and Kongod as centres.

An attempt was made in the Nilgiris to interest the Todas in the cultivation of potato. A trial with short duration varieties of paddy—G.E.B. 24 and C.O. 3—met with success in Guntur. Under the Peddakancharla tank G.E.B. 24 gave 4500 lbs. grain per acre and C.O. 3,3,000 lbs. though planted late in August while 800 lbs alone was obtained from the local paddy.

In the villages of Edayanoor and Thondamanatham in the Madras Circle 18 and 16 Konkan ploughs respectively were in use. A good loose box shed for the preservation of cattle manure was also built by the ryots.

Some 200 acres were sown with sunnhemp in the Kumbum valley in the Madura Circle and arrangements were made to stock wild indigo seeds near Melur.

During the month 41 cows and 60 buffaloes were served by Government stud bulls stationed in different centres.

MAY.

There were good showers in Coimbatore, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Malabar, and the Nilgiris in the first week of May. Showers were also received on the West Coast and the Hills in third week and in Malabar in the last week. On the whole, the hot weather showers in May were satisfactory only in West Godavari, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly and the Nilgiris. The rainfall was good and well distributed in Salem. It was in defect, in the other districts, especially in North Arcot.

Irrigation supplies were adequate only in Kistna, Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Malabar, and the Nilgiris and generally inadequate elsewhere.

Standing crops were generally fair. The rains were useful in promoting the growth of a good second flush of cotton in the South. Tinnevelly cotton put forth fresh flushes, so profusely that they resembled the first crop in some places.

Prospects continued to be satisfactory, especially in parts of the Deccan.

Palur.—At Palur a little rain was received. There was a shortage of water for crops. Junior hoe was freely worked between rows of canes and for eradicating weeds. The use of stone roller to break clods in fields effected a saving of Rs. 1-6-0 an acre over the local method of breaking with sticks which costs Rs. 4-8-0.

Cattle Farms.—Welcome rain was received at Hosur, on other farms there was still shortage and anxiety.

One cow in the Coimbatore herd gave in the first lactation 15.3 lbs., milk a day over a period of 325 days.

Demonstration.—An exhibition of buffalo bulls was given at the exhibition at Ponnur (Guntur District). Other exhibitions held were at Nerur (Trichy District), Kannurseri (Sathur Taluk), Pudukudi (Srivaikuntam Taluk), Tiruvadanur (Melur Taluk), and at Punganur and Madanapalle (Chittoor District).

The district staff visited 962 villages in the month. Konkan ploughs were sold in Punganur. Seeds of improved strains of Cambodia from the Cotton Station, Coimbatore were distributed to villages in Dindigul and Usilampatti and improved strains of karungani introduced into black soil areas of Tirumangalam and Dindigul. 8912 lbs., of paddy seed were supplied from Aduturai, 27,158 lbs., from Maruteru, 122,78 lbs., from Coimbatore. Very strenuous demonstration work of different kinds was proceeding in all districts.

48 cows and 38 she buffaloes were served by stud bulls.

NOTES.

Co-operative Development in the United States. It is estimated that in 1900 there were approximately 2000 farmers' business organisations functioning in the United States. Between 1900 and 1925 the number of active associations increased to about 12,000 and the purposes for which the associations existed also increased.

At the close of 1925 there were approximately 12,000 functioning associations, including 40 federations, 80 centralised associations, 35 sales agencies, 50 bargaining associations, and nearly 10,000 independent local associations. The number of associations marketing dairy products increased from 1600 to 2200; the number of associations handling grains from 100 to 3,400; the number of livestock shippings association from less than 100 to 1,800; fruit and vegetable marketing associations from 100 to 1,300. There were also formed nearly 100 associations for marketing wool, and 70 for marketing poultry and poultry products.

It is reasonable to assume that the business done in 1900 amounted to less than 200,000,000 dollars. This figure is significant in comparison with 2,400,000,000 dollars which is the estimated amount of business by farmers associations for 1925. The 1900 figure is even more significant in the light of the fact that several of the present day associations report sales of more than 50,000,000 dollars a year.—(News Bulletin of the Markets and Migration Department Federal.)

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