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**1914.—A Retrospect.**

While we enter a new year full of promise and hope, it may be worth our while to take stock of the year that is just past and over. The year was ushered in with fairly good harvests in spite of the trying season of the previous year in many parts of the Presidency. The summer was very severe, which was followed in the north by an early outburst of the monsoon. This ended in floods in some districts, especially in Krishna where great damage was done to property and crops alike. On the other hand, the south was unusually dry through the first half year and early sowings had either to be resown or given up altogether. The north-east monsoon has, however, been fair and it is likely that decent harvests will yet be taken.

The year under review has not been uneventful for the Department. The College Day was a great success.

The 'Old boys' mustered strong round their *alma mater* and there is no sight more pleasing than when old friends meet on an occasion like this to compare notes and renew their friendship. It was very gratifying that so many members and friends of the Union responded to the invitation and took part in the deliberations of the Conference. The College term began with double the number of "freshers" owing to the new course started. The Students' Quarterly Journal has been metamorphosed into a Monthly. The Director's Office has been strengthened by the appointment of a Personal Assistant to the Director. The activities of the Department in the districts have been extended by the opening of a second Agricultural Farm in the Kurnool District. Proposals for the reorganisation of the Madras Agricultural Department have been placed before the Secretary of State and it is hoped much good will come out of them. These events are no doubt full of augury for the future.

But it should not be forgotten that the year has had its dark side. We refer to the great European War. The rally that India has made at this time of trial has created a deep impression in the minds of the British people and, from what one hears and reads, the attitude of the British public towards India and her people has already undergone a transformation. Our brave soldiers are fighting the Empire's battles and are winning an undying fame. Those of us who remain here have our share in relieving the distressed which should be done and is being done wholeheartedly. It becomes the duty of the members of the Union who have opportunities of coming in contact

with the village folks to keep them informed of the real nature of things, without untruth or exaggeration, especially at a time like this when one is likely to be dejected at every little reverse or accident.

We have to fight against prejudice and fault-finding and work for better understanding and mutual esteem. The past is irreparable and irrevocable but let us make sure that, in the future, we shall not permit the doors of opportunity to shut in our faces.

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### **The Agriculture Trade Conference and His Excellency the Governor of Madras.**

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The Indian Industrial Conference held on 26th December at Madras is more or less a non-official concern, although, amongst the 28 papers submitted to the Conference, a good number has been contributed by Government Officials, the Director of Industries, Madras, for instance. The Agriculture-Trade Conference, however, was engineered by the Departmental Heads of Government and aimed at bringing about a closer relationship between the grower, as represented by the Agricultural Department, for instance, and the tradesmen represented by the various Firms who are the means of distributing the produce, finished or unfinished, of the grower, to the consumers who may be in the country or outside it. His Excellency the Governor who presided in explaining the object of the Conference said:—"During the last eight years, substantial grants and much attention have been given by Government to the development of Agriculture and the improvement of agricultural practice; and although the Department has by no means yet reached its full strength and scope, considerable success has resulted from its efforts. As far as this can be ascribed to any one cause, it is due to the policy of sending