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N. B.-Contributors are requested to send in their contributions written legibly in ink on one side of the paper only.—Editor.

Agriculture and the Madras Park Fair.

To one who accuses the Indian as one who does not enjoy the pleasures of life, the motley crowd that annually gathers in December in Madras is a challenge. Most of them that go to Madras at this time do so generally to seek pleasure once a year encouraged as they are by the railway concessions—a very uncommon consideration at the hands of a railway company. The crowds 'do' Madras in the tram car through the day, and the Park Fair is the rendezvous of the Christmas crowds at night. There they go to see the man with two heads talk, the Indian Sandow exhibit his prowess, the magician his legerdemain or the military hotel its appetising meal. It is a thing

they look forward to and plan for months and that the crowd is thoroughly representative of the whole Presidency is proved by the babel of languages one has to put up with there. What they take back from such a fair for the silver they barter, it is difficult to know.

That there is going to be another Park Fair in the ensuing Christmas season, is beyond doubt. From what one knows it is going to be of a different kind. It is not unlikely that the light amusements which appeal to the man-in-the-street will continue as heretofore, but it will also be instructive. The War is not likely to deter the enthusiasm of the organisers of the fair. On the other hand, it will only stimulate them to make it a thorough success, as we understand the exhibition that is proposed to be held is in aid of the War Fund. The Government wish it to be made in every way interesting and at the same time instructive. His Excellency the Governor is evincing a great deal of interest and has already visited the grounds watching the progress of the arrangements. Many departments of the Government will be represented but we shall, in the following paragraphs, concern ourselves only with the Agricultural section which we hope is going to play a not insignificant part.

The Agricultural section will be entirely in the hands of the department and is bound to be run on proper lines under the able guidance of Mr. Chadwick, the Director. We learn that endeavours are being made to make the Exhibition characteristic by showing living plants actually grown there as far as possible. Different grains, maps,

diagrams, will also find a place. We learn that buildings are already under construction wherein different sections of the department will exhibit their 'wares.'

Paddy and cotton in which the department has done most work are sure to demand the greatest attention. Not only will improvements in them be ocularly demonstrated, but their products, such as paddy, straw twists, yarn, lint, oil, and cake will be on view. Matters of scientific interest will we have no doubt be in evidence, for Science which is the handmaid to Agriculture ought to come to her aid to make the exhibition instructive. The magic wand of the Economic Botanist might produce different coloured paddies at his will. Mendelism which has revolutionised the principles of breeding of plants and animals will no doubt be popularly interpreted by him.

We should not be surprised if we see an arecanut palm sticking up right in the middle of the grounds with a Malabari perched on its top, obeying the instructions of the Mycologist who with his Bordeaux Mixture has saved many a plantation from utter ruin. It is said that insects loom largely in the activities of the present day Agriculturist and the Insectary has figured prominently in a recent issue of our Journal. It is, therefore, very likely that the Entomologist will exhibit many of his too familiar but harmful insects and suggest remedial measures. In these days of high prices of cattle and the consequent necessity for intensive farming, the fertilising value of the manures will no doubt be largely demonstrated in the exhibition and we hope it will be most beneficial.

Of late one hears of many dairies springing up specially in the vicinity of large towns. We welcome this, but we do not know how far they are run on up-to-date and scientific lines. The department will exhibit their dairy plant, milk and its products and demonstrate butter making from separation of milk up to the storage of butter. Attempts are, we understand, being made to grow suitable fodder crops which are necessary adjuncts to profitable dairying.

We believe fruits will also be exhibited. This is doubly welcome; the department has not done any work in fruits but this signifies the interest it is sure to take when a suitable opportunity offers. In a country like this, where fruit is within the reach of the rich and poor alike, any improvements in them will be gratefully appreciated by all. An attempt will, we hope be made to show the various fruits from different parts of the Presidency, which in itself will be most educative. Might we suggest the inclusion of Oranges-Batavian from Palkol, Navel from Bangalore, Satgur from North Arcot, choice varieties of plantains in which the country is so rich, say, from Circars, Malabar and the South, grapes from Penukonda, the pomegranates, figs and in fact, all seasonal fruits?

We are aware of the versatility of Mr. Wood, the Principal who we believe is to be the departmental artist, and we can rely on him for subtle humour and healthy amusement in all his drawings. The onerous duties of the arrangement of the exhibition will no doubt fall on one of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. Chelvaranga Raju, and we

have no doubt that in his hands the exhibition will be a thorough success, but we trust that he will not turn grey by the time the exhibition is over.

We commend the exhibition to the patronage of our readers who, we hope, will not only be loyal to their Emperor but to their profession and derive much profit and inspiration from information obtained there first hand from the officers of the department who will all be represented. We should like to take this opportunity to warn our readers against being hypercritical, and to remind them of the multifarious difficulties the organisers have to work under. For one thing the weather may be against them but from what one sees and hears of the preparations, everything spells success, and we heartily wish them the same.

Agriculture in Cochin.*

Cochin State has an area of 1361½ sq. miles (according to the great Trigonometrical survey). It consists of two disconnected tracts—the larger one adjoins the sea-coast and the smaller one-Chittur—is surrounded on all sides by British Territory. It has a coast-line of about 35 miles in length.

The whole of the state can be divided into 3 main divisions—the hills, the plains and the sea-board. The hills which form the eastern portion contain valuable forests yielding good timber and other forest products. Coffee and rubber are grown there.

The plains lie between the hills and the sea-board. They are intersected by many rivers and streams. Here in the plains are

*Extracts from paper read by Mr. I. Ramau Menon, B. A., F. E. S., Dip: Agri: (Cantab), in July 1915 before the College day and Conference.