

**THE JOURNAL**  
OF  
**The Madras Agricultural Students'**  
**Union.**

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**Vol. III.**

**August 1915.**

**No. 8.**

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

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**The War Anniversary.**

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On the 4th of August 1915—the anniversary of the commencement of the Great War with Germany—the whole of the Estate in response to a circular issued by the Principal, met at 9-30 A. M. in the large quadrangle on the ground floor of the College. A large table had been improvised into a platform to which one of the huge stone pillars, decorated with a large Union Jack formed a suitable back ground. The whole assembly—composed as it was of all the officers, European and Indian, and the Students—formed a huge ring around the platform. Amid the cheers of the gathering the Director of Agriculture ascended the platform and explained in a short but stirring

address the purpose why they had met there that day. The following speech of the Director is printed in toto for the benefit of the reader.

“Officers and students of the Coimbatore Agricultural College and Research Institute.—It is a year ago to-day that we in common, with those in many other parts of the world, heard with great regret and some surprise that war had broken out between Great Britain and Germany. Some had warned us from time to time that we must consider war with Germany as a serious possibility because that country was steadily preparing for it. Chief amongst these was Lord Roberts well known in India. But the general impression was that Civilisation had so far advanced, that commerce and trade of different countries were so closely linked, that finance was so complicated that no nation in Western Europe would readily wage war upon its neighbour; and even after the struggle had actually commenced prophecies were exceedingly common that the war must be over by the end of the year or even earlier. The struggle was too large, the expense was too great for it to last long. But here we are one year after the declaration of war with the struggle still continuing and, we are met together not to rejoice at a coming peace which would permit us to our normal activities, not to celebrate a great and crushing victory, except perhaps the success in South Africa, but we are here to associate ourselves with many hundreds of thousands of people who are meeting to-day in similar assemblies in all parts of the world to express a grim and solemn determination to continue the fight. This event has been one of the surprises of a year which has been full of surprises. By the fight Germany has been able to make, it has been rendered clear to the whole world, that she has been preparing methodically and systematically for some such war as this for a large number of years, and to a much greater extent than any one had ever imagined. By her treatment of Belgium she has shown both her utter disregard for the promises she had made and that she carries the horrors of war among the civil population in a ruthless and barbarous manner never yet imagined. She has not hesitated to sink without notice at open sea defenceless ships merely carrying passengers. She has openly boasted that strength and

might alone constitute right and her professors and teachers have taught and written that world domination founded solely upon force is Germany's destiny in the world. That a highly organised and developed nation could advocate such principles and adopt such methods and steadily and systematically prepare for them in the present age has been the great surprise of the year for the rest of the world. But the year has also brought some great surprises to Germany and one of the greatest of these must have been the realisation that the world as a whole will not tolerate such principles and such methods; that the adoption of them has filled most countries in the world with utter and complete disgust; that although countries were not prepared for such a struggle as has been imposed upon them yet they although unready did not shrink from it and are now more than ever determined to see it to a close. One great outstanding fact which has operated to Germany's chagrin and surprise and to the intense satisfaction of every member of our Empire has been the unanimity and readiness with which all members of our powerful and loosely knit Empire have responded to the call for help in chaining this brigand of the world. It is a matter of great pride to all in India of all shades of opinion that India so quickly took up her share of the burden. South Africa, which Germany especially expected would break loose, has also after dealing with some internal trouble just conquered one of the largest colonies Germany has ever founded. Indians and colonists from all parts of the world are now fighting side by side, or in conjunction with, the British, French, Belgian, Russian, Servian and Italian armies. There must be some deepseated reason for such conjoined action and that reason is to be found in the belief of the majority of the peoples of the world that this Earth of ours would be an impossible place in which to live if the principles for which Germany now stands were to gain domination, that empires founded merely upon force and might are intolerable and inimical to progress, that whatever be the differences between countries, yet nations must be allowed to live and let live. The actions and spirit of Germany offend their deepest moral sense and it is because of this strong and wide-felt feeling of intense indignation that they are determined to continue to a successful issue this war which is the most costly that has ever been waged, which has affected the trade and method of

living in every part of the world, the effects of which are now being felt even in our remotest villages of India in the fall in prices and rise in the rate of interest. But whether we are called upon to suffer the grief and pain which necessarily follow the loss of those especially near to us or whether we are called upon to continue to keep normal activities going as far as possible in very adverse times, yet we are determined that this struggle must continue until it has been borne in upon every country of the world that a brigand among nations will not be tolerated, that higher principles rule the earth than strength and force and stealthy secret preparation for war. It is to record this grim and solemn determination to see the battle through that meetings are being held to-day at this anniversary of the out-break of the war in all parts of the world ; and since that determination takes its rise not from any desire for self-aggrandizement but from a deep feeling of injured moral sense, it is one which I am sure we all whole-heartedly agree with and support. This is no idle resolution which we can conveniently leave to others to adopt. The experience of the past year has brought home to each one of us how wide-spread the effects of this war are. There is hardly a village in Southern India in which the calculations of the farmers have not been upset by the sudden fall in the values of cotton and groundnut or by the tightening of the money market. And although these economic disturbances have fortunately not been nearly so severe as was at first feared yet we all know that the continuance of the war will prolong the period of uncertainty and difficulty. In such a time it behoves each one of us to practise the most careful economy so as to be able to weather this period of stress and to support our country, though at the same time the great moral obligation remains upon us who remain at home to do our utmost to alleviate the sufferings of those of our compatriots who are fighting our battles for us, whether by helping the Madras War Fund or the Indian Relief Fund or otherwise. The spirit which prompts this determination to continue to a successful end this war which is waged in defence of principles we all value also warns us that that end cannot be attained without individual self-restraint and self-denial. It is in the full consciousness of what this means that these many thousands of meetings are being held to-day, and I am sure that each and all of us will endeavour to bear man-

fully whatever share of the burden may fall to his lot. Hence the expression of our determined resolve is a grim and solemn act.

I will only ask now that those of you who wish to do so will come with me into the quadrangle and give three cheers for 'THE FLAG THAT MUST PREVAIL.'

The assembly headed by the Director moved out in all solemnity suited to the occasion, and responded to the call heartily.

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### **Wilted shoots on Neem trees (Margosa, *Melia azadirachta*.)**

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Visitors to Coimbatore during the months of January and February would not have failed to notice that many of the neem trees assume a rather distressful aspect, by reason of the presence of large numbers of dead and wilting twigs. The leaves of such twigs droop down unnaturally, wither into an abnormal yellow brown colour and ultimately drop off, leaving but the bare dried and shrivelled shoots. In very bad cases almost all the twigs may wilt away in this manner, causing the trees to look as if they had been struck dead by lightning. In spite of this dismal appearance, the trees seem to recover completely in a short time; shedding the dead leaves as usual in March they put forth new shoots, burst into abundant blossoms and assume an altogether gay appearance.

The wilted twigs are generally of a yellow brown colour, with several large dark patches to which are usually found attached small lumps of gum that had oozed out from fissures in the dead bark.

In previous years, attempts at the investigation of this attack having been made at a wrong time of the year, no clue was