

There is absolutely no argument in theory or practice against an open market. In fact at Sattur and Virudungar such markets are really in existence though they are privately owned and controlled by the whole community of merchants and by the government. Why then should one pretend to argue against the open market at Dindigul in this article?

It has been pointed in this article that though there is no open market, the prices are highly competitive. In other words, there is an 'open market price' for *kapas* at Dindigul. Owing to the peculiar conditions of demand described already, the buyers can seldom buy cheap. Further, the impossibility of the village merchant to be present at the time of each sale is to be seriously considered as well. There are not at hand always. Each one's supply is small and intermittent. And further, half the crop is purchased by Messrs. A. & F. Harvey. Is there a need for an open market for *kapas* of 10,000 bales?

The Government of Madras, I understand, are contemplating the extension of the Marketing Act to Dindigul. The merchants, as a body, I am told locally, are seriously resisting the move.

If an 'open Market' is established for all commercial crops, under Government aegis, I imagine that it is likely to cause a great revolution in the existing mechanism. It is likely to disrupt if not dissolve the whole *mundi* organisation. Dindigul is likely to lose its importance as a huge distributing centre of all those important and diversified products that are grown in this area. If the Marketing Act effects a substantial reform at Dindigul, well and good. The present mechanism, as admitted by all, is none too good. But if it 'disperse' business, drive the mundimen to go to the villages direct and buy there, thereby virtually killing the Marketing Act and causing some damage to the ryots, the consequences should be weighed very carefully.

JASMINE (*Bhatkal Malliga*) CULTIVATION IN SOUTH CANARA.

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"Bhatkal Malliga" is one of the prominent varieties of Jasmine cultivated in South Canara; and it has derived its name from the town of the same name in North Canara, from where it spread.

Soil. It is raised on small plots of about 25 cents, by the enterprising Christian communities at Coondapur and Udipi. A successful crop is seen in localities where the soil is loamy, fairly deep, and has good drainage and irrigation facilities.

Preparatory Work. An enclosure for the small plot has to be put in before planting the crop in order to protect it from cattle trespass. If neglected, the plants nibbled by cattle do not grow with full

vigour; and in several instances, they do not survive when nipped while young and tender. After the plot is fenced, it is dug with *mammatty* and the weeds completely removed. Pits $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet square and about a foot in depth are dug at intervals of $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet both in and between the rows. There are nearly 500 pits in a plot of 25 cents. The pits are filled with well rotten cattle manure and fine earth up to 2 inches to the surface and then fresh soil is added to fill in.

Season. The preparatory work is done early in August so that planting may progress in September, just after the heavy monsoon rains.

Planting Material. Generally rooted cuttings are planted, to procure which a nursery is raised earlier in the season. The nursery bed is prepared in a suitable place, a large quantity of sand, fresh soil and well decomposed farm yard manure being mixed for making the bed. The fresh long tender shoots that develop in an old plant during the monsoon showers of June-July, are cut and layered in the nursery. In the course of a month i. e., about the beginning of September, these cuttings strike roots and get established as individual plants. The nurseries are often protected from hot sun and heavy showers. The plants are removed with the ball of earth attaching to the root and planted in the main plot.

Manuring. Jasmine responds to intensive manuring. Burnt earth (*Sudu mannu*) and the droppings of pigs and goats are used locally. Several ryots use only burnt earth, the other manures being scarce and not available in sufficient quantity. The burnt-earth is prepared by making a small heap of tank silt well mixed up and covered with dried leaves, sweepings etc., which is then set fire to. The silt becomes very friable and with the ash mixed up is valued as a good manure. Manuring is done once in 4 months. The old soil round the plant is removed to a radial length of 2 feet and fresh prepared material is put in. In order to facilitate distribution of work, the plot of 25 cents is treated in 4 lots, each quarter being attended to during a month.

Irrigation. The plants are pot-watered and about 4 gallons of water are added to the bed of each plant either in the morning or late in the afternoon after 4 P. M.

After care. The whole plot must be well-hoed, frequently weeded and kept clean.

Gathering Flowers. Though stray flowers appear in about 6 months after planting, the full bearing begins only after another period of 6 months. The yield varies with season and is also dependent on the vigour of the plants. The heavy flesh of bloom occurs during February to June, with a slack in yield during July to October. During the cold months of November and January there is an intermittent

crop yield. It may be taken that a plant may yield every day on an average about 100 flowers in the flush season, about 50 in the slack season and about 25 in the cold season. It has been observed that as much as 800 flowers are gathered in a day from a single plant when in full flush.

Girls are employed for collecting flowers and they are paid at the rate of half anna for 1000 flowers collected and strung in a wreath. Generally outside labour is not employed for this purpose as this is done by women and girls of the family.

Sale of Flowers. The produce is sold locally and is not at present sent to distant places. The price varies according to the season and also to the quantity that comes into the market to meet the local demand. The price ranges from annas two to rupee one per thousand. The seasonal average will work at the rate of four and a half annas per thousand.

The profitable working of a flower garden depends largely on the keen interest evinced by the cultivator and his family. During the first year he may have to spend about Rs. 100 in the purchase of manures and in engaging additional labour. From the 2nd year onwards his income will be about Rs. 1000 per year till the plantation lasts, while his expenditure will be only Rs. 100. Thus for a small cultivator a flower garden of 25 cents will give a net income of Rs. 900 per year, really a decent recompense for the work done by all the members of a family.

ABSTRACTS

MADRAS AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Report of the Operations in 1933-34.

Agricultural Education. There was a considerable fall in the number of applications for admission to the Agricultural College at Coimbatore. In the final University examination 51 appeared and 48 passed and qualified for the degree. On the recommendation of the selection committee, of the five scholarships one was given to the only Muhammadan available and the other four were awarded to students of depressed classes and backward communities. The Government sanctioned the institution of short courses on ten subjects in Practical Agriculture at the Agricultural College. Owing to lack of accommodation only one course on Farm Management was started. Government has also sanctioned the institution of a course of instruction in Co-operation, Auditing etc., at the Agricultural College from the year 1934-35, similar to that given in Co-operative Training Institutes so as to enable the students of the College to qualify for appointments in the Co-operative Department also. The Agricultural Middle School at Kalahasti could not be started this year also, as the scheme under contemplation in the Education Department has not yet been sanctioned. The school at Usilampatti (Madura District) was continued, and the Vocational Middle School at Muthanandal (Ramnaad District) imparted agricultural education also. The three farm labourers' schools at Anakapalle, Coimbatore and Palur were continued.