

We students, scarcely realise the debt of kindness of filial love shown by the various officers and others who were responsible for our well being, which still remains unredeemed when we thank them heartily. Our sincere thanks are especially due to Messrs E. K. Nambiar and P. A. Venkateswara Iyer who were in charge of us throughout the tour and who showed a remarkable degree of patience and forbearance towards us and made this tour of ours a great success. Once again we thank all those officers and others who were of great help to us during the tour and were mainly responsible for the success of this instructive and enjoyable tour.

RETIREMENT.

During the last month, two of the senior members of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union, Rao Bahadur S. Sundararaman and Rao Saheb C. Narayana Iyer retired from Government service.

Rao Bahadur S. Sundararaman was born in the year 1881 in the Tanjore District. His earlier years were spent at Saidapet under the beneficent influence of his father who was then the Vice Principal of the Teachers' College. He graduated from the Presidency College, Madras taking the M. A. degree in Botany with high honours, winning the Pulney Andy medal. In 1905 he entered the Madras Agricultural Department as an assistant under the Economic Botanist. An outbreak of a virulent disease of palmyras and the prevalence of sugarcane redrot in the Godavari and Kistna districts focussed the attention of the Madras Government to the need of Mycological investigations in this province and Dr. Butler, Imperial Mycologist, was requested to undertake the investigation. Mr. Sundararaman who had received his Mycological training under Dr. Butler himself was posted to help him. In this work he acquitted himself creditably and Dr. Butler was greatly impressed with the enthusiasm and earnestness of his young assistant. In his memoir on the palmyra 'Bud-rot' disease, Dr. Butler has recorded his appreciation of Mr. Sundararaman. The training he received from this eminent scientist in the early years of his service was a great asset which stood him in good stead and enabled him in later years to become a successful Mycologist. He was appointed in 1910, chief assistant to Dr. McRae, the first Madras Government Mycologist. In June 1920 he was admitted into the Madras Agricultural Service as Assistant Mycologist, a post which he occupied but for a short time; when Dr. McRae was transferred to Pusa as Imperial Mycologist, Mr. Sundararaman was appointed Government Mycologist in the Indian Agricultural Service.

This was no mean distinction, for it must be remembered that the entry of Indians to the Imperial Service was restricted to a very limited number.

From 1920 till the date of his retirement he continued to be Government Mycologist. For over 2 months he was in addition, in charge of the Principalship of the Agricultural College. In recognition of his service to Government, Mr. Sundararaman was conferred the title of Rao Bahadur in 1936. As a Mycologist, Mr. Sundararaman devoted his attention more towards such of those problems which were likely to be of immediate practical utility and benefit to the ryot than those which were purely of an academic interest. Gifted with great common sense and a shrewd insight into the psychology of the ryot, the methods he advocated were always readily accepted by the cultivator. Of a shy and reserved nature, Mr. Sundararaman shunned the lime light and hated advertising himself, but did not, on that account shirk any honorary duties that were imposed on him. As president of the Officers' Club (1929), Association of Economic Biologists (1934), Research Council (1936) and the Government Servants' Co-operative Society (1936), he rendered great service to these institutions.

With the Madras Agricultural Students' Union Mr. Sundararaman has been associated ever since its inception and had the unique distinction of being elected as its Vice President in the Jubilee year. He took a keen interest in Agricultural education and was also closely associated with the Madras University. He was for some time an examiner for the Honours degree examination and the B. Sc. Ag. degree. He was member of the Board of Studies in Agriculture and continues to be a member of the Board of Studies in Botany.

Unostentatious, simple and unaffected in manners, courteous to all and kind-hearted to a fault, Mr. Sundararaman endeared himself to all those who came in contact with him and was one of the most popular officers of the Department. His high integrity, thorough grasp of the principles of plant pathology and an innate capacity for administration made him a successful officer under Government.

Mr. Sundararaman retires after 31 years of useful service and we wish him on behalf of the readers of the *Madras Agricultural Journal*, long life, health and prosperity.

Rao Saheb C. Narayana Iyer comes of a respectable family in Madura District. He took his Diploma in Agriculture from the Madras College of Agriculture, Saidapet in 1902 and entered the department in 1903. After a few years' deputation to the government farms in Bombay Presidency, he returned to Madras and was employed in either starting new farms or running the already started stations in Bellary, Tinnevely, Chingleput and Tanjore. In 1906 he was associated with Mr. Benson, the then Deputy Director of Agriculture, in the selection of the present site for the Agricultural College and farm at Coimbatore. For about 4 years he worked in Tanjore in popularising the

economic transplanting of paddy and green manures and his work bore such remarkable results that he was known in the district as the "single seedling Iyer". He is still remembered in the District for the good work done by him then. He worked for 4 years at the Agricultural College as an assistant to the Entomologist. Later on, he was appointed chief teaching assistant at the Agricultural College and was promoted to the gazetted rank in 1918. He was for a number of years in charge of the Cambodia Cotton Improvement work in Coimbatore, which developed rapidly under his careful supervision. As Deputy Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore, he was responsible for developing and shaping the potato agricultural station, Nanjanad. He took enormous pains to introduce cattle power and labour saving implements in the cultivation of potatoes on the Nilgiris. His services were placed for some time at the disposal of the Co-operative Department for the development of the Co-operative Loan and Sales Societies in the Presidency.

During the last 18 months of his service he was at Madras as the Headquarters Deputy Director of Agriculture assisting the Director of Agriculture. Wherever he worked he earned a good name for his enthusiasm and earnestness in his activities.

As a mark of appreciation of the good work done for the Agricultural Department he was awarded by the Government the title of Rao Sahib in January this year. He retired from service on 17th November after 33 years of active and loyal service. We wish him long life and well earned rest.

SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY*

Recommendations of the Agricultural Development Committee of the Provincial Economic Council.

The Provincial Economic Council Sub-Committee which considered problems relating to the improvement of Agriculture and the economic development of the Presidency has submitted its report.

The Sub-Committee consisted of the Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan, Minister for Development, (Chairman), Rao Bahadur D. Ananda Rao, Director of Agriculture, Mr. T. Austin, Mr. T. A. Whitehead, Mr. F. M. Dowley, Mr. P. T. Saunders, Dr. P. J. Thomas, Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu, Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Mr. C. V. S. Narasimharazu, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar, Mr. A. B. Shetty, Mr. V. Subbiah Mudaliar, Mr. Hunterboyd, the Rev. Father Basenach, Mr. R. M. Palat, and Rao Bahadur C. J. Paul (Secretary).

Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar has submitted a short minute of dissent.

The Committee which was appointed in November 1936 considered the following subjects.

(1) The preparation of a ten year plan for development of agriculture in order to make the Province self-supporting in the matter of agricultural production.

* Reproduced from the Madras Mail, dated 17th November 1936.