

AN ACCOUNT OF THE STUDENTS' TOUR

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From Coimbatore to Anakapalli, from Central districts to the northern-most portions of the Circars is no mean distance and yet we arrived after 42 hours at the destination in a state of enthusiasm that would reflect credit to any party on tour.

On the bright morning of 6th January we all set ourselves well to our task, but alas, our enthusiasm and rosy dreams of future were not to continue long and we received the rudest shock by the sudden passing away of one who toiled, enjoyed and suffered with us for well nigh over a year and a half, a loss to all and an irreparable one to many.

Then followed two dreary days of monotony, of reflection, and of dead and dying enthusiasm. Early next day the last rites over, the party settled down to reconcile itself to the tragic incident and succeeded but partly.

The Sugarcane at Anakapalli were of great interest and while we followed the Superintendent round the experimental area we admired his force of conviction as he explained the way he brought down the cost of production to Rs. 2-8-0 per ton of sugarcane.

Next morning we were invited to Kasimkota where Mr. D. Appa Rao an 'old boy' of the college is working hard at his extensive orchards. Oranges of all types—sour and sweet—Batavian and pome- loes of all descriptions were well represented in this garden of his. The proprietor explained at length the various stages of orchard growing in a manner that easily showed him to be a scientific horticulturist. He very kindly treated us to tea and bade us farewell appealing to us at the same time to go back to our lands. Our thanks are in no small measure due to him.

Our next halt was Samalkot where we stayed at the farm and soon acquainted ourselves with the peculiarities of deltaic agriculture. Later in the day we visited the Sugar Factory as also the distillery attached to it and saw with wonder the dirty-looking semi-solid palmyrah jaggery change into shining crystals of sugar and strong-smelling alcohol. Our later visits in company of Mr. Raghava Rao Asst. Director of Godavary Districts to Peddapuram silk factory and to the extensive canefields of the Jaggery Factory and the orchards of the proprietor were no less instructive than the rest.

Moving forward we reached Rajamundry on 11th and went out straight to Dhowleshwaram to see that magnificent achievement of Science—the grand anicut—across *Sapta* Godavary. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Raghava Rao we pleasantly 'cruised' on board a steam launch and moved on to the *lankas*, for an hour and returned.

Late in the evening we reached Royal Nurseries at Kadium and no sooner had we arrived than we were treated to a sumptuous tea, whereafter the proprietor took us round and explained the business side of his concern. We thus left for our lodgings with the happiest recollections of a day well spent. Early next morning we visited the famous citrus gardens associated with the name of the great social reformer and literateur, the late Veerasalingam Pantulu.

Leaving Rajahmundry at noon we reached Maruteru nearly at dusk after a rail and road journey.

Maruteru took us a full day to study and we all heartily enjoyed the hospitality of the Staff and left the place, to put it in the language of the Superintendent, "much wiser than we came".

Masulipatam was our next camp where besides the usual enquiries we played and lost a hockey match against the Noble College.

The last camp of the tour was at Bezwada where thanks to the generosity of the great philanthropist K. Nageshwara Rao Pantulu we got, palatial lodgings at his private home.

The next visit of interest was to the citrus gardens at Peddavadlakudi where soil and climate have contributed to the eminence of the industry with the total absence of any advanced horticultural practices.

Guntur with its chillies and tobacco came next and kept us busy for a whole day. The Government farm with its enthusiastic staff was more interesting to us than any other place. The party they gave us was certainly the best.

The tour came to a close with a brief but an interesting visit to Veeyur Sugar Factory. We were very kindly received by the Manager and were shown round by the heads of the respective departments. We left greatly impressed by the magnitude of the factory and the sound co-operative basis of the great concern and wished all success and prosperity to the premier Indian Sugar Concern of the South.

Our thanks are due to all gentlemen within and without the agricultural department who were responsible for making the tour both instructive and enjoyable.

To Mr. Raghava Rao, A. D. A. of Godavary Districts to Mr. Venkataraman, Supdt. of Maruteru Research Station and Mr. Vittal Rao, Manager of Guntur Station we owe a special debt of gratitude.

To Mr. Raghavachari, the leader of the tour to whose ability and kindness not a little of the success of the tour was due, we offer our heartiest thanks. Lastly to Messrs. B. Suryanarayana and V. Suryanarayana we are thankful for what all they have done for us.