

### Mr. T. LAKSHMANA ROW—A Short Sketch.

Tandalam Lakshmana Row, Retired Assistant Agricultural Chemist, was born on 16th December 1880 in Kumbakonam. His father Mr. T. Gopala Row was one of the earliest graduates of the Madras University and as a veteran educationist, his name is still remembered in the Kumbakonam College. Born of an aristocratic Tanjore Mahratta family, Mr. Lakshmana Row was the youngest of seven brothers, who all attained high positions in the Revenue and Judicial departments.

Young Lakshman had his early education in the Town High School, Kumbakonam, and then after his F. A. in the Kumbakonam College went to the Presidency College, Madras for his B. A., under Principal Stone and Professor Jones. He graduated in 1902, but did not seek employment for some years, entering service for the first time in 1906, as Librarian in the office of the Government Botanist, Madras. When this officer, who was none other than Dr. C. A. Barber, was transferred to Coimbatore, as Economic Botanist, Mr. Lakshman Row also accompanied him and was appointed Librarian at the Agricultural College. In 1910, however, he was drafted on to the Agricultural Chemistry Section, where he spent the remaining period of his service. He continued as an Assistant in the Chemistry section till 1922, when he went on 2 years' leave to England at his own expense and took a diploma at the Imperial College of Science, London. On his return in 1924, he was gazetted as Assistant Agricultural Chemist, a rank he occupied to the date of his retirement.

Unassuming and of a retiring disposition, Mr. Lakshmana Row never cared to be in the lime-light, but those who have worked with him, know what a methodical and precise worker he was, with an amazing degree of patience and perseverance. With a natural distaste for publicity, he refrained from rushing to print, otherwise there would have been a lot more of publications to his credit, than there are now. During his term as Assistant Agricultural Chemist, he was responsible for a number of investigations, chief among which may be mentioned (1) Methods for improving jaggery manufacture at Hospet (2) Investigations into the betel vine disease at Vellalur (3) The preliminary work connected with the lay out and start of the soil moisture plots at Coimbatore (4) Investigations into the methods of estimating the PH values of soils and (5) The soil survey of the Lower Bhavani Project areas.

Outside office, Mr. Lakshmana Row was a man of varied and wide tastes and hobbies. A scholar with a choice collection of favourite authors, an artist with a taste for music and paintings, an enthusiast in photography, radio and mechanics, he still found time to take long open-air walks, which constituted his only exercise.



Careful and scrupulous in his manners and behaviour, he was affable and amiable and earned the love and respect of all he came in contact with.

In the early years he was connected with the growth of the Officers' Club, of which he was the Secretary and once he has been Treasurer of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union. In his retirement, we wish him all health and happiness.

[Ed. M. A. J.]

## College & Estate News.

**Association of Economic Biologists.** The Annual Meeting of the Association of Economic Biologists was held on 25th January, after the usual tea and photo. The annual report was read and several amendments to the rules were passed. It was decided (a) to reduce the rate of subscription from Rs. 3 to Rs. 2 per annum (b) to have an additional Vice President from among the members outside Coimbatore and (c) to have an Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. The following office bearers were then elected. *President*: Mr. V. Ramanathan. *Vice Presidents*: Mr. K. Krishnamurthi Rao and Dr. T. Ekambaram, *Assistant Secretary and Treasurer*: Dr. S. Kasinatha Iyer and *Committee Members*: Mr. K. Ramiah and Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal. The retiring President Mr. K. Ramiah delivered an interesting and illuminating address on "Genetics in Rice".

**A Fire Accident.** We are sorry to inform our readers that a fire broke out at the Residence of Mr. N. L. Dutt, Second Cane Breeding Officer at Chettipalayam, on the 1st inst. Immediately on receipt of news, Mr. B. M. Lakshminpathi and Mr. D'Cruz, rushed to the spot and managed to keep the fire under control till the arrival of the Fire Engine from Coimbatore. The people of surrounding villages, the officers of the Sugarcane Station, and a number of estate residents, rendered great help in extinguishing the fire. It would appear, that the rear verandah of the bungalow caught fire while the inmates were fast asleep upstairs, and long before they could realise that something was amiss, the flames had almost enveloped them. Mr. Dutt with singular presence of mind rescued his wife and children, and pluckily rushed out into the open before the flames glutted his sleeping apartment. We congratulate him and his family, on their providential escape.

**Visitors.** Rao Bahadur D. Ananda Rao, Director of Agriculture, Madras, Rao Bahadur B. Viswa Nath, Ag. Director of Imperial Research Institute, Pusa and Mr. Kapoor, Economist, I. C. A. R., visited Coimbatore during the last week of January.

**I. C. A. R.** The Director of Agriculture, Mr. K. Ramiah, Mr. M. C. Cherian, and Mr. C. Vijayaraghavan visited Delhi in connection with the sub-committee meeting.

**Students' Corner. Tour.** Students of 2nd year returned from their fortnight's Educational Tour in the Circars on the 20th January.

On 7th, 8th and 9th February, Students of class iii were on tour and visited Puliampatti, Gobichettipalayam and Tiruppur.

On 8th Students of class ii were on Tour and visited Gobi where irrigation experiments are being carried out by the department.

**Students' Club.** A general body meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. R. C. Broadfoot, Principal of the College when a resolution of condolence over the untimely demise of the student, late Mr. K. D. Dharmarajan was moved from the chair and was passed all standing—students and the staff.