

Kanara. The increase is marked in, Trichinopoly (+18,500 acres). There has been a marked decrease in Salem (-16,700 acres). The main crop has been harvested except in the south where the harvest is in progress. The crop suffered from drought to some extent and the yield is reported to be below normal except in East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, the Deccan, Salem, Ramnad and South Kanara. The seasonal factor for the Presidency works out to 92 per cent of the average as against 84 per cent for the corresponding period of last year. On this basis, the yield is estimated at 61,700 tons as against 53,300 tons for the corresponding period of last year, an increase of about 16 per cent.

**Sugarcane—Third or Final Report—1935.** The average of the areas under sugarcane in the Madras Presidency during the five years ending 1933-34 has represented 3·7 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India. The area planted with sugarcane up to the 25th December 1935 is estimated at 131,120 acres. When compared with the area of 122,470 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 7·1 per cent. The estimate of the previous year was less than the final area of 125,310 acres by about 2·3 per cent. The present estimate of area exceeds the second forecast by 5,730 acres. The excess occurs mainly in Ganjam, West Godavari, Guntur, Bellary, South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and South Kanara. The increase in area in comparison with the final forecast of 1934 occurs in all districts outside Ganjam, Guntur, Anantapur, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura and Ramnad. The harvest has just commenced and normal yields are expected in all districts outside the Circars (Guntur excepted), Anantapur, Salem and Coimbatore where the yield is expected to be below normal. The seasonal factor for the Presidency is calculated at 97 per cent of the average as against 91 per cent in the previous year. On this basis, the yield is estimated at 360,410 tons of jaggery as against 320,940 tons estimated in January 1935, an increase of 12·3 per cent. The final estimate for 1934-35 was 351,100 tons.

The wholesale price of jaggery per imperial maund of 82·2/7 lb. as reported from important markets towards the close of December 1935 was Rs. 6-14-0 in Nandyal, Rs. 6-6-0 in Tuticorin, Rs. 5-15-0 in Kumbakonam, Rs. 5-12-0 in Calicut, Rs. 5-9-0 in Madura, Rs. 5-4-0 in Bezwada, Rs. 4-15-0 in Masulipatam, Guntur, Bellary and Cuddapah, Rs. 4-8-0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 4-7-0 in Salem, Rs. 4-6-0 in Vellore, Rs. 4-4-0 in Cocanada and Ellore, Rs. 4-2-0 in Vizagapatnam, Rs. 3-14-0 in Coimbatore, Rs. 3-13-0 in Trichinopoly and Rs. 3-1-0 in Tinnevely. When compared with the prices of the previous month, these prices reveal a fall of 19 per cent in Ellore, 14 per cent in Vizagapatnam, Masulipatam, Nandyal and Trichinopoly, 13 per cent in Coimbatore, 10 per cent in Guntur, 9 per cent in Bezwada, 8 per cent in Bellary, 5 per cent in Rajahmundry and 4 per cent in Cocanada and a rise of 4 per cent in Cuddapah and Tuticorin. The price remained stationary in Vellore, Salem, Tinnevely, Kumbakonam and Madura.

## Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Annual Report for 1934-1935—A Review.

The activities of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have attracted attention from the Indian States and enquiries, it appears, have been received from some of the important States as to the terms of admission to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

**Finance.** During the year under review the council received a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,00,000 in lieu of the Annual Research grant that has been suspended, a grant of Rs. 2,50,000 for sugar research work, a special grant of Rs. 33,000 to



enable the council to make good earthquake damage at the Sugarcane Research Station at Mushari, Bihar and Orissa, and a grant of Rs. 33,000 for marketing expenditure on provincial portion of the marketing scheme. The Government further agreed to grant a sum of Rs. 4,16,000 for the establishment of a Central Dairy Institute.

**Tobacco.** The council has recently made grants to the local Governments and States concerned for the provision of flue-curing barns in connection with a co-operative scheme of experiments, to be carried out in consultation with the Director of the Pusa Institute, the general object of which is to ascertain in what areas the cultivation of cigarette tobacco could be extended. A scheme for a Central Tobacco Sub-station at Guntur, Madras, has since been sanctioned by the Governing Body. The site for the station has already been selected and it is expected to commence work in 1936-37.

**Animal Health and Husbandry.** During the year under review the Council continued its endeavours to stimulate research in the various branches of animal husbandry. The action taken by the Council to promote measures for the prevention and control of animal diseases by means of suitable All-India legislation was carried a stage further during the year. The draft bill and model rules which had been under the consideration of the Government of India were circulated to local Governments and minor administrations for their views. The following two schemes of animal diseases were sanctioned during the year, namely Investigations into vaccination of cattle against rinderpest in the Central Province, and Investigations of Johne's disease among cattle in Mysore. Under Animal Nutrition and Animal Industry, two schemes of Madras, one for animal nutrition and the other for sheep breeding were sanctioned.

**Medicinal Plants.** Under this head the scheme from Bengal for Research in the systematic cultivation of medicinal plants and study of food poisons, and a scheme from Mysore for the investigation of the Indian fish poisons and other Indian forest products for their insecticidal properties were financed during the year.

**Progress Reports.** The report then deals with the discussion of the Council on the progress reports of the various schemes financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research such as rice research, rice physiology, potato breeding, investigations on cereal rusts, fruit research, dry farming, research into properties of colloid soil constituents, preparation of cheap synthetic manure from town refuse and waste materials, etc. In connection with the cold storage scheme of Bombay under fruit research, the report states that in view of the very limited cold storage facilities available at present between Bombay and London and of the difficulties at getting precise information as to the temperature and humidity conditions under which the fruit travelled, it has been decided to suspend experimental shipments, at least until the Poona experiments had yielded accurate technical data regarding the optimum conditions of storage and transport.

**Sugar.** The special sugar committee which met in July 1935 noted with appreciation the progress made in sugar research but considered that more intensive work was required in several directions, more especially in those connected with the improvement of the quality of the raw material, the raising of the standard of sugarcane cultivation, the combating of diseases and pests, the dissemination of information concerning improved methods, adequate demonstration and the more rapid multiplication and introduction of new seedling canes of proved value and their supply to cultivators. The Government of India made a grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs for financing existing schemes of sugar research during 1935-36.

The expansion of the sugar industry in India consequent on the grant of protection in 1932 has continued at a rapid pace. The United Province had the



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largest number of the new factories. No less than 27 new factories began operations in the United Provinces in 1933-34, 14 in Bihar and Orissa, 5 in the Punjab, 2 each in Bengal and Madras, 4 in Bombay and 1 in an Indian State. The total number of cane factories reported to have worked during 1934-35 is 138. The statistical section of the Sugar Bureau collected and distributed statistics relating to the production, consumption, imports and exports of sugar for India and the principal sugar-producing and consuming countries of the world. During the year, 23 students were admitted for training in Sugar Technology at the Harcourt Butler Institute, Cawnpore, on the nomination of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Of these 4 came from Bihar, 4 from Madras, 3 from the Punjab, 3 from Bengal, 2 from the Central Provinces, 2 from Bombay, 2 from the United Provinces and 1 each from Assam, Delhi and an Indian State.

**Statistical Section.** The statistician's help has been greatly sought after by the different provinces and constituent States in the planning of new experiments and in the interpretation of the experimental data. It might be stated that this section has considerably helped in generally raising the standard of agricultural experiments conducted all over India.

**Locust.** The locust survey work was continued on much the same lines as in previous years, the staff being distributed in three different circles each under the control of an assistant. In all the areas the desert locust still persisted in small numbers in the solitary phase. The staff visited all important localities in each circle periodically, so as to note the effect of seasonal conditions, on the habits and activities of the locust and on the fluctuation in its numbers. A substantial amount of information has been gathered in regard to breeding habits of locusts of the non-gregarious type and their general response to changes in the seasonal condition, but the data collected are insufficient to permit of definite conclusions. The delimitation of the areas important in regard to locust breeding has been made, and intensive survey work has been carried out in typical localities in such areas.

**Marketing.** The work in this section started with the appointment of an Agricultural Marketing Adviser in January 1935. He has a number of marketing and assistant marketing officers to help him and all the provincial governments and minor administrations and Indian States are actively co-operating by appointing their own separate marketing staff. The work consisted mainly of initiating a detailed survey of all crop and animal husbandry products.

**Standing Committees for Rice and Wheat.** The recommendations of the Crop Planning Conference with regard to the formation of standing committees for rice and wheat have been accepted. The functions of these committees would be to include the consideration of all matters relating to the production, marketing and general improvement of these two staple crops, periodical reviews of the statistical position of production and consumption (internal and external) of rice and wheat and progress in research in connection with these two cereals. These committees have just been formed and include representations from Government of India, Local Governments, Constituent Indian States, the Inter University Board, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

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The Rice Committee of 45 members includes the following 7 representatives from Madras.

(1) The Director of Agriculture, (2) The Paddy Specialist, (3) The Zamindar of Devarakotta (Chellapallli) President, District Board, Kistna, Masulipatam (Rice Grower), (4) Prof. P. J. Thomas of Madras University, (5) Mr. N. Rangasamy Reddiar, Kuttalam, Tanjore District (Rice Merchant), (6) Mr. A. Pamidiah, Bezvada (Rice Miller) and (7) Mr. K. P. V. S. Mahammad Meera Rowther Sahib Bahadur, M. L. C. Negapatam (Trade Representative).



## The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research— Advisory Board Meeting.

The half yearly meeting of the Advisory Board was held in Delhi from 10th to 15th of February, Sir Bryce Burt, Vice Chairman, presiding. Sir Jagdish Prasad, Hon. member for Health, Education and Lands presided over the opening sessions on the 10th and welcomed the members. He paid a tribute to Sir T. Vijayaragavachariar who was the Vice Chairman of the Council ever since its inception. He mentioned it as a pleasing feature that while the Board in its early stages was concerned with a number of applications for grants, at present it was dealing with a number of progress reports in regard to schemes financed by the council to see that the schemes are being worked on proper lines. The important feature of the Board meeting was, he stated, that scientific workers were no longer working in water tight compartments. He referred also to the co-operation of Universities in carrying out important investigations.

The various sub-committees, dealing with rice, soil science, fruit, plant diseases, dry farming, insects, animal husbandry, animal breeding, etc., met at later dates to examine progress reports of schemes already working and to examine new schemes put up to the council for financial help. One of the subjects considered at the Board Meeting was the question of the future research programme of the council and arranging for a special review of the present position of agricultural and veterinary research. One of the new schemes from Madras that came up for discussion at this Board Meeting was about research on coconuts and, we understand, it was passed by the Board with certain modifications.

There are a large number of schemes from the different provinces already approved by the Advisory Board and awaiting sanction of funds to start work on them. We are glad that the Government of India in this year's budget has provided for a grant of 30 lakhs towards agricultural research, and we expect this will enable the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to provide funds for a large number of schemes that could not be started earlier for want of funds.

## College News & Notes.

**Students' corner.** *Literary.* The valedictory address of the literary section of the Students' Club was delivered by Mr. N. G. Charley, Research Engineer on 13th March. "My tour to Kashmir" was the subject of the discourse. In the lengthy discourse lasting for nearly 2 hours, Mr. Charley touched on the various aspects of Kashmir and Kashmiri life and illustrated his remarks by a number of lantern slides.

*Sports.* There were a hockey match and a cricket match between the officers and the students. The former ended in a victory for the students and the latter for the officers.

*Club Day.* The Annual Day of the Agricultural College Students' Club was celebrated with great enthusiasm on the evening of February 22nd. Mr. S. R. U. Savoor, M. A. (Cantab), D. Sc. (Lon.), Bar-at-law, I. E. S., Principal, Victoria College, Palghat was the president on the occasion. The function started with a well arranged tea for guests and members of the club numbering in all over two hundred. While at tea the guests were entertained to a fancy dress competition. The tea was followed by the formal distribution of prizes for winners in various