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## Editorial.

**District Economic Councils.** Since the formation of the Provincial Economic Council some months ago, the Government have been considering the formation of district councils and their decision on the matter, recently published, provides for the formation of these councils, in every district, as early as possible. The constitution of the council, its functions and the instructions for the guidance of Government Officers making up the council have all been detailed in the Government order, which inter alia states that the function of the council will be advisory. The main task of the council will be to co-ordinate the work of the several Departments of Government in the district, to see that the money allotted to the district for expenditure in each of these Departments is spent to the greatest advantage, and to take such steps as it may find necessary—with the willing co-operation of the people—for the improvement of village life in all its aspects.

The Government have also rightly decided that the setting up of these councils should be decided on by the people of the districts themselves, and their order outlines the procedure to be followed by the Collector of each district who will be the President of the council. It is unlikely that any of the districts would be unwilling to avail itself of the obvious advantages of a scheme which brings the different branches of Government Administration to co-operate with one another and with the people. The constitution of the council allows for non-official representation in it; probably, two non-official members will be considered not sufficient. A good deal will depend



upon the right choice of the non-official representatives who should be able to command the willing co-operation of the people in the villages. The Government we find, lay stress on the important task of the council, to create interest in and desire for improvement, among the villagers themselves. The council will find it necessary first to make a survey of the possibilities of village improvement work that could be undertaken in various parts of the district, select villages which give promise of success and later on build up new centres based on experience gained at the centres first chosen. The other day, the Viceroy of India addressing the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research stated "I cannot but feel that the establishment of a greater degree of co-ordination than would appear at present to exist between district officers and the officers of the Agricultural, Veterinary and Co-operative departments, would strengthen materially the means at disposal for promoting agricultural improvement as well as rural betterment in the widest sense". We are sure that the formation of the District Economic Councils would help in bringing about this much desired co-ordination of activities.

We are glad that the programme of rural reconstruction is made to include practically every item connected with village life, even relief of indebtedness. There have been attempts made at rural reconstruction work by other agencies like the Y. M. C. A, Servants of India Society etc. in selected centres here and there, and we hope that this new Government organisation, will heartily co-operate with these other agencies and benefit by the experience already gained by them.

**Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.** The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was brought into existence seven years ago as a result of the Government of India accepting one of the most important of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India. The investigations of the Commission had shown the growing decline in co-ordination between the centre and the Provinces and between Province and Province due evidently to the Constitutional changes that had been introduced, and it was with a view to counteract this tendency that the Commission had recommended the establishment of the Imperial Council. It was intended to promote, guide and co-ordinate agricultural research throughout India and to link it with agricultural research in other parts of the British Empire and in foreign countries. There is no doubt that the Council during the last seven years has justified the purpose, for which it was started.

The Council has so far spent several lakhs of rupees in financing several research schemes in the different Provinces and in the Centre. The Government of India have now secured the services of two eminent British Experts to visit India this cold weather and give them the benefit of their expert advice regarding the working of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during the last seven years. Of



these experts Sir John Russell, F. R. S., Director of the Rothamsted Station, will deal with soils and crops and Dr. N. C. Wright of the Hannah Dairy Research Institute, Ayrshire, with dairy and animal husbandry schemes. These experts are to be helped by two Indian Secretaries, R. L. Sethi, Economic Botanist, the United Provinces and Prof. Agarwal of the Punjab Veterinary College. We hope that the experts, will, in addition to examining how far the Research Council has discharged its principal duty of co-ordinating and promoting agricultural research in India, also examine the present research programmes of the Council and advise on the most fruitful lines of research to be undertaken in the future. When a large number of investigations say, on a particular crop, are carried out in the different Provinces, it is inevitable there should be a certain amount of overlapping, but we hope that the Experts after examining the progress of research work in the different Provinces will make such recommendations as would reduce this overlapping to the minimum.

**Practical Training in Agriculture.** We are glad to note that to relieve unemployment among educated youth, the Government of Madras have, subject to the vote of the Legislative Council, sanctioned a scheme for training one hundred and fifty young men in practical agriculture. Applicants will be required to have at least passed the S. S. L. C. examination and they should belong to land-owning and agricultural classes. The course of training is to last for 4 months beginning from September next and is proposed to be given in one or other of the several Government Agricultural Research Stations. During the course of training they are to get a stipend of Rs. 15 a month and the only condition stipulated is, that they should go back to the land and take to agriculture as their profession. We have in recent times had educated young men volunteering to come and work as regular coolies and learn practical agriculture in the several stations but, it is doubtful whether they seriously intend to go back to the land and take to agriculture. While we welcome this new scheme, we wish it went a little further by providing a selected few of these trained men with lands and facilities to farm on their own account as has been done in the Punjab. We look forward to the success of this inexpensive experiment.

**The Cecil Wood Memorial.** While we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the commencement of Agricultural Education in Madras and the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union this week, we cannot but think, with pleasant memories, of Cecil Wood who had played such an important part in the activities of the College during his long stay in Madras. There can be no two opinions about Wood as the ideal Principal the College has ever had. Coming out to India in 1905 he had seen service in various capacities in the Madras Agricultural Department, but it was as Principal, which post he held for over twelve years (1909—1922), that he was best



known. Most of his students who are still in the Department, can well remember his boundless enthusiasm for activities in the College and on the field. His lectures on Agriculture were a model and we believe the notes prepared by him then still form the basis for the teaching of Agriculture in the College. Though a strict disciplinarian, he was greatly loved and esteemed by his students. Unfortunately, however, during his later days in Madras, he could not adapt himself to the changing conditions, particularly in the general desire for affiliating the College to the University which he did not quite believe would yield fruitful results. All the same we are sure that if he had continued in Madras, he would have been the first to welcome and appreciate the changes that have been introduced in the College consequent on its affiliation to the University.

Leaving Madras in 1922, he was for a short period employed by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation in S. Africa, but he soon joined the staff of the Imperial College of Agriculture, Trinidad and took to his most favourite job, namely teaching of agriculture to the students.

It was over six years ago that some of his old students in the Madras Department of Agriculture met and decided to perpetuate the memory of his connection with the College in a suitable manner. A committee was appointed with instructions as to the form in which the memorial was to be instituted. The Secretary of the Committee had issued an appeal in the Journal inviting subscriptions for the Memorial Fund. The Committee, however, could not push through the work entrusted to it for various reasons, one of which was the transfer of most of its members from Coimbatore to the Circles. We find that there has been some activity again and it is but appropriate that something is being done during this year's College Day Celebrations. We are glad to learn that a portrait in oil has been prepared which will be unveiled on the 30th of July by Rao Bahadur D. Ananda Rao, Director of Agriculture, who is about the oldest still in service and who had been in closest touch with Mr. Wood's activities in Madras. We understand that the presentation of Mr. Wood's portrait to the College is only one of the several ways in which the Committee propose to keep his memory green. The fulfilment of these undertakings will have to depend naturally upon the active support given to the Committee by all those who had promised their support, and we are sure this will be forthcoming in an ample measure.

Mr. Wood was the first President of the Union and during his long stay in Coimbatore as the Principal and Ex-officio President, he did a lot in helping the Union to further its activities. We take this opportunity to make an earnest appeal on behalf of the Memorial Committee to all Mr. Wood's students, colleagues and friends in the Department to come forward with liberal donations so that the Committee may accomplish its desires without any further delay.



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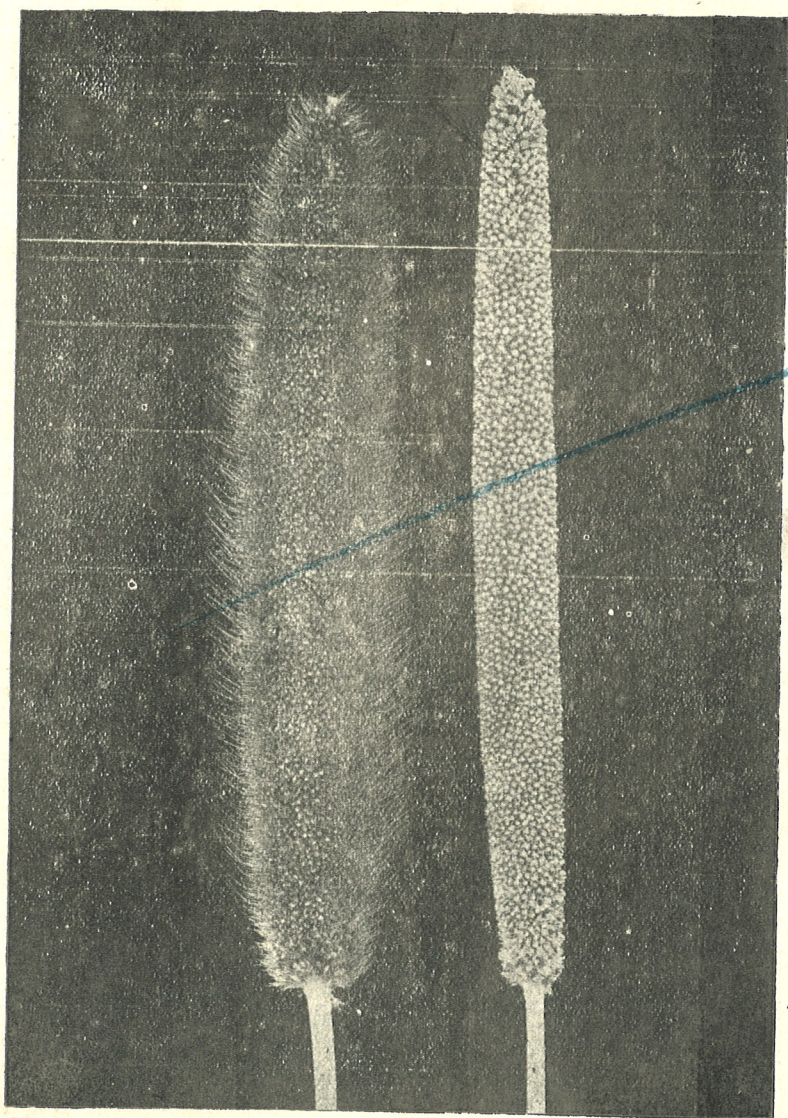
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