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Editorial.

1937. We wish all our readers and every member of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union a very happy and prosperous 'New Year'.

Ourselves. The Madras Agricultural Journal enters on its twentyfifth year of existence, with this edition. And even at the risk of being accused of self-conceit we would like to express our pleasure and pride at the fact that it has been possible for this journal to render its readers an uninterrupted service of a quarter of a century, an achievement which in itself any journal could be proud of and that due solely to the selfless work of a band of honorary workers who could ill spare the necessary leisure from their legitimate official duties. To our old customers we would repeat our old pledge "to continue to serve them as well in the future as in the past" and as regards our prospective patrons we will only say, again in the words of the old tradesman, "try us once and you will never leave us."

The New King. It is just a year since we announced in these columns the sad news of the death of King George V of revered memory. Before the year closed there has been another change in the person of the British Monarch. This news is, by now, well known to all our readers and we don't therefore propose to give any details of the unhappy affair. "The whole thing was a nine days' wonder." In whatever light the whole affair is viewed nobody can deny that the ex-king Edward VIII made his exit in a manner worthy of a great and courageous ruler. We wish the Duke of Windsor, as he is now known, long life, peace of mind and above all the happiness in search of which he relinquished the throne of the great empire over which the Sun never sets.

In his successor King George VI we have a prototype of the father. We join in the respectful and loyal felicitations accorded to him and his consort Queen Elizabeth and wish them a long and prosperous reign in the years to come.

The New Constitution. In less than two months from today thirty million inhabitants of this great country will be called upon to exercise their right of electing representatives to the various legislative bodies in accordance with the provisions of the reformed constitution. Politics is not in our line, but the occasion is unique in many ways and our readers will bear with us if we propose to touch on a matter which will engage the attention of these legislatures perhaps not long after their inauguration. We refer to the question of the

"Security of the Services" in which every member of the M. A. S. U. or at least a large majority of them will be interested. The leaders of some of the better organised political organisations in this country appear to be under the impression, as evidenced from their utterances that the only sure and speedy cure for all the ills which the Indian ryot is suffering from is the drastic reduction of the salaries of the existing civil service. We do not for a moment deny that there is considerable disparity in the scales of pay drawn by officers in the different services, for which there is little or no justification and that reduction in the present scales is perhaps desirable at least in some of the services, especially in the higher grades. But as the President of the Indian Officers' Association ably put it recently "at the same time it is equally important that the conditions of service are not allowed to become the sport of parties". We would crave the indulgence of our readers to quote a few more sentences from the above speech which are relevant to the point at issue. He continues "they (the services) have a long history behind.....Freakish proposals based on simple *apriori-formulae* unrelated to any principles..... will do the greatest possible damage. Nothing undermines the contentment and efficiency of a permanent civil service as a feeling of insecurity or uncertainty as to pay, prospects and pension. We will conclude by subscribing to the hope expressed by H. E. Lord Erskine in reply to the above speech in the following words. "I think the future ministers will have far too great a sense of what will be in their own interest to damage an efficient and loyal service".

There are other matters connected with the new constitution as important as the one referred to above and more directly connected with us as agriculturists. These, we will leave for consideration in some of the later issues.

The Indian Science Congress. As we write, the congress is meeting in the capital of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar. This year's deliberations are guided by Rao Bahadur T. S. Venkataraman, one of the oldest members of the M. A. S. U. and once editor of this journal. We wish the congress a very successful session under his able guidance.

The World Situation. The miserable state through which the world trade was struggling during the last few years is just showing slow but sure recovery to more favourable conditions. The prices of agricultural produce have started indicating an upward curve, at least in respect of some of the commodities which have a ready foreign market. But the same hopeful feature is not evident in the political atmosphere. In Europe and the Far East things are getting from bad to worse and as far as we know it would be nothing less than a miracle if the clouds pass off without throwing out the ominous spark, leading to a world conflagration, perhaps sooner than later. We sincerely wish however, that our fears may prove to be groundless.