

**Prevents Plant Growth on Masonry.** According to a Swiss inventor, H. Zimmerli, the growth of plants on walls of masonry can be controlled by adding to the mortar—for example, in case of water reservoirs, beach walls, and the like—substances that prevent the germination and growth of plants. In particular good results are obtained with the addition of three parts of sodium chlorate and two parts of iron sulphate to 100 parts of quartz, sand and mortar. It is especially recommended that some sodium fluoride or colloidal silver also be added. Finally, the hardened plaster is sprayed with a dilute emulsion consisting of boiled linseed oil, wood grease, ground fluorspar, ammonia, and 2 per cent. copper sulphate. This treatment is claimed to be very effective.—(Scientific American, April 1936). (*The Indian Forester*, Vol. LXII, No. 10). K. M. T.

**Milk production costs at the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland** by Hale. (*The Journal of Ministry of Agriculture*, Vol. 43, pp. 768).

The prime costs are not comparable with other costing results frequently presented. No value is put on new born calves and no attempt is made to debit various departments of the farm with proportions of overhead costs and rent. Hence the costs will have to be used with caution if they are to be compared with returns. The information contained in the table gives the reasonably accurate direct costs of milk production under practical farming conditions and gives us an idea of the variations the item may be subject to under vicissitudes of farming.

Average prime costs per gallon of milk produced in pence.

|   | 1928-29 | 29-30  | 30-31 | 31-32 | 32-33 | 33-34 | 34-35 | 35-36 |
|---|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|   | d.      | d.     | d.    | d.    | d.    | d.    | d.    | d.    |
| Depreciation of cows                      | 2.92    | 0.82   | 1.60  | 1.70  | 1.43  | 1.46  | 2.02  | 1.25  |
| Depreciation and keep of bulls            | 0.97    | 0.49   | 0.34  | 0.31  | 0.38  | 1.41  | 0.58  | 0.43  |
| Wages and horse labour                    | 2.91    | 2.51   | 2.26  | 2.00  | 1.92  | 1.87  | 1.98  | 1.81  |
| Concentrate                               | 4.04    | 4.58   | 3.64  | 3.51  | 1.94  | 1.96  | 2.20  | 2.20  |
| Coarse fodder                             | 2.54    | 2.10   | 1.79  | 2.27  | 2.07  | 2.79  | 2.24  | 1.83  |
| Grazing                                   | 0.20    | 0.13   | 0.91  | 0.19  | 0.27  | 0.28  | 0.33  | 0.23  |
| Tuberculin tests                          | 0.70    | 0.26   | 0.27  | 0.27  | 0.31  | 0.27  | 0.30  | 0.04  |
| Sundries                                  | 0.85    | 0.88   | 1.21  | 0.67  | 0.77  | 0.65  | 0.71  | 0.71  |
| Dairy costs                               | 2.60    | 1.77   | 2.15  | 1.79  | 2.05  | 1.85  | 1.76  | 1.55  |
|   | 17.73   | 13.54  | 13.45 | 12.71 | 11.14 | 11.54 | 12.12 | 10.05 |
| Average No. of gallons of milk per cow    | 798     | 798    | 814   | 764   | 624   | 655   | 703   | 729   |
| Lb. of concentrate fed per gallon of milk | 3.36    | 4.27   | 4.11  | 4.66  | 2.74  | 3.02  | 3.17  | 3.33  |
| Average price of concentrates per cwt. £  | 0-11-2  | 0-10-0 | 0-8-3 | 0-7-0 | 0-6-7 | 0-6-1 | 0-6-6 | 0-6-2 |

N. B.—Prime costs do not include rent and overhead charges.

R. B.

## Agricultural Fottings

BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MADRAS

**Agricultural Marketing.** The marketing section has been engaged in the survey of many agricultural commodities of importance. Marketing survey reports of the following commodities have been completed and forwarded to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India:

|           |         |                 |
|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| Rice      | Coffee  | Eggs            |
| Wheat     | Tobacco | Hides and skins |
| Groundnut | Cattle  | Plantains       |
| Linseed   | Milk    | Grapes          |
|           |         | Pineapples.     |



The reports contain relevant information on all points relating to marketing of the commodities such as supply, demand, prices, preparation for market, assembling, transport and distribution of profits among several agencies of the trade etc. Such reports from all the Provinces and Indian States will be compiled and published by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India.

As a next step in the work of the marketing section, developmental activities on some of the crops for which surveys have been completed have just been taken on hand. A conference of growers, manufacturers and exporters of cigarette tobacco was held at Guntur with a view to arrive at the greatest common measure of agreement among all interests concerned in the export trade of cigarette tobacco. The district of Guntur occupies a prominent place in the cultivation of Virginia tobacco growing as it does about 40,000 acres which is more than 95% of the total area in India. Besides, it grows a considerable area ranging from 50,000 to 60,000 acres under country brown tobacco suitable for cheap cigarettes, beedies, and pipe and shag. On the unanimous agreement of all interests present at the Conference, it was resolved to form an association at Guntur to standardise grades and packages for export, and thereby improve the reputation of Indian tobacco abroad. The rules and regulations have been framed for this association, somewhat on the lines of the East India Cotton Association. The object of the association is essentially to bring more money into the pockets of the primary producer.

The preliminary requisite for any programme of organised sale of ryots' produce has to come largely from the growers. For this purpose, the creation of healthy organisations of producers is a first step. Further more, success is more possible of achievement with special purpose organisations for each commodity as tobacco, fruits etc. In order to achieve this object, the marketing section has been investigating the possibilities of such work in the primary producing areas as Cuddapah district for oranges and melons, Vizagapatam district for mangoes and Trichinopoly and Madura districts for plantains. In a recent Government Order the Government have also provided for the creation of a post of Assistant Marketing Officer, specially to help in the developmental activities of marketing work from January 1937. A Provincial Marketing Society has also been formed in Madras with a view to co-ordinate the work of several loan and sale societies, and to find a market for surplus produce like fruits, jaggery, ghee, potatoes etc., in the Madras City.

Proposals were made by the marketing section even at the beginning for the publication of prices of the commercial crops in a form useful to the trade. It was suggested that, for such information to be useful, it was necessary that wholesale prices of crops with specification of quality and trade name, ought to be published for all important markets for such commodities as paddy, rice, tobacco, jaggery etc. In a recent Government Order, the Government have ordered that from January 1937 these prices would be published each Tuesday in the Fort St. George Gazette and English and Vernacular papers issuing from Madras. The prices reported will be the wholesale prices ruling in different market centres of the presidency on Monday each week, of the several commodities. The prices will be published in terms of one common unit, viz., the Imperial maund of 82-2/7 lbs. The retail prices of the several commodities at the important market centres will also be published. The agency for such work will be the statistical section formerly attached to the Board of Revenue, and now under the Director of Industries.

It is not possible to render into the small space available in our dailies the extensive data collected by the marketing staff, but it is proposed periodically to give short marketing notes on important commodities like rice, groundnut, coconut, coffee, fruits, milk etc., in the succeeding issues for the benefit of the public.