

The Principal's Welcome Address.

Mr. R. C. BROADFOOT, *Principal*.

This is the sixth occasion on which it has been my privilege as President of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union to extend the Union's welcome to those attending its annual conference. Frequency does not however impair the sincerity of our welcome and I hope your visit will be pleasant and profitable and that you will carry away pleasant memories of our hospitality and friendship on this occasion.

2. It is a particularly pleasing privilege to introduce Diwan Bahadur S. E. Ranganathan, Vice Chancellor of the Madras University with which this College is affiliated and to thank him for accepting the Director of Agriculture's invitation on our behalf to preside over this year's College Day and Conference. Our association with the Madras University, now sixteen years old, grows with the years and will, I feel sure, continue to do so in the future. It is therefore particularly appropriate that Mr. Ranganathan should preside here on this occasion and present to the successful students of 1937 the prizes and medals gained by them in the session just finished.

3. We miss from our midst this year one of our oldest and most esteemed friends and well-wishers, Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar who has crossed the bourn and I offer on behalf of the Union our sympathy and condolence to his family and relations in their bereavement. Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar has been one of our benefactors on several occasions and the Goschen, Anstead and Venkatarama Ayyar medals to be awarded to-day bear testimony to his interests in this College and will serve to keep his memory green at such conferences as this, which he always took delight in attending. Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar was an Honorary Visitor to this College from 1930 till his death.

4. Last year our Conference took the form of a special celebration i. e. the Diamond Jubilee of Agricultural Education in Madras and the Silver Jubilee of the inauguration of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union. This year our celebrations are on a more restricted scale, but once again we have organised a working Exhibition in the Freeman Building where Departmental work will be demonstrated to all those interested in the scientific work of the Department. Owing to the absence of rains, the crops on the Central Farm are less prominent than is usual at this time of the year, but the Superintendent will be pleased to show visitors over the Botanic Garden, Garden lands and Orchard and some time can also be profitably spent in the Dairy, Farm Yard and Veterinary Hospital, all of which are active working units in our College organization.

5. So much for scientific work. The Union also entertains: and to-night the dramatic members will stage a series of dramas in English and the Vernaculars for the benefit of our guests. Our College Sports will be held on 24th when the Union will be 'At Home' to members and guests and will welcome a large attendance. It is unique that all these functions should be organized by a non-official body like the Madras Agricultural Students' Union whose object in doing so is to keep its members in close touch with its *alma mater*. The Secretary's report will indicate the varied activities of the Union and the amount of honorary work which the resident committee undertakes on its behalf.

It is the duty of all Officers of the Department to become members of the Union and I regret to note that a number of Departmental Officers still fail to realise it as such, although they attend our Conferences and enjoy our hospitality.

6. And now I come to the last item of my welcome address and that is to congratulate the winners on their successes and sympathise with those who just

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failed to win. Prizes are an incentive to study but are not a guarantee of future success in life, where character and personality play a more important part.

To all who have taken their B. Sc. Ag. Degree and are now equipped for the battle of life I wish all success and I hope their future will lie along pleasant lines and that they will be able to add to the work of social advancement of the rural population. No work is more worthy than this.

To the Union's welcome I now extend my personal thanks for your presence here and for your assistance in making this conference a success.

List of Winners of Different Prizes for the year 1936-'37.

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| 1. The Robertson Prize. | T. N. Anantanarayanan |
| 2. The Clogstoun Prize. | H. Krishna Kumar. |
| 3. The Kees Prize. | T. N. Anantanarayanan. |
| 4. The Sampson Memorial Prize. | H. Krishna Kumar. |
| 5. The Diwan Bahadur R. Raguhnatha Rao Prize. | K. Venkatachalamayya Sastri. |
| 6. The D'Silva Memorial Prize. | K. V. Srinivasan. |
| 7. The Goschen Prize. | C. K. Seshadri. |
| 8. The Anstead Prize. | K. A. Seshu Ayyar. |
| 9. The Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar Prize. | Francis Samuel. |
| 10. The Certificate Course Cup. | P. Narayanan. |
| 11. The Old Cuddapah District Agricultural Association Prize. | T. M. Rama Ayyangar.
B. K. Mohan Rao.
Khader Razack. |
| 12. Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar Prize. | S. V. Joseph Doss. |
| 13. The M. K. Nambiar Prize. | P. Narayanan. |
| 14. The L. D. Swamikannu Memorial Prize. | T. N. Ananthanarayanan. |

President's Address.

By Diwan Bahadur S. E. RANGANATHAN,
Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University.

I thank the Director of Agriculture, the Principal of the College and the organisers of the College Day and Conference for the honour they have done me in inviting me to be present on this important occasion. I have, as you are all aware, no special qualifications for occupying the presidential chair today as my knowledge of agriculture and of the problems connected with it as compared with that of the experts assembled before me is almost negligible. As the administrative head, however, of the University of Madras to which the Agricultural College is affiliated, I may claim to be somewhat closely connected with you, and I should like to take this opportunity of assuring you that I am deeply interested in the welfare and progress of this important institution. The College, since its affiliation to the University seventeen years ago, has made very steady progress, and has, I believe, produced nearly 400 graduates equipped with the most up-to-date knowledge of scientific agriculture. It is a matter for gratification that Madras has not only led the way in the matter of agricultural education in India, but has done probably more than many

other provinces for the improvement of agricultural methods and the social and economic betterment of the rural population. Apart from this College which has helped to disseminate modern knowledge regarding all aspects of agricultural activity and to train its students in scientific methods, the Agricultural Research Institute at Coimbatore has an impressive record of work to its credit and has earned a wide reputation for the results of its scientific research. Madras was again the first province to start Land Mortgage Banks for the benefit of the agriculturist. The establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards and District Economic Councils and the relief afforded to the ryot by the remission of a part of the land revenue and the recent stoppage of resettlement operations are other measures intended to deal with various aspects of the rural problem. While it is a matter for satisfaction that so much has been done, it has to be admitted that the measures adopted so far have not materially improved agricultural conditions, nor have they advanced the well-being of the rural population to any appreciable extent. The condition of the villages is so bad to-day that what we need is a comprehensive policy and manysided effort to deal effectively with the problem of village reconstruction. Happily public interest in this vital problem has been awakened in recent years, and besides Government, many voluntary organisations have been endeavouring to improve the conditions of rural life. It is a matter for gratification that the Congress Ministry is pledged to work for the amelioration of the lot of the rural masses, and it is significant that one of the new Ministers has been entrusted with the portfolio of agriculture and rural development. It is to be hoped that the new Government will make an exhaustive survey of the whole situation and devise suitable measures for the reconstruction of village life. It is appropriate, therefore, that at this time an expert organisation such as yours should have arranged for a symposium on the question of rural reconstruction. I am sure that the suggestions contained in the various papers to be read at this Conference and the discussions on them will prove to be of great benefit both to Government and to those engaged in rural uplift work. Whatever the proposals which may be made at this Conference—and I am sure there will be many, in connection with rural reconstruction—may I point out that education is one of the most important factors in the rehabilitation of village life and should occupy the foremost place in any scheme of reconstruction. We therefore need not only a well-equipped agricultural college and Research Institute, but a vast net-work of rural schools and demonstration farms through which knowledge in regard to agricultural and other related matters will reach the ryot living in his village.

The primary schools situated in rural areas—and they constitute more than 90% of such schools in the Presidency—should have an agricultural bias. One of the greatest defects of our present system of

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education is that it is not rooted in the life of the people and is not relevant to their needs. At present, the rural schools are not very different from those situated in urban areas, and the results have been disastrous. While the instruction given in all primary schools may be the same, the village school should relate that instruction to the conditions of rural life. There should be a small farm attached to these schools where the boys could work under the guidance of the teacher. Improved methods of agriculture should be used in these farms, so that the parents of the children could witness the beneficial effects of such methods. Further, the general subject of Rural Science dealing with sanitation, health, village administration, cottage industries, gardening, cooperation and so on, would provide a suitable correlating agency, and the aims and ideals of rural reconstruction should be made to permeate the whole curriculum. The primary school should be made the centre of village life, the inspiration for adult education and the chief motive power of rural progress. If this is to be achieved, two things are essential. One is that the teachers employed in such schools should be men who have come from rural areas with the interests of the village at heart, and who have received a suitable training. Such training could be given by having a demonstration farm attached to some of the teachers' training schools, or by locating some of these schools near Government farms. There could be no real progress in rural education without a large body of teachers, capable of helping in practical farming and in subsidiary industries. And secondly there should be a proper co-ordination of the various departments of Government and other non-official agencies working in rural areas, such as those of Agriculture, Public Health, Education, Forestry and Co-operative Credit Societies. I believe that this co-ordination has been established in the Punjab in the form of a Central Rural Community Board and of District Community Councils.

Another problem is to sustain the interest of the boys after they leave school. This is admirably done in America and in England by means of extension work organised by the Government. In America the State Agricultural Colleges not only impart instruction but also maintain county agents for propaganda purposes. These men are usually College graduates, specially trained in demonstration work and possessing intimate knowledge of local conditions. They organise boys' and girls' clubs in rural areas, and through the Press and the Radio, they keep the farmers in touch with the latest developments in marketing and agricultural methods. In England, much progress has lately been made in the same direction. Young farmers' clubs have spread throughout the country, and they provide most valuable lessons not only in the proper management of crops and live-stock and in the business of keeping accounts and acquiring the habit of co-operation, but serve as a means of calling out the spirit of

self-government and the capacity to manage affairs. Similar work could be done in our country by the agricultural demonstrators scattered all over the Presidency. They could organise agricultural societies and impart to the ryots in their area the latest information regarding crops and markets. If rural reconstruction is to be really effective, a great concentration of effort is necessary for developing this field of our educational life. The problem of rural uplift is of such magnitude in our land that for its adequate solution careful planning, organisation, money and men are required, but men above all. While we may legitimately look to Government to formulate its plan with the aid of experts and to provide the necessary organisation and funds, we need a vast army of men and women, animated by a spirit of service, who will devote themselves to the work of rural uplift. As personal example is one of the most effective instruments of progress, we expect the well-to-do landed classes to live on their lands and demonstrate to the ryots round about them the advantages of adopting improved agricultural methods and of engaging in subsidiary industries. And we need a large body of educated young men and women who will go and settle and work in the villages, for the benefit of the agriculturist, regarding the amelioration of the condition of these people as the greatest service they could render to the country. For the rural problem is above all essentially a human problem. More important than roads and wells and the improvement of the amenities of the village is the peasant himself. Sunk in despair, much of his manhood has been crushed out of him. What he needs most is that the spirit of hope should be breathed into him, and the hand of fellowship stretched out to him so that he may recover his self-respect as a man and regain his hold on life.

Let me congratulate the Madras Agricultural Students' Union on its splendid record of work during the past year. It has done admirable work for over quarter of a century by organising these annual Conferences and by conducting the Madras Agricultural Journal, which has been the means of disseminating useful information on agricultural matters among a large body of readers. The value of such a voluntary organisation cannot be overestimated. We have seen how closely agricultural education is connected with the work of rural reconstruction. The Union will, I am sure, be called upon to play an increasingly important part in the coming years, when questions relating to agriculture will be in the forefront.

I wish both the outgoing students and those who will remain in the College all success. I hope they will realise the special responsibilities which rest upon them because of the scientific training which they have received in this College, and will make it their constant endeavour to use their knowledge to promote the well-being and happiness of the peasant for the benefit of the country as a whole.

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Report of the Managing Committee for the year 1936-'37.

The Managing Committee of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union has great pleasure in presenting their report for the year 1936-'37.

With the warm interest evinced by His Excellency the Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy of India, the welfare of the Agriculturist has received considerable attention. Livestock improvement has received a great impetus. Ameliorative measures like the reduction in the freight on dry cows and the abolition of the terminal tax on imported cows are but symptoms in this direction. District Economic Councils have started to function in the cause of the agriculturist. The special Tariff Board to examine the question of sugar production and trade, is another useful activity full of promise in the stabilization of the sugar industry. At the College, the institution of training for farmers' sons in practical agriculture is a measure of great usefulness. There has thus been a general alertness on the part of all concerned in the cause of rural uplift. On the inauguration of great constitutional changes, it may be permissible to note that such political advances in whatever direction they may be, will be deemed a success only in so far as they advance the cause and well-being of the large mass of cultivators who form the economic back-bone of the commonwealth.

The Union was founded in the year 1911 in which year the first conference under its auspices was held. Last year, the Silver Jubilee of the Union and the Diamond Jubilee of the agricultural education in the Madras Presidency was celebrated. These celebrations were inaugurated on the 29th July 1936, by His Excellency Sir K. V. Reddy Naidu, the Governor of Madras. The Conference continued on the 30th and 31st with the Hon'ble Mr. P. T. Rajan, the Minister for Agriculture, in the chair. Papers dealing with various subjects pertaining to agriculture were read and discussed. On the night of the 30th, the students of the college staged short scenes from English, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu dramas. On the 31st the agricultural demonstrators of the VI Circle staged the drama written by Mr. C. S. Rajaratna Mudaliar of the mycology section. This drama is the one which secured the prize awarded by the agricultural department. On the fourth day, the 1st of August, the annual general body meeting of the members of the union was held in the forenoon. The College Day sports were held in the afternoon and the union was at home to the visitors. A comprehensive exhibition demonstrating the various activities of the department and the results achieved therefrom was held in the Freeman Building. The exhibition was opened by H. E. the Governor on the 29th July and was kept open to the public till the 2nd of August. A detailed account of the proceedings of the Jubilee celebrations and the agricultural conference has already appeared in the August 1936 number of the Madras Agricultural Journal.

The Madras Agricultural Journal. Besides celebrating the annual College day and Conference the all-the-year activity of the Union is the publication of the Madras Agricultural Journal. The committee is glad to report that the journal continued to maintain the high standard associated with it. The journal has secured a place among the agricultural journals of the world and has on its exchange list a wide range of publications from many foreign countries.

Our New Patron. Mr. G. R. Hilson, who held various responsible posts in the Madras Agricultural Department and who retired as Director of Agriculture, has very generously become a patron of the Union. We place on record our grateful thanks to him for this tangible proof of the interest in the Union of which, he was a former President.

Honours. Two of our members were the recipients of honours during the year. M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur T. S. Venkatraman Avl., Government Sugarcane

Expert was made a Companion of the Indian Empire; and the title of Rao Sahib was conferred on M. R. Ry. G. Jogi Raju Garu, Assistant Director of Agriculture. We are glad to note that the title of Rao Bahadur was conferred on M. R. Ry. Rao Sahib N. S. Kulandaswami Pillai, Avl., Deputy Director of Agriculture. We offer our hearty congratulations to these gentlemen on the well merited honours conferred on them for their services in the betterment of the agriculturist.

Unemployment. It is gratifying to record that considerable relief in unemployment has been obtained by the recent absorption of a large number of our old boys into the service of the agricultural department. It is our hope that measures will be devised by which the demand for the agricultural graduates will be insistent and that there will be many calls for service on these usefully trained young men in the coming expansion in rural reconstruction.

Our Friends abroad. Four of our members, Messrs. N. Parthasarathi, V. Panduranga Rao, N. Krishnaswami and N. Kesava Ayyangar have gone abroad for advanced studies. The Union wishes them every success. It gives us pleasure to learn that Mr. V. Panduranga Rao has been elected as an active member of the honorary scientific fraternity Sigma Xi, and that Mr. S. Ramanujan has been awarded the Ph D. degree of the London University. One of our enthusiastic members, Mr. K. M. Thomas returned after advanced studies with the Diploma of the Imperial College, London, and has been appointed as Mycologist. We take this opportunity to congratulate all these members on the distinctions attained.

We record with pleasure that another of our enthusiastic members Mr. K. Ramaiah was appointed Geneticist at Indore. We wish him all success in his new sphere of activity.

Retirement. Since the last College Day and Conference, M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Sundararama Ayyar Avl., and M. R. Ry. Rao Sahib C. Narayana Ayyar Avl., retired from service. Both of them have been connected intimately with the activities of the Union. The following members of the Department also retired during the year: Messrs. C. V. Seshacharya, G. Venkatachalapathi Raju, and D. Srinivasa Rao. Our old members may remember that Mr. D. Srinivasa Rao was for some time the treasurer of the Union. We wish them all long life, health and happiness.

Obituary. We have to record with regret the demise of Mr. Allan Carruth, formerly Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, and one of the patrons and a constant well-wisher of the Union. Another loss is the passing away of M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Iyer Avl., of Negapatam, a regular subscriber and contributor to the Journal and an active participant in our annual conferences. He has very generously instituted three prizes for the students of the college, namely, the Goschen Prize for Agricultural Zoology, the Anstead prize for Plot Cultivation and the Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Iyer Prize for the best student in the First Examination. The Union deeply mourns his loss. We are sorry to record the passing away of the following members of the Agricultural Department namely Messrs. C. S. Madiiah, M. Eggiaswami Iyer and A. Ramalinga Ayyar.

Acknowledgments. It is now our pleasant duty to record our thanks to all who have helped the Union during the year. To Sir K. V. Reddy Naidu, the Union owes a deep debt of gratitude for presiding over the Jubilee celebrations last year. To Mr. P. T. Rajan who presided over the Conference and to Mrs. R. W. Littlewood who distributed the prizes on the sports day, we record our grateful thanks. To M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur D. Ananda Rao Garu, the Director, the Committee tenders its heartfelt thanks for his keen interest in the Union and the invaluable help rendered by him in arranging for the Jubilee celebrations.

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To Messrs. R. W. Littlewood and R. C. Broadfoot, who as Presidents have been actively helping the Union in its various activities, we tender our grateful thanks. We are specially indebted to Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Cherian for helping us in the arrangements for the tea on the sports day. To all other ladies and gentlemen who in various capacities have helped the Union in the Jubilee celebrations, as well as in its everyday activities during the year, we record our grateful thanks.

Conclusion. We conclude this report with a fervent appeal to all gentlemen who are not yet members of the Union to join it and become subscribers to the Journal. By doing so they profit themselves and enhance the reputation and usefulness of the Union.

Agricultural Jottings.

(From the Department of Agriculture, Madras).

THE MAHALI DISEASE OF ARECANUTS.

A WARNING TO ARECA GROWERS

Mahali or *Koleroga* is the most destructive disease of arecanuts in South India. It is caused by a parasitic fungus (*Phytophthora arecae*) which flourishes in very wet weather. Hence it occurs in areca-growing tracts where the monsoon rains are very heavy. In South India, the disease is known to appear every year in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara, in the *malnad* districts of Mysore province and in the states of Cochin and Travancore. The disease usually attacks growing nuts causing rotting and shedding. Under favourable monsoon conditions, the disease may appear with such intensity as to destroy the whole crop. Occasionally, the disease attacks the crown of the areca palm and causes the death of the tree.

Control. A very efficient method of controlling the disease is now known. It consists in spraying on the areca bunches a mixture (called Bordeaux mixture) which on drying serves as a protective coating. Several garden owners are adopting this method of control year after year with conspicuous success. During the last monsoon, the disease broke out in epidemic form in South Kanara and those who carried out timely spraying were able to save their crops, while others who did not do the spraying lost heavily. In particular tracts the whole crop was lost and those garden owners to whom their areca garden was the sole means of livelihood found themselves in an utterly helpless position. To obtain the maximum benefit, the areca bunches should be sprayed twice—one just before the outbreak of the monsoon when the nuts are small, and again some weeks (about six weeks) later when the nuts have grown bigger. The spray mixture can be prepared by garden owners from ingredients which are obtainable in village bazars in areca growing areas. English and vernacular leaflets issued by the Madras Department of Agriculture and giving particulars of the methods of preparation of the mixture and the use of the spraying machine can be obtained free from the agricultural demonstrators in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara or from the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Tellicherry, who will be glad to furnish any further information to areca growers.

A Superior Cotton for the Tinnevely Tract. The Tinnevely tract comprising the three districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely grows cotton annually on an extensive area of over 500,000 to 600,000 acres. The type of cotton under cultivation has a good reputation for its quality. Work on the improvement of cotton at the Koilpatti farm was started as early as 1902. But after repeated trials of many varieties it was found that Karunganni cotton was the most