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which is derided and pooh-poohed at first, turns out in the long run to be filled with undreamt-of benefits. Wind and weather seem to be favourable now for embarking on works of development. There is a glut of cheap money in the market. The proposal, therefore, for a loan of one crore of rupees by the Government is to be welcomed. It must however be utilised on schemes permanently beneficial to the agriculturists in the presidency.

Even if only some part of these suggestions becomes accomplished, the peasant will be freed from the spell of starvation and ignorance and villages instead of stagnating and decaying will hum once again with activity. This programme will include definite provision of good roads, water supply and hospitals for men and beasts. Villages will be provided with the amenities of civilised life, with the cinema and the radio, and the village will have all the advantages of the town with none of its disadvantages. Such changes in the face of the country, a new order which makes this possible, is called for both by sound commonsense and by the compelling call of common humanity. How can one look unmoved at starvation in the midst of luxury, at naked poverty by the side of princely extravagance, at the peasant's one-roomed hut by the side of palatial mansions? The heart-rending conditions that prevail in rural India can be effaced if only legislators and ministers seriously and sincerely give their minds to the great work that awaits them and extend willing hands to feed the hungry and relieve the poor and the suffering.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION WORK

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The ultimate aim of Rural Reconstruction work is to enhance the happiness of the masses and the chief factors which make up happiness may be said to be health, wealth, and culture, provided they are made right use of. To promote these, efforts have to be made in two directions. One is to educate the masses and develop in them a wider, freer and more intelligent out-look and create a genuine desire and effort for their own improvement. The other is to see that their efforts in various directions are encouraged and helped with advice, guidance and resources by various departments of the State, and other organizations.

Though the various departments of the State, the District Boards, Dt. Economic Councils and other quasi-official bodies have each been and can do much to help the masses to uplift themselves, yet, an independent non-official organization which commands the confidence of the people, appears essential to act as a liaison between them and



these official or quasi-official bodies. "That the scheme of rural development cannot make any headway unless (a) it is pursued through an agency as far as possible non-official and (b) it is guided by bodies able to control and co-ordinate activities of the constructive departments of Government" is the opinion of the Nizam's Govt. published in a recent note. I shall now try to develop a clearer picture of the organization and lines of work I have in view.

The village is naturally the primary unit for any attempt at rural reconstruction, and it would be ideal to have one whole-time worker in each village. But this may not be practicable under the present conditions. If tangible results are to be achieved we must have at least one whole-time worker for a group of villages within an area of about six miles square from the centre of which he may be able to visit all the villages of the group on foot or on a bicycle without fatigue, and this is, I believe, what we may hope for at present. In the Vizagapatam district for example, each such unit area will on an average have 23 villages with a population of 20 thousands, and an average taluq will have eight or nine such units. In the East Godavary (plains) which is an example of a deltaic area, each unit, six miles square, will have only 12 villages but with a population slightly higher, about 24 thousands, each taluq again having the same number of units.

The rural worker, should be a real friend and guide of the villager. To begin with, he should approach some intelligent men in the villages and after explaining his aims to them enlist their sympathy. He may also select one or more part-time workers in each village to help him in his task. With their help he should first study the local conditions and make as detailed an economic survey as possible. With the help of these and others whose sympathy he had so far enlisted he should start propaganda amongst the masses to make them understand his aims. While educating them in the general sense of the term and making them realise the present defects in their social and economic life and the effects of these on their health, wealth and happiness in general, he should create a desire and effort for improvement. At first each individual may be taught to improve himself and his family but in course of time, he should be made to extend his effort to the improvement also of the village in general, creating a feeling of 'each for all and all for each.'

To revive and foster a corporate spirit in the villagers, some kind of organization such as a simple village improvement association may be formed in each village and later developed into a co-operative society or statutory Panchayat Board. Special Associations or guilds for promoting particular industries may also be organised in course of time.

Side by side with the education of the villagers and their organization into a corporate body and training them to uplift themselves,



as far as it lies in their capacity, the worker has to see that the different departments of the State render their services to the villagers in the proper manner and to an adequate extent. State departments are of two classes; (1) *constructive* e.g. as the Health, Education, Agricultural, Veterinary, Industries and Co-operative departments which are solely intended for the benefit of the people, and (2) *governing* such as Revenue, Police, Judicial and other Departments mainly administrative in their character. Without an adequate and properly trained staff in the lower ranks to render actual service to the masses in all parts of the rural areas, the departments of the former class cannot make their services felt or appreciated by the masses. Each Department should have a representative in every unit of six mile square referred to above. It should be possible that a single man may be entrusted with certain items of work of more than one of the allied departments such as Health, Veterinary or Agricultural, in the same centre. Mention may be made here of the experiment now being done by the Agricultural department in nine taluqs of the Vizagapatam district by providing each demonstrator with eight demonstration maistries, at about one for every 15 to 25 villages.

Though the administrative departments are not expected to do much of direct service to the masses they can yet do much to enhance their happiness by showing genuine sympathy in their administration. It is also the duty of the rural worker to evoke this in the officers of the different departments and to see that the masses do not suffer from their apathy or indifference. The villagers have also to be taught to appreciate the services of the various departments trying to ameliorate their condition, and utilize the same readily and to their best advantage. In fact, they must be taught to demand the services of the departments whenever in need, and see that there is a prompt compliance.

By the adoption of simple improvements in Agriculture or other industries now being followed by the villagers, their present income may slightly be increased so that they may in course of time adopt other improvements which may require a small capital. Loans may also be obtained from the Government or through co-operative organizations for undertaking agricultural or other improvements or to redeem debts. For minor and recurring items of expenditure concerning the village as a whole, a common good fund may be organised from the communal resources, but there may be some others which require financing from outside. The Government or the District Board has to be approached in such cases for grants. The worker has to help the villagers in obtaining these loans or grants in time and see that they are properly utilized. Besides thus helping the villagers to improve their material condition the rural worker has also to attend to their moral, social and cultural improvement also.



These, in brief, are the chief functions of the rural worker. To take up these arduous duties an intelligent man with sufficient education, experience in life and a spirit of service to the country is required. One who has deliberately chosen service of this nature depending upon his own resources or on a moderate honorarium for his maintenance, should be selected and trained in a suitable training institute for about an year or two. He may then be made to work in a rural reconstruction centre already in a proper running order for about one or two years before he is put in independent charge of a new centre. By this time he should be about 25 years old.

The agency which guides, controls and pays such rural workers should preferably be non-official. A committee of active rural reconstruction workers and others who are prepared to devote their time, money or property to this cause may be organised in each district with a sub Committee for each centre for direct control. A central provincial organisation may be necessary to co-ordinate work in the districts. No member of any of these bodies should have any political activities. A register of all such workers in each district who are willing to devote their energies, monies or property to this cause and sign a pledge not to participate in politics for a definite period, say five years, may be maintained and the provincial, district and local committees formed from among those on the list.

A rural reconstruction worker, may, if he has no independent means of subsistence, be paid an honorarium of Rs. 15—25 per mensem during the period of training—Rs. 15 if he is a bachelor and Rs. 5 for every addition to his family. The initial amount after his being put in independent charge of a centre may be Rs. 25, an increment of Rs. 5 being granted at intervals of not less than three years subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.

Whenever a new centre is opened the wages of the worker for at least five years should be assured. It would be preferable to be assured of funds for ten years, by which time the local committee should be made to make its own arrangements for paying its worker. The amount required for a ten year period will be about ten to twelve thousand rupees. But if an amount of Rs. 20,000 could be invested, at the start, in some safe securities fetching, say, an interest of 3 per cent, this interest will be sufficient to pay a worker and contingencies for all time, his services being utilised to start a new centre once in 5 to 10 years as soon as the old centre is able to manage its own affairs. The rural worker is the greatest necessity in the reconstruction of village life and if one is provided for every group of villages within a reasonable distance of his residence, he should be able to find the material and money required for the improvement of each village from sources within or without.



All efforts should therefore be concentrated on the finding of the necessary funds for the payment of these workers and for the institutions needed to give them the necessary preliminary training. About a crore of rupees will be required annually for the 14 or 15 thousand workers required to cover the whole of India including Native States. An investment of 30 crores will yield this amount of interest. The sooner this is provided the better, but it does not matter if workers are not provided for the whole area at once, provided a definite policy is laid out and adopted.

**STUDIES ON *ELASMUS ZEHNTNERI*, FERR.,  
A PARASITE OF THE SUGARCANE WHITE  
MOTH BORER (*SCIRPOPHAGA*)**

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and

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**Introduction.** The paper deals with the life history, habits and other interesting features of *Elasmus zehntneri*, Ferr., a chalcid parasite of the sugarcane white moth borer (*Scirpophaga*). As far as the authors are aware this wasp has not been mentioned in any of the many publications on South Indian parasites; hence the detailed studies on this wasp.

**History of the Parasite.** The parasite was first collected from West Java on the sugarcane borer—*Scirpophaga intacta*—and described as *Elasmus* sp., by Zehntner (*Meded v. h. Proefstation v. Suikerriet West Java*, No. 46, 1900, p. 1.). It was named *Elasmus zehntneri* by Ch. Ferriere in his paper on "The Asiatic and African species of the genus *Elasmus*, Westw, in *Bull. Ent. Res.* Vol. XX. Part IV (1929), pp. 411-423. Besides Java, the parasite has been noted from the Philippine Islands and Formosa. In N. India it was first noted in the Punjab as will be seen from the "Summary of the more important results arrived at or indicated by the Agricultural stations and Research Officers in the Punjab during the years 1930-31-34-35" published in 1936. The parasite has been observed by the authors for the first time in S. India in November 1935 in *Scirpophaga* attacked stems collected from Coimbatore.

**Life History of the Moth Borer.** A brief account of the nature of damage caused by the moth borer along with its life history and habits is given here so as to indicate clearly the relationship between the host and its parasite. Out of the characteristic buff coloured egg mass which is generally laid on the under-surface of the leaf of sugarcane plants, tiny caterpillars hatch out and bore into the shoots and destroy the growing point. The caterpillar is often very destructive