

Of all the varieties, *Nendran* and hill plantains have the best keeping quality. *Poovan* comes next. *Rasthali* and *Chakrakeli* have poor keeping quality.

Although the export trade at present is only about 8,000 tons annually there is a large surplus for export if facilities are available. A large proportion of this surplus is at the mercy of the merchants and commission agents. Special railway rates exist from Trichinopoly plantain area to Mysore State; special wagon rates have also been introduced from Cauvery and Godavari areas for traffic by passenger trains to cities in North India. But still the rate works out to two to three times the cost of the plantains at the producing area and consequently the traffic to North has not improved.

The margin of profit between the different agencies engaged in plantain trade shows that the grower gets only 33 to 50 per cent. of the price paid by the consumers. The retailers' profits are fairly—20 to 30 per cent. according to the variety.

There is thus a real need for the improvement and development of the plantain trade. A lot can be done in this direction by the producers organising themselves on the lines of the Fruit Growers' Association in California. This will certainly improve the trade and bring in more money. The marketing staff attached to the Agricultural Department, Madras, will render all assistance and guidance for the formation of growers' associations and in better methods of marketing and distribution of produce. Notes on other commodities will follow.

Gleanings.

Salt Prevents Ill Effects of Heat. A serious problem to many of the important industries of the country is the effect of extreme heat on employees. In mills and factories where of necessity high temperatures exist the problem of heat cramps and heat prostration is especially acute. Cramps and prostration however are frequently met with in hot months of summer where workers are unprotected from the direct rays of the sun and for that matter, even in mills where the temperature is lower than that of the outside air.

The use of salt as a remedy and preventive measure in such cases is several decades old, but only recently has its effectiveness been scientifically proved by successive trials. One of the most recent and thorough investigations of the value of salt as a heat prostration preventive was made by the Fatigue Laboratory of Harvard University, conducting experiments both at home and in the field. More than five years were spent in gathering data on the physiological and pathological effects of high temperature on workmen.

Dr. Arlie Bock, who is connected with the Harvard Fatigue Laboratory, suggests that a worker, working eight hours a day under extreme heat, should use plenty of table salt with his food and also should take five or six one gram tablets of salt, enteric coated to prevent dissolution before the tablet leaves the stomach.

Salt tablets solve prostration problems. Since salt tablets have been made available several automobile plants have not had a single case of heat exhaustion. The tablets each containing one teaspoonful of pure sodium chloride, are available at drinking fountains in many of the factories. They are swallowed whole, followed by one or more glasses of water. Holding that the principal cause of heat exhaustion is the loss of salt from the blood stream through profuse perspiration, Dr. E. R. Harris, Physician at the Cadillac motor car plant is urging shop workers to take from 10 to a dozen of the salt tablets daily.—Henry C. Marble, M. D., Surgical Director, American Mutual Liability Insurance Co. (*Scientific American*, September 1937.)

Crop and Trade Reports.

Cotton Raw in the Madras Presidency. The receipts of loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st February 1937 to 7th September 1937 amounted to 449,926 bales of 400 lb. lint as against an estimate of 533,100 bales of the total crop of 1936-37. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 523,949 bales. 331,999 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 192,184 bales were exported by sea while 86,249 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi and Bombay. (Director of Agriculture.)

Ginger—First forecast report. The area under ginger up to the 25th August 1937 in the Malabar district is estimated at 11,000 acres as against 10,000 acres for the corresponding period of the previous year. The condition of the crop is satisfactory. (Director of Industries.)

College News & Notes.

Students' Corner. The college was closed for the Michaelmas holidays on 15-9-87.

Students' Club. Under the auspices of the Students' Club, Mr. K. N. Aiyah Iyer delivered a lecture on 6-9-37 on his experiences in Russia. Mr. R. S. Sankara Iyer, Retired Dt. Judge, presided. There was a good gathering of students and officers to hear Mr. Aiyah Iyer's lecture which was much appreciated.

Games-Cricket. What turned out to be the most important match of the Y. M. C. A. Cricket tournament was played on the College grounds on the 8th September between the Agricultural College and the Coimbatore Cricket Club and ended in a victory for the college. Both the teams were well represented and a keen fight was anticipated. Winning the toss, the visitors elected to field. The College team lost a wicket before any run was registered but a good partnership between C. Ramaswami and C. N. Baboo changed the aspect of the game. The college were all out for 139 runs of which Ramaswami made 55 and Baboo 27. Thangavelu took 2 wickets for 27, Potts 3 for 62 and Muthuswami 3 for 16. The Club made a promising start but later dwindled down till fresh life was induced by some hectic hitting by Padmanabhan. They were all out for 113, of which Ward (22), Suri (19), Padmanabhan (19 not out) and Natarajan (18), were the chief contributors. The bowling honours were shared by Kodandaraman (4 for 34), C. Ramaswami (3 for 35) and Dinker Rao (2 for 34). The College is now leading all other teams in the tournament and stands the best chance for annexing the Shield.

Games Tour. The Cricket team of the College led by Mr. Shiva Rao has left on a holiday tour of Mangalore, Mercara and Tellicherry where they will be playing a series of matches against local colleges and clubs.

Our members abroad. We are glad to learn that Mr. V. Panduranga Rao, M.A., who went last year for special training under Dr. Weaver of Nebraska, U. S. A., has secured the M. Sc. degree of the University of Nebraska for his thesis on "Ecological Studies on the Roots of Sorghum and Millets". Mr. Rao is expected back in Madras in October '37.