

At the Delta villages in the Ramachandrapur Taluk of the Godaveri District visited in the last week of December, there were to be met some patches of Sunnhemp about 3 feet high with a good uniform stand. Sunnhemp is regularly grown in these parts by a large number of ryots chiefly with the object of providing nourishing fodder for their cattle. A small variety of the seed is sown in the standing crop of paddy a week to ten days before the harvest of paddy in November when there is sufficient moisture in the land, the seed rate being 3 Kunchams or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  Madras Measures per acre. In about a month after sowing, the crop will be about 3 feet high and from this time forward the required quantity of it is cut daily and fed to cattle in a green state for about a month. At two months' old, it will be about 6 feet high and fully in flower when the whole crop is cut and allowed to dry for about a week and then bundled and stacked to be used as dry fodder. While stacking, care is taken to provide a bedding of straw, about 6 feet thick, and a good covering of the same material to prevent any rain water getting into the stack and spoiling the fodder. It is a pleasing sight to see that the Sunnhemp is cut into small pieces and given to young and milch cattle in baskets to prevent wastage. This leads one to think that Sunnhemp might prove a valuable fodder crop when rotated with Cholan under regular irrigation. As cattle seem to possess an instinct of not overloading their stomachs with Sunnhemp, either green or dry, they can be safely fed with as much as they can eat of it in addition to the staple fodder. Converted into hay and cut into chaff, it must form a valuable adjunct to the existing fodders.

A. R. R.

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#### Sugarcane tops for dairy cattle.

Cane tops are the most readily available green fodder on certain estates in Barbadoes and would seem to be a food eminently suited to the production of milk and butter. It is found, however, that a diet of sugarcane tops result in the production of a soft



sandalwood tree such a tangle is necessary to its parasitic root system. K. U. K. M.

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*Deterioration of cane after cutting* :—Canes which are topped high deteriorate sooner than cane cut lower. Not only does high topping lower the purity, but also after cane is cut, it begins to deteriorate, the inversion starting in the green top. According to Browne (Lou : Bull No. 91) the growing parts of the cane contain an inverting enzyme which diffuses down from the green top, into the body of the cane. \* \* \* The tendency to deteriorate is naturally much more marked at the higher temperatures, much depends on the maximum and minimum temperature each day, on the rainfall and probably on the variety of the cane—deterioration of cut cane is much slower in Louisiana than in Java. In the deteriorated cases of canes there was an increase in the percentages of gums and of solids not sugar. \* \* \*

In no case did cut cane deteriorate inside of ten to fifteen days in Louisiana. (Louisiana Planter). K. K. R.

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*Economic value of Sun-flower.* Oil is of great value. Besides being used in some parts for table purposes, it is employed in the manufacture of paint (especially for greens and blues); it also makes soap of great softness. It burns well. The seed is a valuable food for poultry. The seed, shelled and ground, makes very fine sweet flour for bread; if roasted and ground it forms a substitute for coffee. The marc is superior to linseed-cake for fattening cattle. The leaves may be used as fodder either fresh or dry. The flowers are useful in providing honey. By treating the stem of the plant like that of the European flax a very fine fibre, nearly as fine as silk, is produced. Few economic plants, indeed, are more valuable than the sunflower, and it would appear to deserve greater attention for commercial purposes in this part of the Empire. (Journal of Agriculture, New Zealand) K. U. K. M.

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