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 71 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 Cholam 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.

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

butter without grain. This is an undesirable quality in butter because such butter is more difficult to work and to be free from butter-milk. K. K. R. (Agricultural news).

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An interesting matter which I gathered from the ryots of Velladu Village is that the seeds of 'Mullukiluvai' (Balsamodendron Beryii) which are available from Pankuni(March-April) are used for feeding cattle mixed with cotton seed. The seeds are picked from the trees when they are fairly ripe, ground, and mixed with cotton seed and fed to cattle. This is said to be a good nourishing food for working cattle and in milch cattle is said to increase the flow of milk. The practice is said to have been in vogue only for the last 2 or 3 years. In years of scarcity of fodder and straw, it is probable that the ryots had to use all their resources and invent new methods. It was under such circumstances that the use of this was suggested by some one in the village and from that time, the seed is being used with great advantage. W. R.

The Superintendent of the Madras Agri. Horticultural Society's Garden states in his report that he found that a majority of sandal wood (Santalum album) seedlings when transplanted failed to strike root. This high percentage of death of plants was put down to defective potting and hurting the roots; but he has recently noted that the plant is a root parasite obtaining great deal of its nourishment from the roots of other trees so that in transplanting sandal wood tree seedlings a very large ball of earth attached to the roots must be taken up in addition to being careful not to hurt the tap root. In planting the tree it should be placed where the roots can attach themselves to the roots of shrubs growing near by. Most trees object to and suffer from the tangling of the roots of other trees and shrubs, but in the case of

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

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 enzime 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 Lousiana 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 Lousiana. (Lousiana Planter). K. K. R.

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 fattering 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.