

4.	„	R. C. Wood ...	...	...	...	15-0-0
5.	„	Rai Sahib A. Seturama Aiyar, Needamangalam...				15-0-0
6.	„	P. K. Atchen, Adoor Cochin	...	...	...	15-0-0
7.	„	Ananda Rao ...	...	...	...	10-0-0
8.	„	G. Jogi Raju	...	...	...	10-0-0
9.	„	M. R. Ramasami Sivan ...	...	...	...	5-0-0
10.	„	T. S. Venkataraman	...	...	...	5-0-0

Students' Tour, I:—in the Districts of Coimbatore and N. Arcot.

During the last week of August, the Assistant Principal took the Second Year Students on tour. On this occasion, the students spent a week in camp visiting Erode, Tirupathur and Vaniambady. At Erode, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Southern Division with his assistant met the touring party and took it round Erode and Unjalur. The students observed the intensive wet cultivation that is in practice around Erode and made detailed enquiries regarding plantain and turmeric cultivation for which Erode is noted. The importance of the Bhavani River to the Coimbatore District was brought home to the minds of the students and the methods of farming of the greedy ryots in taking three successive paddy crops in a year in certain plots of their holdings protected by the Kalingarayan Channel were most interesting. On account of the intensive wet cultivation ryots have to spend much money and energy in getting green leaves, especially Kolingi, from far off places, and the great necessity of the introduction of green manure crops into that locality was forcibly brought home to the minds of the students. To their pleasant surprise, they found at Unjalur about 20 miles from Erode, an excellent crop of Bengal daincha grown by one, Mr. Subramania Ayyar in accordance with the advice of the Agricultural Department. No doubt the crop at present is only a matter of curiosity to the neighbouring ryots, and the department may have to devote much of its time and energy to its extension before it receives the universal acceptance of the ryots of that locality.

The touring party left Erode after taking leave of the Assistant Director for Tirupathur. This place once belonged to the Salem District, but now forms part of the North Arcot District. On the evening of the 23rd August, students visited Vengalapuram a village about a mile from Tirupathur and made detailed enquiries regarding dry land farming of the locality. They saw crops of ragi, cumbu, varagu, samai, groundnut, red gram and cowpea. Next morning the students went to Damalarimuthoor, a village 3 miles to the north of Tirupathur town and a mile from the foot of the Yellamalai Hills. Here the students spent their time in enquiring about the cultivation of single cropped wet lands protected by rainfed tanks. Detailed enquiries were made about the sugarcane crop of the locality and the students saw the wrapping operation of the crop of which they had heard in their lecture rooms. In the afternoon the party visited Parandapally along the Krishnagiri line to see grape vine cultivation. Students took much interest in learning about its cultivation and valuable information regarding root and shoot pruning was collected. When returning to Tirupathur, the students were fortunate enough to meet their old teacher, M. R. Ry. R. Ramaswami Ayyar Avl., at the Railway Station. Next morning the party in company with Mr. Ayyar visited an oil factory and also observed a chain-pump lifting water in a neighbouring village. In the afternoon the party left Tirupathur for Vaniambady, another important place in the North Arcot District. When a big party moves from place to place, getting suitable accommodation is always a matter for anxiety. Vaniambadi being entirely a Muhammadan town the party would have been put to much inconvenience had it not been for the kindness of Mr. Mahamad Ibrahim Qurashi, the Head Master of the Mahamadan High School at Vaniambady. When the party was moving in search of a suitable resting place, Mr. Qurashi warmly welcomed the party to his newly erected school Hostel and made all necessary arrangements for the convenience of the party. Vaniambady is a beautiful town and a stronghold of the Mussalmans of the Lubbai class. There is a private Mahamadan High School which Mr. Qurashi wants to convert into a Second Grade College. Mr. Qurashi is a man of a quiet exterior with a burning enthusiasm for the uplift of that community. It is a matter for gra-

tification, that Mr. Manikam an ex-student of our College is working in this institution as an agricultural instructor and before long the school authorities intend to attach a small farm to that institution. Let us hope Mr. Manikam will prove worthy of his *Alma mater* in imparting the knowledge which he has gained in the Agricultural College. In taking leave of Mr. Qurashi and his band of workers, we wished them every success in their mission.

Next morning the students were taken to Periapettai, a village in the suburb of Vaniambady. This is a wet area irrigated by spring channels from the Palar river. This river with its branches almost surrounds Vaniambady and its neighbouring villages. Beautiful cocoanut topes are seen along the banks of the Palar and remind one of the palmy groves of the West Coast. Students made detailed enquiries regarding paddy, sugarcane and betel vine cultivation. Tannery refuse forms an important source of manure here, as there is a large trade in hides at Vaniambadi. Excellent crops of sugarcane and betel vine are cultivated by Mohammadan ryots. It was very pleasing to meet here a Mohammadan ryot of liberal views who explained the local cultivation of sugarcane in detail and wanted new varieties of canes yielding higher percentage of jaggery and was much interested in learning about jaggery making at the College Farm. He promised to visit the Farm during the season. This Mohammadan is not only a cultivator but also a merchant who had been out of his village several times to distant places such as Rangoon, and who had come in contact with ryots of several places. This is the main reason why he is so liberal in his views and so different from his brother ryots whose knowledge of the world does not go beyond the limits of their villages. Travelling had such a marvellous effect on the attitude and knowledge of that Mohammadan ryot, what must be the educative value of the Agricultural tours on the students. Mr. Vellodi a brother of one of our ex-students and the Deputy Tahsildar of the place was of great help to us in our stay at Vaniambady. Next day the party returned to Coimbatore from Vaniambady.
