

Tirupur Cattle Show.

I was proceeding to the Show grounds this morning, when I was accosted by a young man in a green coat. I saw several of them all along the main road posted like policemen on duty. On my approaching him, the young man pointed to me a ryot's field close by saying that the working of the improved ploughs was being demonstrated there and that I might be benefited by having a look at the working. I turned my way to the spot when one of my ryot friends joined me. Several ryots thus diverted by these young men also followed. There were already in the field a good many ryots and the number increased enormously in a short time. Some European gentlemen, were also seen here. One of them assisted by Indian Officers, was directing the demonstration and two iron ploughs were working. I questioned my friend what he thought of the iron ploughs. "This would never suit us" was his reply. He said, "Big pairs costing Rs. 300 to 400 will be required for working the plough and he cannot afford the money.

Q. What have you to say regarding its efficiency?

Ryot:—Oh! With my country plough, I can work without any difficulty. The iron plough is very heavy. Two men will be required to carry it. You see they are working it with big pairs. The animals will also require a lot of training. Some firm wants to find a sale for these ploughs. Look at the big Dorais.

While we were thus talking together one of the persons assisting the Dorai overheard us. He asked what our difficulties were. I told him the objections raised by my friend. The officer immediately procured a pair of tiny animals standing close by, yoked them to the iron plough and asked one of his men to work the plough. With some difficulty in the beginning, the animal began to plough all right.

Q. What have you to say, now? the officer asked.

A. The men must be trained to work this plough.

My friend was immediately asked to handle the plough himself which he did with ease; but after every turning he hesitated to follow the officers' instructions which he was induced to do.

The Dorai was also inducing every ryot he can get hold of to handle the plough and to get an idea of its working. We were explained that while the country plough left a space of unploughed land between every two furrows, the iron plough did not, as it turned the slice of earth to one side. The ryots were asked to examine the ploughed portion for any unploughed land. One of the ryots then said that the plough will suit him if the position of the mould board could be changed from left to its right. Every ryot began to repeat this like a chorus. On questioning the ryots, I understood that the work of the mould board puzzled them and that they raised all such objections not trying to know about the correct use and work of the mould board.

I also gathered that these young men so kindly showed us to this ploughing demonstration are the students of the agricultural college and that the demonstration was got up by the Principal, Agricultural College, Coimbatore solely for the benefit of the ryots.

In the afternoon, accompanied by my friend, I proceeded to see the cattle, exhibits etc. After going round and seeing most of the cattle, I asked my friend.

Q. Do you intend buying any cattle.

A. I purchased 3 years back a few pairs and for one of them I paid Rs. 120/- After working this pair of animals for nearly 2½ years. I disposed them of last February for very nearly the same amount.

Q. How did you manage it?

A. The price of animals is going high. I am sorry for having disposed of my animals so cheap.

We met here again the young men in green coats. They were examining closely a pair of working animals.

Q. "Well! Do you intend buying these animals,?" was my question.

A. Yes :—one of them replied—

I want to examine the marks on the animals before I make up my mind. Do you know much about the marks on cattle?

I introduced to them my friend who knows most about the marks. He explained to them all the twelve different marks, took and showed them in different animals. He added which marks are considered good and which bad.

We then found our way into the exhibition grounds with great difficulty as the cattle stands and roads were thronged with visitors for the show. We saw laced cloths, big plantain bunches, big mangoes, and several iron ploughs similar to the one found working in the morning. The man in charge, explained that spares for the wearing parts are available.

			Rs.	A.	P.
Spare point	0	6	0
Spare share	0	12	0
The cost of the iron portion of the plough			15	11	0
and of the wooden portion		...	1	8	0

We heard some of the lectures delivered in the evening. On our way home, I questioned my friend what he gathered from the lectures and how far he would carry the instructions given.

As regards treating cholam against smut, my friend told me he was not prepared to soak the seed in copper sulphate water and people will die if they eat that seed.

Q. How are you going to improve your Cambodia? I asked.

A. Aiyar wants to pull out all uppam and Ladan plants from Cambodia fields. How can we do that? My field will then be vacant and I will get very low yield. Aiyar said one thing. It seems to me to be good.

Q. What was that ?

A. To separate the uppam seed from Cambodia before sowing by means of a sieve. All the uppam seed will drop being small.

Q. Then there will be very few uppam seeds left in the Cambodia at the time of sowing. Is it not ?

A. Yes.

Q. Then you can pull out from the Cambodia field the few uppam plants to keep Cambodia pure.

A. Yes: I can do that.

Q. Did you hear the Aiyar say to pick in the field, good kappas for one's own seed.

A. It seems sound. We do it as regards ragi. We can do the same here too.

Q. Can you do this in your next season crop ?

A. I shall try. You know there is a long way between saying and doing.

Q. What have you to say as regards implements shewn for sowing and for interculturing.

A. We must see them at work. Can you take me to the Coimbatore Farm some day ?

I agreed to his request and I told him that we must wait till the sowing season when we can see the actual sowing and later the interculturing with the bullock power.

16-6-1916.

A VISITOR.

Notes.

Babul Pods as a Tanning Agent:—The above is the heading of a contribution to the May issue of the Indian Industries and Power (Bombay and Calcutta) by Mr. J. P. Srivastava, M. Sc., A. M. S. T.,