

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.

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### Notes.

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*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.,

and the following is extracted. An enquiry and a series of laboratory trials seem to have been undertaken at the suggestion of the Director of Industries, United Provinces, to test the suitability of the pods for tanning purposes on a commercial scale, the trials in the laboratory having so far proved very successful.

Well known tanneries of Cawnpore are large users of Babul bark. The pods contain from 18 to 20 per cent. of tannin while the bark seldom contains anything more than 16 per cent. Though the pods are richer in tannin they have not been able to use the pods because the tan liquor from the pods speedily undergoes deterioration and this seriously affects its property for tanning purposes. This deterioration in the tan liquor does not however affect its value for being successfully used as a mordant for dyeing basic colours on cotton. But in the process of tanning the liquor must stand for a certain number of days during which period it must not go bad.

The experiments conducted have therefore aimed at the prevention or delaying the fermentation of the tan liquor. Carbolic acid has been used for preventing the fermentation of the infusion and the following suggestions are therefore offered after a series of trials.

(1) (a) The use of 0.3 to 0.5% of the crude carbolic acid on the weight of pods used.

The above while not completely preventing the fermentation of the liquor—indeed a certain amount of fermentation goes on and is necessary for successful tanning—is however sufficient to retard fermentation.

(b) Phenazole acidified by acetic acid (0.25%) may also be used in place of carbolic acid.

(2) If the dilution of the tan liquid is increased the percentage of the antiseptics should also be increased proportionately.

(3) Temperature also plays an important part. Below 60 degrees Fah. the tendency to ferment is much reduced. During winter therefore it should be possible to use the pods without any fermentation.

At present the pods do not find any use. When in season only a very small portion of it is used as food for goats and sheep. The pods are said to keep well when dry without undergoing any deterioration in quality. If the industry could therefore be worked as a commercial concern there is no doubt a large demand would at once spring up for the pods and would put some money into the pockets of the ryots for a stuff which at present is largely allowed to go to waste.

(C. N. A.)

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*Crabs Damaging Paddy Crops. A Remedy:* Crabs are known to be a serious pest in paddy tracts of this Presidency, and this was brought to the notice of the Government Entomologist last year and his advice was sought. The matter is under investigation. The following extracted from the *Agricultural News* Barbadoes is worthy of a trial:

“Boil corn meal and stir in about a stick of phosphorus to 8 gallons of meal whilst it is very hot, in order to dissolve the Phosphorus. This mixture is then put out about a dessert spoonful in each hole and the hole plugged with earth or any such material.” It is also stated that Bread-fruit or Bannanas (Plantain) cut to pieces and mashed so as to form a pulpy mass may also be used with the Phosphorus as above. Great care is necessary in handling the Phosphorus as it is extremely inflammable and poisonous. (C. N. A.)

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*Cultivator's method of seed-testing in Behar:* The cultivator's method is a simple affair. The media which he selects for sprouting seeds are the very watery cellular leaf-stalks of the elephant yam or plantain which provide the necessary moisture. These stalks are cut up into convenient lengths, partially split open and the seeds placed in contact with the moist fresh-cut surface. The split portion is then tied up to prevent seeds dropping off. These are then left in a clean cool but damp corner of a room preferably where pots containing drinking water for the household are kept. Usually 16 seeds are put to the test. The seed is considered good with 13 germinations and above, and medium if it does not go below 10, If below 10, it is considered

bad and rejected. Wheat, barley, oats, peas and lentil are usually tested before sowing. (Behar Agricultural Journal.) G. N. R.

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### Games.

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The first *football match* of the term was played in the London Mission Ground between A. C. & R. I., and London Mission High School teams. There was a fairly good number of spectators to witness the game. The match was however evidently one-sided, the Agriculturists having shown their distinct superiority over their opponents on account of their fine combination. After a few minutes the first blood was drawn by Chellam of A. C. & R. I. Play still danced round the Mission goal and Samuel Nallathambi had his share by scoring one more with the help of Venkataraman who made a good pass. The Missions tried their utmost but all their efforts proved fruitless. Kuppuswami the Vice Captain—a new addition to the team kept the other forwards in check. The defence of the day was due to Ramana Rai and Muthuswami. The A. C. & R. I. won the match by two to one.

2. The First *hockey match* for the season was played in the A. C. & R. I. grounds with the Stanes. From the bulley off the home-stead broke away along the left and tested the opponents goal who however defended very well. For the rest of the time the play swayed up and down and both the goals had very many narrow escapes. Our team would have fared well if Mr. Parnell and Ramana Rai were present on that day. Stirred by the cheers of the students and officers witnessing the game the A. C. & R. I. assumed the aggressive during the second half. The Stanes were left winners of the day by 7 to 5.

3. A *hockey match* was played between the past and present students of the Agricultural College in connection with the College day of 1916. The game was fairly well contested and the

team of old students which included two of the European officers, Messrs Hilson and Anstead, put up a tough fight. 15 minutes after the start Dharmalingam pinned the ball to the net. Owing to the fine combination between the forwards of the present team 4 more goals were secured. The past students and officers tried their best to draw their level with the present but the full-back Abishekanathan proved a strong barrier to their progress and eventually the match ended in a win for the present students by 5 to nil.

4. A return *foot-ball match* was played on the A. C. & R. I. grounds between A. C. & R. I. and the London Mission teams. The College team did not do well as it was expected to owing to the absence of some of the good players. Dharmalingam might have exhibited a still better game had it not been for the hit on his leg. He was however able to pass skilfully with Chellam who took advantage of the same and managed to put in a goal. Soon after the opponents scored a goal by a fine corner kick and kept the game in a draw for some time. The central half-back Subrahmanyam made a quick start with the ball and scored a goal to his credit. The opponents made two more goals consecutively and left the A. C. & R. I. team losers of the day. Had it not been for Mr. R. C. wood who was at the goal the result would have been much worse.

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### Departmental Notes.

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Assistant Agricultural Demonstrator M. Raman is on return from the one month's privilege leave granted to him, transferred from the Viruduppatti Circle to the charge of the Government Coconut stations in the West Coast with headquarters at Kasaragad.

K. T. Bhandary Assistant Manager of Agricultural stations, Taliparamba will take charge of the coconut stations till the return of Assistant Agricultural Demonstrator M. Raman from leave.

N. V. Visvanatha Ayyar L. Ag. Assistant Manager of Agricultural Stations is granted an extension of privilege leave for 15 days in continuation of the one month's privilege leave already granted to him.

M. R. Ry., K. Ramiah L. Ag. Assistant in Economic Botany is granted an extension of one week's privilege leave in continuation of the one month's privilege leave already granted to him.

M. R. Ry. V. S. Narayanaswami Ayyar, Assistant Manager of Agricultural Stations is granted an extension of privilege leave for 15 days in continuation of the one month's privilege leave already granted to him.

M. R. Ry., C. V. Seshachari L. Ag. Agricultural Demonstrator is granted an extension of privilege leave for 6 days and leave without allowances for 2½ days in continuation thereof under Art 339 C. S. R.

We are glad to note that G. Duraisami Iyengar L. Ag. has been appointed as Agricultural Instructor in the Pudukota State.