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**The Madras Agricultural Students'
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N. B.—Contributors are requested to send in their contributions written legibly in ink on one side of the paper only.—Editor.

Editorial Notes.

On the 4th of August as the College clock struck 1 P. M., the whole of the A. C. & R. I. estate—students and officers—gathered in the lower hall of the college to celebrate the Anniversary. The ceremony was simple but impressive. The Plough and the Powder are perhaps more opposed to each other than any other pair we can think of, and as such there is a deep significance underlying this celebration. It shows how thorough has been the mobilization of the forces of the Empire on behalf of Honor, Justice and Humanity. Nor has this institution been lagging behind in playing its little part in the great struggle.

The second
Anniversary
of the War.

Standing before a pillar decorated with the *Union Jack* the Principal made a befitting speech which is here reproduced:—

Staff and Students of the Agricultural College, We are met today on the occasion of the second anniversary of the

opening of the present great struggle. Such an occasion does not demand much from me. We are met here with mingled feelings, but of these the chief is perhaps the feelings of *sorrow* due to the appalling loss of life, and the misery and suffering attendant on a war of this nature. We cannot realize the magnitude of this struggle. We have had peace in India and in England so long, that we cannot realise a state of things when law as such does not exist, when a man's house ceases to become his own, when it can be entered against his will, when his honour and his life itself are unsafe. I recently sent to some of you a book dealing with the German atrocities, and I think any one who has read that will realise with thankfulness that his country is at peace, and will do his utmost not only to relieve the suffering which is bound to occur; but also to do his bit—however small a bit—to bring the war to a speedy close.

We have a special cause for grief in the loss of Lord Kitchener, to whose foresight we owe the splendid armies now upholding our cause. We in India, remember too that the re-organisation of the Indian Army which enabled it to be used at the very beginning of the war, was due to his genius and are thankful. But there are other feelings than those of sorrow. There is the feeling of *pride*; pride in the fact that we are all members of an Empire, the like of which the world has never seen. Pride in the fact that this awful world war into which the Empire has been plunged against her will, has shown the soundness of the Empire, and has knit closer the bonds which hold it together. Pride in the behaviour of our troops, whose gallantry in war, and tenderness towards the civil population are in such marked contrast to the behaviour of our enemies.

And the third feeling which I venture to think occupies our minds today, is that of *hope*. It is true that from the first we and our Allies have never despaired of the ultimate victory, though the outlook has at times been black. Still without being

unduly optimistic or unduly elated, we may I think, draw comfort from the events of the past few months. Our foes are still strong and terrible, and the hardest part of our task is yet before us. But there are signs that at last we have caught up Germany and Austria in the years of preparations which they had enjoyed before the war started, and are at last able to decide where and when we shall fight. We have in the past too often been forced to follow our opponents' lead and fight in positions and under conditions which they had selected, but now, thank God! that is over, and we can take the offensive, and look forward to the future with quiet confidence.

It is an inspiring thought that this small assembly, insignificant as it may be, is a link in an organisation which is absolutely world wide, that everywhere throughout this Empire, actuated by the same feelings as have actuated you to gather here, people are assembled to acknowledge their indebtedness to the British Empire and the Flag under which we live and to pray for it in its hour of need. I would ask those of you who will to accompany me outside, and, in the words Mr. Chadwick used on this occasion last year, to join in three cheers for the "*Flag that must prevail!*".

The party then adjourned to the front of the College and as "the Flag that is bound to prevail" was hoisted on high, three cheers were proposed by Dr. Barber and were lustily cheered.

The year's College Day and Conference was a great success, partly because of the larger number of officers deputed from the Districts. Our thanks are due to the Director and the circle officers for this and we hope that we will continue to receive this support. In these days of conferences one is liable to underestimate their value. We firmly believe that a conference like ours goes a great way towards infusing

College Day
and
Conference.

new life into the year's work. We are glad to observe that the conference is steadily growing in importance and has begun to attract the attention of the public at large. Fairly full reports of the proceedings appeared in the leading columns of the important Dailies of South India. We propose to issue a separate Conference Number giving full details of the proceedings of the College Day and Conference.

A much-appreciated item in the programme of the conference was the demonstration of the Ramachandra Waterlift. We specially welcome the invention as a proof that one of the students of this college has been able to do something 'Practical and useful.' We wish the Inventor every success. In our next issue we propose to publish the contribution on the above by the Inventor himself.

The Rama-
chandra
Waterlift.

We had some distinguished visitors during the month. During the first week of August we had the pleasure of welcoming to the college Sir T. Holland, President, Industrial Commission, and Mr. M. E. Couchman I. C. S., our late Director whose interest in our department and its activities has not abated in the least by his separation. This emphasizes the close relationship that is always bound to exist between the Agricultural and the Industrials Departments in the country.

In the second week arrived the Right Hon'ble Claude Hill Revenue and Agricultural member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. The Hon. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S.,

Commissioner of Agriculture, and our Director. We understand that the visit was chiefly in connection with the permanence of the Sugarcane Breeding Station at Chettypalayam. Though run by the Madras Government it is in essence an all India concern the object being to supplant inferior local canes all over India with others capable of yielding a larger amount of gur, jaggery or sugar.

We draw the attention of our readers to the contribution "Students Union" by "Hustle." We do not profess to follow our contributor to the length he suggests in his earnest article but in view of the importance of the subject, we propose to open our correspondence columns to suggestions as to ways in which the funds and activities of the union could usefully be directed.

A contribu-
tion regard-
ing the
Union.

***Insects in Agriculture.**

The Farmer's joy.—The Farmer's Curse.

The biological interrelations between plants and animals are so close that from the very early days when half civilised man gave up his hunting and predatory habits for a settled life and began to grow crops and tend cattle, the various lower forms of life associated with these early possessions of primeval man also became his life-long companions for weal or woe. Gradually, during ages of civilisation as man began to clear wild jungle and grow different crops in large areas for his food, clothing and other comforts, his relations directly and indirectly with lower forms of life became more and more pronounced. Every one of us farmer or no farmer is more or less aware of the casual relations existing between man and lower animals from

*A lecture delivered at the Park Fair Exhibition January 1916.