

The Madras Agricultural Journal

(ORGAN OF THE M. A. S. UNION)

Vol. XXXVI

June 1949

No. 6

Editorial

Model Farms : Speaking at a conference of businessmen of Nagpur Mr. Ratanchand Hirachand, a Bombay industrialist has made the interesting suggestion that the Provincial Governments should in the event of the abolition of the Zamindari system, take over the land themselves and organise agriculture on sound business lines instead of leaving it in the hands of small cultivators. We offer no comment on the political aspect of the question but there is much to be said in favour of large scale farming either by Government or other agencies in the interests of national economy.

The need for exploring the possibilities of organised large scale farming is now greater than ever before, as according to the final decision of the Government of India, all food imports should cease by 1951.

Two factors more than any other have been responsible for the slow progress of the Agricultural Industry in this country. They are lack of capital for investment on improvement of land and its scientific cultivation on modern lines and lack of enterprise on the part of cultivators, an inevitable consequence of their general poverty. The high cost of modern agricultural machinery and equipment the risk involved in taking up new methods precluded the ordinary cultivator from deriving any benefit whatsoever from the progress of agricultural research. The situation is not much changed even to-day in spite of strenuous efforts for the last few years, of the entire Governmental machinery to make him interested in agricultural improvements. The plantation crops like Tea and Coffee and Tobacco in the Circars have been raised on commercial lines and yielded high dividends, showing what capital and organisation could do to make farming a paying proposition. Recent developments in the Coimbatore District where large scale farming has been attempted by individuals with adequate capital at their disposal have shown that farming even

of food crops will pay in the long run if proper attention is paid to permanent land improvement. In these cases production has been increased manifold and both the owners of the land and the community at large have been benefitted. No attempt has been made by Government in any of the Provinces so far, as we are aware, to raise crops on a commercial basis. All the Agricultural stations and Government Farms have been maintained either for research or educational purposes.

The time appears opportune for undertaking large scale enterprise in commercial farming both by Government and other agencies with adequate capital and a capacity for organisation. The Agricultural Colleges are turning out each year more Graduates than could be absorbed by the Agricultural Departments, and these would provide the technical personell required to run these farms.

Large farms run on modern lines by Government, besides bringing increased returns themselves would be serving as model farms to other cultivators, who are now apathetic towards improved agriculture. The country as a whole will therefore benefit by this enterprise.

The suggestion of Mr. R. Hirachand would therefore appear to merit the serious consideration of the Government.



Effect of S of K

At the Mil
very badly infeste
sandy loams. Th
was harvested to
deep ploughed
turn-wrest ploug
varied from 7
plough. The
unploughed land
(i.e. about 45 da
received no culti
and wind had t
temperatures du
with the rainfall

Month	Maximum
-------	---------

January	84.5
February	90.1
March	95.7

There
this condition
field retained
the field. 10
random on 9-
also picked on
both the sets
picked from