

The Madras Agricultural Journal

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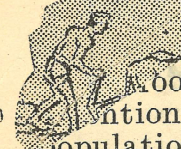
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Editorial

The Thirty-second College Day and Conference: The annual College Day and Conference was a great success. The conference had for the main topic of discussion, "How best to translate the results of research into farming practices" and a number of interesting papers dealing with the various aspects of the problem were contributed. The Premier of Madras who inaugurated the conference after analysing the various causes that led to the present food situation in the country, dwelt on the steps taken by the present Government towards the improvement of the conditions of the agriculturist and emphasised the need for making an all-out effort to reach the target of self-sufficiency within the prescribed time limit of two years. He exhorted the public servants, especially the members of the Agricultural department to approach the cultivator in a spirit of service and sympathy rather one of patronage and power, in order to "harmonise the result of researches in the laboratories with the traditional ways of cultivators". It is significant that not only the Premier but also the Minister for Agriculture and the Director of Agriculture laid emphasis on the need for the right approach to the ryot as the first essential towards successful propaganda in agricultural matters. All the three stressed that the Indian ryot in spite of his illiteracy and poverty is not so ignorant of agricultural matters as he was supposed to be by superficial observers. The members of the Agricultural department more than any others are fully aware of this fact and we suppose it was the patronising and superior attitude assumed by the foreign experts in the earlier years that has led to the general belief that the 'Scientific Exper' is belittling the agricultural knowledge of the Indian Cultivator. But, nevertheless, it is well to be reminded of the fact and we would request the younger members of the department to make a special note of this advice.



A. B. Shetty in his speech dwelt on an aspect of the food problem which has not yet received sufficient attention on all hands, that is, the regulation of the population in relation to available food supplies. In a country like India the problem is both a delicate and difficult one, but one, which merits more attention and thought than it receives at present.

The Minister for Agriculture and the Director of Agriculture emphasised on the need for allocation of a greater share of the provincial revenue towards agricultural development. The allotment of Rs. 1.36 crores forming only 2.4% of the total revenue is all too meagre for doing justice to the most important industry of the province. The present food crisis has brought to the forefront the price we have to pay for neglecting agriculture and we hope that the days of treating agriculture as the Cindrella of Administration are once for all passed.

The several papers that were read at the Conference were unanimous that more demonstration farms should be opened where the ryot could see for himself the results achieved by research and take up such of those improvements he felt convinced would lead to improved returns on his lands.

Second year of Independence: Two years have passed since the country has gained Independence. In this short period the country had to face great tribulations and trials. Millions of our people had to undergo untold hardships as a result of the partition. Mahatma Gandhi was killed but thanks to the ability and steadfastness of its present leaders, the country has weathered the storm and has survived the ordeal. The Food Problem is now facing us and the Prime Minister of India has immense faith in her people and we have no doubt that they will not let him down.

