

THE THIRTY-SECOND COLLEGE DAY AND CONFERENCE



The thirty-second College Day and Conference organised by the Madras Agricultural Students' Union was held this year from 30th July to 2nd August 1949 under the distinguished presidency of the Hon'ble Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, M.L.A., Premier, Government of Madras. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Sri A. B. Shetty, M.L.A. was also kind enough to be present and open the Agricultural Exhibition arranged in connection with the College Day and Conference. Sri R. M. Sundaram, M.A., I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Madras, the regional Deputy Directors of Agriculture, and nearly all the District Agricultural Officers of the Department were present and participated in the Conference proceedings.

The Conference commenced at 10-30 A.M. on Saturday the 30th July 1949 with a welcome speech by the Principal Sri M. C. Cherian. The Secretary of the Union then moved the following resolution "The Madras Agricultural Students' Union Coimbatore places on record its profound and deep sense of sorrow at the tragic end of Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder-keen Agriculturist in Coimbatore District and an old patron of the Union. The resolution was passed, all those present standing in silence for two minutes.

The Secretary, Sri K. Meenakshisundaram, then read out the messages received by the Union, from many of its well-wishers, followed by the reading of the Annual Report of the Managing Committee for the year 1948-49. Prizes were then distributed by the President, to the various prize-winners of the Agricultural College during the academic year ending June 1948.

The President then delivered his address, where he made an eloquent appeal to all to bend their energies towards solving the present food crisis. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture followed this speech by the Premier, by another thought-provoking address before declaring open the Agricultural Exhibition at 12 noon.

The Second Session commenced at 2 P. M. with Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, M.A., M.L. M.L.A. in the chair in the unavoidable absence of the Premier and the Director of Agriculture Sri R. M. Sundaram, opened the discussion and a number of very interesting papers were then read as part of a Symposium on "Transmission of Research-How best to translate the results of Research into General practice". After eight papers had been read, the subject was thrown open for discussion and the view points of the general public were expressed by Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder, Sri V. C. Subbiah Gounder, Sri P. S. Balarama Raju and Sri C. L. Soundararajan. Sri Avinashilingam Chettiar then wound up the first day's proceedings with a short but eloquent speech.

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On the night of 30th July, the Union arranged for a Variety Entertainment. On Monday the 1st August the Conference was resumed at 8 A.M. and a number of papers were read. Owing to the large number of papers that had to be presented within a limited time, all speakers were requested to give a condensed talk on salient points without reading their papers in full. This had the effect of not only saving time but also of keeping the discussion to the essential points. The public session of the Conference came to an end at 12 noon on Monday the 1st August, with the President's concluding remarks; the subsequent two sittings - one between 2-4 P.M. on Monday the 1st August and another between 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on the 2nd August, being in the nature of a Departmental Officers' Conference, for discussion of specific issues and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Grow-More-Food Campaign in daily practice. On the evening of the 2nd, the Union conducted the Annual College Sports and Tea. The Championship Cup for the best athlete was secured by Sri V. N. Lakshmanan of class II. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, A. B. Shetty was present during all the sessions and evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the Conference.

Principal's Welcome Speech.

The Hon'ble Premier, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Director of Agriculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Principal and President of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union it is my proud privilege to extend to you all a cordial welcome to this - the thirty-second College Day and Conference. Our grateful thanks are due to the Hon'ble Premier - Sri Kumaraswami Raja - for graciously accepting our invitation to preside over this function. The very fact that he found time to come to us amidst his many pressing engagements, shows how deeply interested he is in matters pertaining to the welfare of the ryot. We are also thankful to Sri. A. B. Shetty, our Minister for Agriculture, for consenting to declare the Exhibition open. As an agriculturist himself, he can speak with authority on matters agricultural and there is no doubt that with him at the helm of affairs the destiny of the Department is in safe hands. We also express our thanks to Sri. R. M. Sundaram, Director of Agriculture, for his great interest in the affairs of the Union. Prior to his appointment as Director he has been connected with the Agricultural Department as Additional Secretary and therefore has a good knowledge of the problems confronting us.

The food problem is the most important problem of the day. The Prime Minister of India in his message to the Nation has appealed for co-operation in the drive for food production which is "ultimately a war

against poverty and ignorance, against malnutrition and high prices". The Director of Agriculture has at the recent press interview at Madras indicated the several measures which are being taken up for increasing food production. We can assure the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture that the officers of the Department will do their best to tackle the food problem.

The subject of last year's symposium was "The food crisis and its solution", when the different Research Officers gave an account of the work done by them with a view to increasing food production by different methods such as breeding for high yielding strains, proper manuring, application of cheap and efficient ways of combating pests and diseases, etc. It is not enough if better strains are produced and better methods of control of pests and diseases are devised but the information obtained has to be taken to the very doors of the agriculturist. This year's symposium is on "How best to translate the results of research to general farming practices". In the papers which will be read at the conference an attempt is made to review the present methods of propaganda and see how far these can be improved upon. It is hoped that as many members as possible will take part in the discussion and give us the benefit of their experience.

An Exhibition has also been arranged for this occasion in the Research Institute and the Central Farm. This gives an opportunity to the public to study the nature of the work done by the Department. Arrangements have been made to explain the exhibits to those who visit the Exhibition.

This year, the British Information Services have kindly consented to loan some of their films on agricultural topics for display here. I am sure that films of this nature will be of great help in educating the public in agricultural matters.

The results of the B. Sc. (Ag) Degree Examinations have been very satisfactory. Out of the 106 candidates including reference students who appeared for the Final Examination 104 have come out successful. I take this opportunity to congratulate them and particularly Sri A. Appa Rao, for winning three medals - Robertson medal for proficiency in Agriculture, Kees medal in Agricultural Chemistry and Raghunatha Rao Medal for the highest number of marks in practical agriculture in all the terminal and final Examinations.

In this connection, I may be permitted to say a word about our Agricultural Graduates. The B.Sc. (Ag) is a three-year course where intensive training both in theoretical and practical agriculture and allied subjects is given. The University of Madras recognises this degree as

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equivalent to B.Sc. Hons. or B. A. Hons. Hence it is but fair that the Government should consider the graduates of this College to be on a par with Hons. graduates for recruitment to services and not on a par with B.A. or B.Sc. as recently announced by Government.

I would also like to make another request and that is regarding the Madras Agricultural Journal. The publication of this, is a major activity of the Union. The Journal is an important link between the Agricultural Department and the Public. While thanking the Government for the small subsidy they have given us it may be mentioned that it is not possible with this amount to effect much improvement in the get-up of the Journal. Hence I request the Minister for Agriculture to consider favourably the grant for an enhanced subsidy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you once again for your presence here. Let us hope that as a result of our deliberations it will be possible to devise ways and means of helping to solve the food problem.

Report by the Secretary.

The Hon'ble Premier, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Director of Agriculture, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Managing Committee of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union have great pleasure in presenting their report for the year 1948-49.

It is of good augury for the Union that it has been able to secure the presence of two members of the cabinet on this occasion and we take it as a recognition by Government of the importance of our annual conference in the development of progressive agriculture in our province. A number of distinguished men have graced this conference before, but it is for the first time, the Union has been fortunate in getting the Premier of the Province to preside over its annual deliberations. Moreover, apart from his interest in our affairs in his capacity as Premier Sri. Kumaraswami Raja has all along been a well-wisher of the Madras Agricultural Department. A keen and practical agriculturist himself, he has been in close touch with our activities long before he assumed the responsibilities of office and we believe he is one of those few public men who can speak with first-hand knowledge on matters pertaining to the agriculturist and his relation with the Department.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Sri. Shetty, though perhaps, a comparative stranger to the activities of our Department, if we may say so, is a member of an important agricultural community and we take it that in spite of his sojourn in other spheres, he is at heart an agriculturist

and could therefore be expected to take more than a mere administrative interest, in the progress of scientific agriculture in this Province. The Union is extremely grateful to both of you Sirs, for the honour done to it by your presence here to-day.

It is a regrettable fact, that the food problem which has been with us, ever since the first years of World War II has not yet been solved and in spite of great efforts, we have succeeded only to a limited extent in augmenting our own production and we are still dependent on foreign imports to provide even the absolute basic minimum requirements of the nation. True, we have been able to avert actual famine and death by starvation and this by all means is no small achievement in itself in a large country like ours and when considered in the background of the world situation, to-day. But the fact has to be faced that a large mass of our population, not excluding the well-to-do class, is in a state of chronic under-nourishment and we can ill-afford to continue our dependence on other countries for the supply of the basic necessities of mere existence. Rightly therefore have our leaders stressed the need for directing all our thoughts, energy and resources towards solving this vital problem of food to the exclusion of everything else.

The nation has been asked to expect no further food imports from foreign countries after the year 1951 and the Prime Minister of India has appealed to the nation to concentrate its attention on this problem. We, the members of the Department, are fully aware of the very great responsibility we have to shoulder in the coming years in order to fulfil the expectation of our leaders and to implement the policies and programmes set down by Government. May we take this opportunity, to assure you Sir, and through you the people of this Province, that we would do our utmost not merely as men paid to do their job but as willing and zealous workers in the great national cause and be proud of the part we are asked to play in this great task.

It is a welcome sign of the times, that the agriculturist, long neglected and taken for granted is at long last being recognised as the most important factor in our national economy and is becoming the centre of attention on the part of the Government and the people. The various legislative enactments of recent times we note with pleasure, have been sponsored with a view to improving the lot of the tiller of the soil and helping him to attain a higher standard of life and raising him to a plane where his voice would be heard with respect and his influence felt. We have no doubt, that the test of this nation's progress lies in how far it has succeeded in bettering the conditions of the agriculturist in the village, for on him depends, more than any other, the future welfare of this Country.

We will not, Sirs, burden you with a catalogue of our grievances as is customary on occasions like these. But we would refer to one or two matters pertaining to the working of the Department which merit your attention. The members of the Union feel that it should be no longer necessary, that the technical staff should be burdened with work relating to the various trading schemes, a work which was necessitated during the period of war. We are glad to note that the Government have accepted this principle and we would request, that as early as exigencies of administration would permit that the responsibility of operating the trading schemes should be transferred entirely from the Taluk Demonstrator.

Another matter in which the Union is interested in, is the welfare of the graduates of the two Agricultural Colleges of the Province. We regret to note, that at a time like the present, when the services of these men should be utilised to the fullest extent in the interest of the Province, a large number of them are not employed or employed in avocations where their special training could not be made use of. Their absorption in the Revenue and other Departments would help a little, but we have to stress, that the best way to utilise them is in the Agricultural Department itself and as long as candidates are available from among the *alumni* of the two colleges, for filling up vacancies in the various branches of the Department, they should be given preference over others, as a rule.

May we, in this connection, point out that the degree course in Agriculture in this Province is taken three years after passing the Intermediate examination in Arts and the syllabus prescribed covers a wide range of subjects like Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Engineering, Agricultural Economics and Animal Husbandry in addition to Agriculture. The hours devoted to the study of the science subjects are not less than in the B.A. or B. Sc. degree pass course and we may add, Sir, that the practical training imparted in the two agricultural institutions in our Province is more intensive and strenuous than in the Arts Colléges. For these reasons, our graduates claim that their degrees should be considered on a par with the Honours degree of the University for purposes of recruitment to public Services.

At present, the competitive examinations held by the Federal Public Service Commission for recruitment to the All India General Administrative and Audit Services are not open to the Agricultural Graduates and we crave your indulgence and make a respectful request that a representation may be made to the Central Government on this matter.

The Madras Agricultural Students' Union : The Union was founded in the year 1911 and was originally intended as an organisation to bring together in a common bond of interest the past students of Saidapet

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Institution and the past and present students of the Coimbatore Agricultural College and to this list has now been added, the old and new students of the Bapatla Agricultural College. It has, through the last three decades, been able to widen its scope of usefulness and stands to-day in its 38th year of its existence claiming as an organisation which serves not merely as an Old Boys' Association but as a link between the Department and the public.

Finance: Owing to the enforced interruption of its activities during the period of war, the financial position of the Union, none too secure even in pre-war years, considerably worsened and the high cost of printing and paper would have made it impossible for the Committee to run the journal during the year, but for the timely aid of the Government with a grant of Rs. 1,800/-, which partly meets our heavy expenditure. The Union takes this opportunity to place on record its sense of gratitude to the Government and the Director of Agriculture for this great help rendered to the organisation. In this connection, we have also great pleasure in recording the appreciation of the Committee for the readiness with which the students of both the agricultural colleges consented to have their subscription enhanced, at its request.

The stability of an organisation depends on its financial security and to the extent we prove ourselves worthy of Government support the Committee is sure that the Government will help us. For this we need the active co-operation of all the members of the Department to the fullest possible extent and we appeal to such of those who have not yet enrolled themselves as members and those who have discontinued their membership during the past few years, to join the Union forthwith and strengthen the organisation.

Conference: The celebration of the Annual College Day and the Organisation of an Agricultural Conference is one of the main activities of the Union. The Thirty-First Annual College Day and Conference was celebrated last year from 27th July to 1st August. The Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon, then Minister for Agriculture, presided over the Conference. A symposium on "The Present Food Crisis and its Solution" was organised for the Conference, in which many prominent workers in the field, official and non-official participated. Besides the usual items such as sports, entertainments, etc., an agricultural exhibition demonstrating the various activities of the Department was also organised for the benefit of the visitors and the public. A detailed account of the proceedings of the celebrations has already appeared in the August number of the Madras Agricultural Journal.

May we, in this connection, respectfully submit that the purpose of this Conference would be better served, if a number of subordinates along with a few representatives of the Bapatla College also are deputed to attend it. It is essential that periodical opportunities should be afforded to

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the mofussil workers to contact the parent institution and we hope that the slight extra expenditure involved would not stand in the way of Government granting our request. In making this request, we may be permitted to point out that on previous occasions the deputation of quite a large number of subordinates was a regular feature and we will be reverting only to an established practice which was interrupted during the war years.

The Madras Agricultural Journal : Besides celebrating the Annual College Day and conducting the Agricultural Conference the-all-the-year activity of the Union is the publication of the Madras Agricultural Journal. We are glad to record that the Journal continued to maintain the high standard associated with it. We are proud to note that research workers in departments and institutions outside our Presidency, have come to feel that our Journal has a place among the scientific journals of the world and are seeking its aid for the publication of the results of their research activities. It has on its exchange list a wide range of publication from many places both India and foreign. The present get-up of the journal allows considerable scope for improvement and we therefore request that the Government may be pleased to enhance the present subsidy to at least Rs. 4,000/- to make the Journal more attractive.

Our New Patrons : We are glad that Sri P. Karuthiruman, B. Sc. of Nanjaipuliampatti, and K. Venkataswami Naidu, B. A., B. L. of Coimbatore have become patrons of our Union during the year.

Obituary : We recorded with deep regret the premature and tragic demise of Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder, M. L. C., Coimbatore, an old patron and well-wisher of our Union. He never missed a conference and was taking an active part in our deliberations. We feel his absence this year. We take this opportunity to convey our condolence to the bereaved family.

Acknowledgment : It is now our pleasant duty to record our thanks to all those who have helped the Union during the year. To the Hon'ble Sri. K. Madhava Menon, the Union owes a debt of gratitude for presiding over the last year's conference and to Mrs. Kuttimalu Amma, our thanks are due for distributing the prizes and declaring the Agricultural Exhibition open. To Sri. M. C. Cherian, who as ex-officio President has identified himself with the Union and Sri. P. V. Ramiah, who have given us his help and co-operation in our contact with the Bapatla Agricultural College, the Managing Committee offers its heartfelt thanks for guiding the affairs of the Union during the year. To Sri. M. S. Sivaraman, I. C. S., former Director of Agriculture and to Sri. R. M. Sundaram, I. C. S., O. B. E., the present Director of Agriculture, the Committee tenders its grateful thanks for their sympathy and help rendered to the Union. To all those ladies and gentlemen who helped to make the last Conference a success and helped the Committee during the year in many ways, our thanks are herein recorded.

The Hon'ble Premier's Presidential Address*Gentlemen and friends,*

I deem it a unique pleasure and privilege to be called upon to preside over this function, celebrating the 32nd College Day and Conference, under the auspices of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union. My association with this function, might be deemed significant, in more than one respect. That I was Minister for Agriculture three years ago, having had concern over the Department of Agriculture and that I now happen to be the Premier of the Province, would be taken as factors bearing significance in my association with today's function. But to me, however, those factors do not appear to be of significance in relation to today's function; because, anything done in the capacity as Minister or Premier, goes as the discharge of one's own duty; and therefore, those circumstances would not bear any special significance so far as my association with today's function is concerned. But what fills me with immeasurable pride and pleasure and what appears to me as of special significance, is the fact that an ordinary ryot and agriculturist, that I am, should be called upon to preside over this function, celebrated by the premier Agricultural Institution of this Province. So, I take the invitation to me for this function, not only as an honour done to me personally as an agriculturist, but also an honour done to millions of agriculturists in our land. In 1926, I had the pleasure of attending the annual festival of yours; I recollect the days that I spent here happily, visiting the several farms here and attending several functions in the programme of celebration of the Annual Day and Conference. Little did I expect then that 23 years afterwards I would get the honour of occupying the presidential seat in the annual day celebrations.

I view this annual day and conference as a festival for agriculturists. The fate of the agriculturist depends upon the fate of the agriculture-industry, for the progress and development of which this institution lives and works for. Agriculture has been from the very early times the mainstay for our people in this country. Even today, it remains as the backbone of our country's prosperity. The wave of industrialisation, accelerated by modern science and scientific inventions, which has passed through certain leading countries of the world and put them in the vanguard of industrial progress, has not had much effect so far as India is concerned. In those advanced countries, the natural wealth available to them by means of agriculture, has been supplemented, to a very great extent, by fresh acquisitions of wealth, earned through other industries; and thus they are rendered not only self-sufficient but also placed in a position of abundance and prosperity. In the industrially advanced countries, even the agriculture-industry has been modernised and brought up to date by adoption of the modern scientific contrivances for the improvement of

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agriculture. We have seen how a country like Japan, which had no record to boast of, about half a century ago in its agricultural industry, came to occupy the forefront in agricultural wealth, as a result of her adopting modern and scientific methods of agriculture with tremendous effort and sustained application. Maintaining agriculture, as a successful and prosperous industry and the large-scale production of agricultural produce, were targets aimed at by those countries, in their schemes for national regeneration and economic prosperity. Those advanced countries, independent as they are, have worked their schemes on a well-planned basis, with patriotic zeal and desire, to provide food for their people, by improving their country's natural wealth, and putting them in prosperity.

But in India, the tale is different. Here the factors responsible in keeping agriculture as a plant of stunted growth are many. The indifference of the ryots to take up to modern and scientific ways of cultivation, their poor investing capacity, the vagaries and vicissitudes of the seasons, and other kindred factors, have been the main obstacles against planned cultivation and agricultural development. These factors, deplorable as they are, ought to have stirred the Government into action; and any Government functioning for the good of the people, could not afford to be indifferent to the need for taking steps for the early liquidation of such obstacles or handicaps in the improvement of our country's natural wealth. But, having been subject to foreign rule, how could we expect the foreign bureaucratic Government to throw themselves heart and soul in schemes of development of industries including Agriculture for the benefit of our people? What little they did, for the improvement of agriculture in our country, was done by them more to meet the needs of export of produce essential to their own country than to look to our benefit. The attention of the foreign rulers was bestowed more on the improvement of the commercial crops which were to feed the factories in their own country. To bring more land under the plough, for increasing the production of foodgrains like paddy and millets etc., did not form the foremost among the items in the scheme of agricultural development carried out by them. Commercial crops like cotton, tobacco, etc., have engaged their attention more than foodgrains; because feeding their own mills and factories in Britain, was more important to them, than feeding our people.

Under the foreign rule, our country's rural economy was on the wane, and the general standard of living among the villagers who were mostly ryots and agriculturists, was on the decline. Want of self-sufficiency has become the normal feature in the food position in our country. So much so, seasonal failures could not be stemmed over easily, unless by the import of foodgrains from other countries. Up to the outbreak of recent world-war, our people were not really conscious of the

deplorable condition in the food production in our country, as the insufficiency was made up by imports of foodgrains from other countries. But the outbreak of the war, has made us fully conscious of the precariousness of our position in the matter of food production. The seriousness of the food situation has been accentuated tremendously, during the war years and even after, which we are experiencing very bitterly even today. The countries, on which we have been depending very for the imports of foodgrains, have been cut off from us, the inevitable consequences of the world-war. The war, causing disturbance in the agricultural industry in those countries and causing also tremendous dislocation in international trade, and thus depriving us of our usual sources of import of food grains, has rendered our country's food problem, more deplorable. We were hoping that the cessation of the world-war would bring relief to us; but the events have proved otherwise. The termination of the war, has only made our food position, more acute.

The increase in population, with no corresponding increase in food supply, is another factor, that has rendered the food problem more serious. Furthermore, the partition of our country, with the consequent loss of large food-producing tracts, of Sind and the Punjab, has also brought strain to the already strained food-problem. And this is the heritage that we had to take up on our assumption of independence. An independent nation, as we are today, we can not afford to be indifferent, to the food-problem which is acute. The attainment of freedom has tremendously enhanced our responsibility to find out an escape from it. We could not afford to be blind or insensitive, to the vital need of the day; everyone of us, who has at heart, the well-being and the economic prosperity of our people, should seriously think of getting over the situation facing us. We should proceed on a planned scheme of cultivation, for production of more food, by setting before us a time-limit, within which we should endeavour to reach the target of self-sufficiency and make ourselves independent in food production. In this endeavour the Governments alone cannot find solution of the problem, in the absence of the willing co-operation of the people themselves. It is the declared policy of the Central Government that the food imports from outside countries should be stopped after 1951. To hit the target of self-sufficiency in food within the said time limit, the Provinces have been asked to step up food production. Several schemes, aiming at production of more food, have been sponsored by our Provincial Government.

The well-subsidy scheme is already at work. Under the subsidising system, a large number of wells have been brought into existence in dry tracts and districts, which are not favoured with any river and canal irrigation systems. The uncertainty of the seasonal conditions leave the ryots in those areas to the tender mercy of fate. In those areas, wells

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form a very valuable supplement as a source for irrigation. That the well-subsidy scheme is a very benevolent measure from the point of view of the ryots, there can be no doubt. But the success of any scheme, however well-meant or benevolent it be, depends also on the co-operation of the ryots, for whose benefit it is intended. It is deplorable and even painful to hear of some instances of abuse made under the well-subsidy scheme. It is brought to our notice that in certain cases with the subsidies got from the Government, wells were not dug at all and that they were shown only on paper. Such complaints, if true, would only speak of the dishonesty and treachery, on the part of those, who are parties to the perpetration of such fraud on the State funds, and who for that reason should be treated as the enemies of the nation. They do great disservice to the country at a time when every individual should strain his nerve to put forth all his effort to tide over the national emergency, namely the semi-starvation of our people by reason of food insufficiency. In curbing such misdoings and dishonest methods, the responsibility lies on both officials and non-officials. The latter particularly should take a leading part in bringing the wrong-doers to book, as they should realise that their cause would suffer by the misdeeds of a few persons.

The grant of subsidies to the wells is not the only benevolent scheme sponsored by the Madras Government. The passing of an enactment recently by the Madras Legislature for the improvement of tanks, water-courses and other sources of irrigation, is also another step, towards the improvement of food production. The object of this legislation is to ensure the availability of more water for irrigation. You are also aware of the Agricultural Bill proposed by the Madras Government, which has been recently published in the papers for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon. The main object underlying the bill is to create an urge in the actual cultivator of the soil for intensive cultivation and for increased output of foodgrains and other agricultural produce, and also for bringing under the plough vast tracts of land that still remain fallow. Of course, some of the provisions of the Bill may look objectionable, particularly from the point of view of absentee landlordism. But when you are engaged in tackling a problem of vital importance, namely the increase of food production for feeding the people and make our country self-sufficient in that respect, rights of individuals should yield in favour of the general good to the community as a whole. I request the public to help our endeavours by offering well-informed and constructive criticism of the Agricultural Bill, for our guidance and action. You may rest assured, that our Provincial Government, are not going to leave any stone unturned, in the matter of finding a solution to the food problem.

I appeal to you—those in the Department of Agriculture, and those who are undergoing courses of studies and training, in the Agricultural Colleges and who are to take up their places in the machinery of the

Agricultural Department—to realise the great responsibility hanging on us. The responsibility, though a collective one, is to be borne by every individual; and every individual has to play his part in implementing the schemes of the Government, aiming at the well-being and prosperity of the people. Whatever be the policies propounded by the Government, the agency charged with the function of executing those policies, the yourselves, namely those in service in the Department of Agriculture, are those interested in Agriculture. Therefore, you should be actuated with patriotism and a high sense of duty. There must be conjoint work done in a spirit of co-ordination for the common good of the people.

The functions of the State are executed through the several departments of the Government, each of which makes its own quota of service for the community. But the function of the Agricultural Department is, I can say, the most vital of all; because it is concerned with the production of food and more food, for the people. Not only food production but also production of other agricultural products on which depends the development of many industries, are matters to be thought of, shaped and guided by you. No doubt, the Agricultural Department in the very nature of its functions may not admit of wielding power over the people as some other departments do. But is the wielding of power, the criterion to judge the usefulness of the department? Your function, being one concerned with the production of food and supply of life and energy of the people, would your department, engaged in such benevolent function, be considered any the less important, merely for the reason that there is no wielding of power associated with it?

I earnestly appeal to those of you in service and especially those who are in touch with the ryots and cultivators in the villages, to discharge your duties in a spirit of service to the community. Your task may look arduous at times. The people, with whom you have to move day in and day out, are mostly rural folk. While you are in their midst, you must make them feel that you are one among them, so that your advices may be received by them, in a homely spirit. By your patience, kindness and perseverance, you should try to convince the ryots, of the need for the adoption of modern methods of cultivation, the use of modern implements, the use of good seeds, the application of manure, and the rearing of crops and plants in general in scientific ways. You should move among the villagers with the heart and mind of a missionary, having a great mission to fulfil.

I should, however, like to give you a word of caution, cautioning you not to proceed on the assumption that the ryot knows nothing of agriculture. You should know that there are certain good aspects found in their own method of cultivation which they have gained as a result of their traditional experience, in the course of ages. If the young

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demonstrator, in his enthusiasm to take credit for his learning at the college, begins to teach the villagers the first lessons in botany, he is more likely to earn contempt than credit from the villagers; because the ryots, though unaccustomed to certain modern methods and implements of agriculture, have, as pointed out already, some good aspects to their credit, resulting from their traditional experience in agriculture. Your function should be, how best to harmonise the results of your researches in the laboratories, with the traditional ways of cultivation practised by the ryots. If anything done by the ryots of a particular area or locality appeals to you as a good method in agriculture, you should not be slow to accept it. You should study it with a critical mind backed up by your scientific knowledge and learn for yourself the causes and aspects that contribute to the superiority of that particular method. And you should try to popularise that method in other places also. Assimilation of anything and everything that is found to be good, should be the guiding principle, in your evolving a practical and useful system, which will ensure good results.

As to how exactly you are to bring about the harmonious combination of your scientific knowledge gained at the colleges with the practical and traditional methods of cultivation carried on by the ryots, you are a better authority to say than myself; because you are trained experts. An occasion like this should offer a splendid opportunity for the members of the Agricultural Department and others interested in agriculture to meet in conference and discuss matters of common interest, particularly those relating to the problem of food production, which is the vital need of the hour. All of you shall pool your knowledge and experience and co-ordinate with each other towards the common end; and I hope that this conference shall prove an eventful one in that direction.

In your annual report you have drawn the Government's attention to certain matters, which, it is stated require rectification. With regard to your representation that it is no longer necessary that the technical staff should be burdened with work relating to various trading schemes, I am in agreement with you. The Government will see to the transfer of responsibility of operating the trading schemes from the Taluk Agricultural Demonstrators. With regard to the employment of the graduates of the Agricultural College in other departments of the Government, there is at present no bar existing against their recruitment to those departments, as the agricultural degree is recognised as a qualification for the selection of candidates for Government service.

You have also represented that at present the competitive examinations held by the Federal Public Service Commission for recruitment to the All-India General Administrative and Audit Services, are not open to Agricultural Graduates. I am not aware of the

existence of any such bar imposed by the Federal Public Service Commission with regard to Agricultural Graduates. If it exists, I should think that it is really a hardship to the Agricultural Graduates. It is high time that steps taken are to see to the removal of such a bar; and you can count upon the assistance and support of the Madras Government in any move in that direction. With regard to the absorption of the Agricultural Graduates in the various branches of the Agricultural Department, there can be no doubt that the Agricultural Graduates should be given preference. That principle stands to reason and fairness. You have also referred to certain other matters in the report. I may say that I shall bestow my close attention on those matters and do whatever is possible.

In conclusion I thank you for your kindness to me.

The Hon'ble A. B. Shetty, M. L. A., Minister for Agriculture's Speech

Ladies and Friends,

We are meeting at a time when Agriculture and Food Supply has become the major problem of the day. The world is passing through a troubled period of its history. According to Aldous Huxley the human race is facing a double crisis to-day—a political and economic crisis at an upper level and another crisis in population and world resources at a lower level. The immediate causes of the upper level crisis are the economic breakdown due to the last world war and the struggle for power between the two groups of nations led by America on one side and Soviet Russia on the other. The crisis in population and world resources intensifies the crisis on the political and economic levels and leads to greater rivalry between the two power blocs for the possession of the earth's resources. A recently published book called 'Road to Survival' has attracted a great deal of notice in thinking circles. It sounds a note of alarm regarding the serious depletion of the earth's resources and the resulting danger of it to the fast growing population of the world. Food—its production and distribution—has become a matter of international concern. The Food and Agricultural Organisation started by the United Nations Organisation is engaged in finding out ways and means of developing agricultural and food resources to meet the needs of a fast-growing population.

In our country the solution of food problem has become the pre-occupation of our time. It is a thousand pities that a predominantly agricultural country like ours should be faced with food shortage and that it should be put to the necessity of importing food from foreign countries at a heavy cost to the National Treasury. The growth of population at the rate of about 4 millions a year makes the question of food supply a permanent problem in this country. The partition of the country has made us lose the wheat and rice surpluses of Western Punjab and Sind.

Some of the best irrigated tracts have gone under Pakistan and made us more dependant on the vagaries of the monsoon. The civil war in the rice-exporting countries of Asia resulting in a decline in food production, shortage of fertilisers and manures like groundnut cake, inadequate supplies of essential materials like iron and steel for agricultural implements and cart tyres and a succession of bad seasons are among the factors that have added to our difficulties in regard to the food situation. The Grow More Food campaign started in 1942 under the Adviser Regime has not produced the results expected from it. In 1947 the present popular Government followed it up with a five-year plan of food production and this too has not yet brought us relief. Our food production is very much in the nature of a gamble in the monsoon. The first requisite for increasing food production is an assured supply of water. All possible irrigation sources have, therefore, to be developed to provide more water for agricultural purposes. Madras has several long-term and short-term plans of irrigation development. Since the major irrigation projects that have been taken up require a number of years for completion, Government have launched upon a five-year programme of minor irrigation works which are expected to be completed by 1952 at an estimated cost of 6 to 7 crores. Besides such new irrigation schemes, steps are being taken to restore the lost capacity of the existing irrigation tanks which are about 25,000 in number in ryotwari areas, and this will cost several crores of rupees. Since the inception of the G. M. F. campaign, a sum of Rs. 5.78 crores has been given as subsidy for digging new wells and repairing old wells until March 1949.

You are well aware of the action taken by the Agricultural Department for stepping up food production by better manure, improved strains of seed, control of pests and diseases and use of tractors and other agricultural machinery. The failure of monsoon in two successive years has upset many calculations and in spite of all that has been done, the food problem continues to be a matter of anxious concern. Imports of food grains are being got by the Government of India from foreign countries. Exorbitant prices have to be paid for this purpose on account of international profiteering in the sale of foodstuffs. The cost of these imports has been going up every year since 1946. In 1948, 2.1 million tons had to be got at a cost of Rs. 130 crores. This year, imports up to 4 million tons may be required and this would cost Rs. 175 crores. These imports are a great drain on our exchange resources which are badly needed for getting our industrial requirements. The Central and Provincial Governments have to pay huge sums as subsidies for bringing down the prices of imported grains to the level of the prices in this country. The net result of last year's food imports was a loss to the exchequer of Rs. 32 crores. The money thus spent on food imports and the losses incurred cut into the funds which could be utilised for nation-building

schemes. As stated by our Prime Minister, Pundit Nehru, food has become our basic problem upon the solution of which depends the whole economic development of this country on healthy lines. Government have become aware of the gravity of the foreign exchange problem and of the disorganisation of our national economy. They have, therefore, decided to stop the imports of foodgrains from abroad after 1951.

In 1940, agriculture was put on something like a war-footing in Britain and this helped them to counteract the U-Boat campaign. Three months ago Lord Boyd Orr came here on the invitation of the Government of India to study our food problem. He has recommended that the food problem should be tackled on a war basis, as Britain did in 1940, by cutting the red-tape attached to normal departmental procedure and setting up a machinery at the Centre as well as in the Provinces to secure quick decisions and speedy implementation. He has also pointed out that the equipment, fertilisers, executive staff and finance needed for this special drive should be provided to the extent possible. The Central Government have accepted his recommendations. Our Prime Minister and Governor-General have broadcasted an appeal to the nation to make an all-out effort to obtain self-sufficiency in food by 1951 and to ease the whole economic position. A concerted drive has been started for this purpose. A Food Commissioner with considerable powers to act speedily and effectively has been newly appointed at the Centre and a Food Production Board has been formed to assist him. He will deal directly with the Commissioners of Food Production set up in the provinces for carrying out the programme of increased food production. The Central Ministry of Agriculture have promised to allot a larger quota of iron, steel, etc. for agricultural purposes and to expedite their supply. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East are expected to send to this country increased supplies of Agricultural Machinery, fertilisers and the material required for irrigation projects. Agriculturists who achieve high success in increasing the yield of food grains will be awarded special medals and prizes. The revised food plan to be implemented in Madras in 1949-50 and 1950-51 is estimated to cost Rs. 34½ crores. In this are included P. W. D. schemes costing Rs. 7 crores, agricultural schemes costing over Rs. 21 crores, well subsidy schemes costing Rs. 3 and odd crores and tank improvement schemes costing Rs. 3 crores. The net cost of these schemes to Government will be 16.78 crores, of which 10.50 crores will be the Provincial Government's share and the rest will be borne by the Government of India. The estimated additional production in tons from 1947-48 to 1950-51 is a little over 12 lakh tons.

Our agricultural statistics being defective, it is not possible to correctly gauge the food situation in the country. It is contended in some quarters that much of the present trouble is due more to the control machinery than to food shortage. There is no doubt that procurement is

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unpopular with the ryots. The existence of rigid control is not conducive to increased food production which is the real remedy against the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. There is a proposal to have a levy scheme excluding from procurement smaller holdings. This will minimise complaints from the large class of smaller ryots regarding harassment from procurement officers. The reintroduction of statutory rationing and informal rationing on a country-wide scale necessitates larger imports which the country cannot afford at present. The Government of India seem to be veering round to the view of the Madras Government and considering restriction of rationing to areas where they are really needed. This will reduce our ration commitments.

Agriculture being our premier industry, the prosperity of the agriculturist is essential for the general prosperity of the land. There can be no incentive to increased production so long as the cultivator is not able to get economic prices for his surplus produce. He prefers the growing of more remunerative commercial crops and in many places money crops are being grown instead of food crops. The prices now fixed for food-grains in Madras seem to have given some satisfaction to the ryots. The improvement of procurement this year is due to the increase given in prices. The Madras prices are moderate compared with the prices in other provinces. If the Government of India pursue their policy of reduction of prices, it will defeat the present attempts made for increasing food production. The Food Conference which will be meeting at Delhi on the 1st and 2nd of August will, I hope, come to right decisions regarding the question of restricting rationing and fixing remunerative prices for food-grains so as to ensure a fair return to the cultivator.

Next to water, manure is the most important single factor for increasing food production. The supplies of artificial fertilisers and groundnut cake being short of our requirements, we have to make full use of the organic manures which can be made more early available to ryots everywhere. The green manure drive should be continued with greater vigour. The ryots in every village should be instructed in the proper method of preparing farm yard manure and storing and using it. The planting of quick-growing fuel trees will supply alternative fuel and help to some extent in putting an end to the prevalent practice of using cattle-dung cakes as fuel. The National Tree Planting Week inaugurated in August last in response to the appeal issued by the Hon. Sri Jairamdas Doulatram is meant to replenish fuel supplies and conserve stocks of farmyard manure for increasing soil fertility. The agricultural officers should secure the co-operation of people in every district and organise the second Tree Planting Week next month in a successful manner in as many places as possible. The development of compost making in urban and rural areas will contribute to large-scale manurial production. A Provincial Compost Development Officer has been appointed to look after efficient

production and distribution of compost to ryots. Sixty-two municipalities and 47 panchayats have so far taken to compost making. Government expect all local bodies to take up compost manufacture and help food production. In the villages ryots can convert vegetable wastes and farm wastes into useful manure and a subsidy of Re. 1 per ton will be given to the manufacturer of village compost.

The question of subsidiary food production has been taken up in right earnest by the committee appointed by the Central Government for this purpose last month. Three Development officers will investigate factors affecting large-scale production of sweet potato, tapioca and banana which are believed to give larger units of calories per unit area. One of these officers will deal with the scheme of work in South India. You must have read of the experiments that are being made at Delhi and in Madras as regards the keeping quality and palatability of mixtures of sweet potato and tapioca with groundnut flour and the processing of groundnut flour. The Prime Minister and the Governor-General have appealed to the people to reduce the consumption of the basic cereals of rice and wheat and substitute them with supplementary foods to the extent possible. The well-to-do classes may well set an example in this matter.

The money spent for Agriculture bears the proportion of As. 12 to Rs. 100/- in the budget of the Central Government. Provincial Governments also have been niggardly in their expenditure on Agriculture, though it is a provincial subject. The allotment of Rs. 1.36 crores for Agriculture in the Madras budget forms only 2.4 per cent of the total expenditure. Now that food production has been given top priority, Government will have to spend more money and employ more men for the development and improvement of agriculture. With a view to make agricultural education sufficiently attractive, Government have passed an order last month recognising the B. Sc. degree in Agriculture as equivalent to the B. A. or B. Sc. University degree in this Province for purposes of appointments in any department of Government.

Governmental effort by itself is not enough for the success of the food drive. The enthusiastic co-operation of the people must be enlisted and it must become a nation-wide campaign. More than anything else, it is important to contact the farmer, convince him, and make him join whole-heartedly in working the food plan. Scientific knowledge and advice must reach the man behind the plough. The Government of India propose to organise an extension service to carry the results of research to the fields and to enlist the active support of farmers in the activities of Government in the matter of increased food production. The F. A. O. has been requested to lend the services of an expert in extension service

to advise Government in carrying out their intention. It is no easy job to approach the ordinary cultivator and make him adopt modern scientific methods of agriculture. The majority of agriculturists in this country cultivate tiny plots of land. Their resources are small. Being illiterate and poor they have neither the desire nor the means to adopt present-day farming practices. The exhibition which has been organised here is one method of arousing the interest of people in the activities of the Agricultural Department. Leaflets, articles in newspapers, films, broadcast talks and exhibitions are all good in their own way to educate the farmer. But there is nothing to beat the demonstration on the farm. In a country where illiteracy is widespread, as it is in India, effective propaganda must be based mainly on ocular demonstration. The gospel of good husbandry can be most easily taught by taking the ryot to see with his own eyes the results of new methods on the plot of any farmer who does his job particularly well.

Any long-term food policy must go along with a planned population policy. The rapid growth of population is creating a serious food problem all over the world. The population in the Indian Dominion is increasing at the rate of 4 millions a year and in our province we are adding to our population a little over half a million per year. The problem of balancing population and food supply must be a matter of deep concern to the Government and the people in our country. Steps will have to be taken to control the rate of population growth by adopting the practice of family limitation. Attention has been drawn to this matter by the Famine Enquiry Commission but so far little or nothing has been done in this direction.

The personal example set by Rajaji in helping to plough the estate of his residence and by Pundit Nehru in raising food crops and vegetables in his compound are meant to show their earnestness in solving the food problem. Both of them have made a special appeal to congressmen to lead a movement for food-growing. Nehru has rightly said that this co-operation in a mighty drive for food production is ultimately a war against poverty and ignorance, against mal-nutrition and high prices. Congressmen have responded to such calls from national leaders at many a time of national emergency. The tremendous determination and the great spirit of service and sacrifice displayed by congressmen in winning the Battle for Independence must now be shown in fighting the Battle for Food and making this country independent of foreign imports. By taking up this campaign, the Congress organisation can establish mass contact, revitalise itself and keep up its hold on the minds of millions of people in this country. The new slogan "Produce or Perish" must take the place of the old call to "Do or Die". There will then be a new spirit abroad in the countryside and the attempt to increase food production is bound to achieve much greater success than it has done in the past.

Opening of the Discussion by Sri R. M. Sundaram, I. C. S.,
the Director of Agriculture

I have great pleasure in welcoming the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and all of you to this Conference. It has been the practice at these conferences to consider one of the vital problems affecting our country on the agricultural side. The subject chosen for to-day's discussion is "How best to translate the results of Research into General Farming Practices." A number of officers of the Department have submitted papers on this subject and ten of them will be read to-day. There will be a general discussion which will follow this. Non-officials are requested to offer their opinions and then those officials who had not read papers will be invited to offer their views. As the time at our disposal is short, no speaker will be allowed more than 10 minutes.

Coming to the subject of the Symposium, I wish to offer my own views in a brief manner. There has been a long-standing complaint that in India, Agricultural Research has advanced very far, but the cultivators have not kept pace with Research and that adequate arrangements do not exist to translate into practice all the theory that we preach. This criticism seems to be justified to a large extent. The entire aim of the Department should be to enlighten the ryot by propaganda in suitable forms. At present, the Department carries on its propaganda by (1) printed literature, (2) demonstration on the field and (3) by contact with ryots in the shape of talks, lectures, radio programmes, etc. The high percentage of illiteracy in India is a severe handicap to the first form of propaganda. Demonstration in ryots' lands and in our Research Stations have been carried on vigorously. The radio is an effective means of dissemination of knowledge, but the number of villages owning radio sets is very limited. Our staff maintains close contact with the ryot, but its strength is not adequate for the purpose. One demonstrator with a few fieldmen and maistries is in charge of taluk with over 100 villages and is hardly able to visit more than one village per day. He is saddled with depots under "State Trading Schemes" (selling seeds, manures, etc. and accounts). The expenditure under the Agricultural Budget of our Province is about 1.30 crores which is only 2.4 per cent. of the total revenues of the Province. Unless this field staff is doubled at least, we cannot possibly cater to all the villages in the Province in a satisfactory manner.

The Madras ryot is no doubt conservative, but I claim that he is a shrewd individual and would not turn down any proposal to increase his yield per acre. It has been stated that apart from his illiteracy, the poverty of the ryot and the system of land tenure resulting in uneconomic holdings are responsible for his apathy. The Zamindari system and Absentee landlordism are also said to be responsible for the moribund condition of agriculture. While these may be true and account for the

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fact that a tenant does not wish to make permanent improvements to the lands he cultivates, no ryot would be unwilling to get a better return for his toils. It is therefore clear that Departmental propaganda is sure to succeed if organised on proper lines. Ryots have to be tackled in person through meetings, lectures, radio talks, posters, exhibitions and dramas. Good advertisement of the work done in Research Stations is bound to attract notice.

The human element is very important in propaganda. The staff would do well to study the state of mind of the ryot he has to tackle and shape his publicity methods accordingly. To provide adequate training in propaganda methods, the final year Agricultural Students are now given a course of lectures on the theory and methods of propaganda. This would enable the students to develop their propaganda work on a rational basis.

At present, the Department has the following methods: (1) News letter every month. (2) Departmental Journals, *Mezhichelvam*, etc., in regional languages. (3) Administration report of the Department by Director of Agriculture. (4) Leaflets. (5) Pictorial Posters. (6) Monographs on certain crops. (7) Popular accounts of work done in the several Agricultural Research Stations. (8) Running Demonstration Plots in Ryots' lands. (9) Exhibitions. (10) Press talks by Departmental Officers on particular matters of topical interest like outbreak of pests and diseases, cultivation of certain crops, extension of irrigation facilities, etc. (11) Radio talks by our officers.

There is now a proposal to purchase eight propaganda vans fitted with full equipment of library, specimens of improved seeds, sound films projectors, loud speaker equipment etc. It is also proposed to take documentary sound films of Department activities to be shown at various gatherings, exhibitions, etc.

Extension Service: In the United States of America there are country agents of the Agricultural Department who do valuable propaganda. There are enlightened ryots who have adopted improved methods advocated by the Department and they in turn tour the villages and induce ryots to follow them. The Government of India are inviting certain experts from U. S. A. to advise us in devising a similar plan for India.

Prize Schemes: The periodical holding of exhibitions and awarding prizes for the best cultivator or the ryots who have adopted improved methods of cultivation are also under contemplation. This would help to give publicity to the activities of the Department.

It is notorious that in India yields have always been poor. Climatic and soil conditions no doubt play a very important part, but the endeavour of the scientist is to find out the causes of poor yields and the

remedies. In view of the alarming increase in population and our dependency on foreign countries for imports of food grains, the situation is worsening every year and unless we make the country self-sufficient in Food, there is no hope for the prosperity of our country. The aim of all research is to increase crop yields and the problem of translating the results of Research to the Farming practices of ryots merits serious consideration. Gentlemen, your views are invited on this problem.

LIST OF PAPERS RECEIVED FOR SYMPOSIUM ON

"Transmission of Research - How best to translate the results of Research into General Farming Practices".

1. How best to translate the results of Research into General Farming Practices — M. Kantiraj.
2. How best to translate the results of Research for the benefit of the average farmer — B. M. Lakhmipathy.
3. How facts flow to farmers in U. S. A. — S. Krishnamurthy.
4. Research and Propaganda-A plea for Re-orientation
— K. C. Naik.
5. Some lessons of the Bagavadi Demonstration Farm
— S. Kasinathan.
6. Transmission of Research-How best to translate the results of Research to General Farming Practices — V. Manikya Rao.
7. How best to translate the results of Research to General Farming Practices — M. Subramaniam.
8. Transmission of Research-How best to translate the results of Research into General Farming practices — Md. Khasim Adeni.
9. How best to translate the Results of Research to General Farming Practices with particular reference to sugarcane.
— S. V. Parthasarathi & J. V. V. Suryanarayana.
10. Transmission of Research-How best to translate the results of research into General Farming Practices — S. A. Ebrahim Ali.
11. How best to translate the results of Research to General Farming Practices — M. R. Balakrishnan.
12. The Indian Ryot and Agricultural Research — T. B. Dasarathy.
13. Pedigree seed of Rice — Its rapid extension in the country
— M. B. V. Narasinga Rao.
14. How best to translate the results of Research into General Farming Practices — M. Lakshmikantham.
15. Transmission of Research-How best to Translate the Results of Research to General Farming Practices — C. Balasubramanian.
& M. B. V. Narasinga Rao.

16. How to translate the findings of Research and improved methods of Agriculture to the Ryots — T. K. Balaji Rao.
17. How best to translate Research into General Farming Practices — P. L. Marasimham.
18. Transmission of Research on pest control — S. Ramachandran.
19. Transmission of Research-How best to translate the results of Research into General Farming Practices — A. Kunhikoran Nambiar.
20. Means to enforce Research-Finds — K. Sankaraiah.
21. How best to translate the results of Research into Farming Practices — M. P. Sankaran Nambiar.
22. Results of research their application to General Farming practices with special reference to sugarcane — C. Ekambaram.
23. Publicity in Production — G. Satyanarayana.

PAPERS OF GENERAL NATURE.

1. Crop planning under the Tungabhadra Project — S. Kasinathan.
2. Some useful plants for green manure purposes for the saline tracts of the Presidency — S. N. Chandrasekharan & C. Rajasekhra Mudaliar.
3. How the chemistry section helps the farmer — P. D. Karunakar.
4. Increasing fruit production through better facilities for reproduction — J. Subramaniam.
5. Possibilities of growing more food on the Deltas of the Northern Circars — C. V. Sarvayya Chetty.
6. Rice Culture in countries with high yields-its lessons for Madras — M. B. V. Narasinga Rao.
7. Fodder problem in Madras — S. N. Chandrasekharan & Daniel Sundaraj.
8. Some aspects of the Fodder problem on the Madras Presidency — T. Venkataramana Reddi.
9. The interactions of the productive Factors in Rice — M. Satyanarayana.
10. Utilization of fruits and vegetables — Dr. G. S. Siddappa.
11. A short resume of plant protection, its present, past and future. — V. Tirumala Rao.
12. The Imminent urgency for propaganda in the grow more food campaign — C. S. Seshagiri Iyer.
13. Water Hyacinth-A Problem — do.

PAPERS OF TECHNICAL NATURE.

1. Deficiencies of minor elements responsible for diseases of crop plants in S. India — D. Marudarajan.
2. Varieties and Forms of coconuts — G. V. Narayana.
3. The Phosphoric Acid content of some raw and parboiled rice samples — M. R. Balakrishnan & D. Narayana Rao.
4. Embryo culture and its use in plant breeding — P. Uttaman.
5. Stem Borers of sugarcane in Madras Presidency and their control — C. Krishnamurthy.
6. Field Trials of Gammexane against Paddy grasshoppers — N. Sobanadri.
7. The occurrence of *Stomoxys calcitrans* L. as a serious pest of cattle in the river side villages of Cuddapah District during musk melon season — C. S. Balasubramaniam.
8. Commerical plant-hormone products—a brief survey — L. Venkata Ratnam.
9. A study of the composition of well waters in and around Bapatla — M. R. Balakrishnan & D. Narayana Rao.
10. Natural crossing in cumbu, *Pennisetum typhoides*, Stapf and Hubbard — P. Krishna Rao.

Report of the Managing Committee for the year 1948 — '49.
(Presented to the General Body)

The Managing Committee presents the following report of the activities of the Union for the year 1948 — '49.

Membership: The strength of the Union as it stood on 31st July, was 961 as against 731 of last year and 510 year before last. It is gratifying to note that this is the highest membership on record ever since the inception of the Union, still a large percentage are outside the Union despite our appeals sent to many officers. The increase in membership is partly due to the joining of the students of the Agricultural College, Bapatla, as members of the Union and in this connection the Union thanks Rao Bahadur Sri P. V. Ramiah, Principal. Messrs. M. R. Balakrishnan and T. Nataraj for the interest evinced by them in the welfare of the Union. The members on roll would have been much more but for the painful duty which the Managing Committee was forced to take effect discontinuance of the membership who were in arrears of subscription for over three years. We take this opportunity to appeal to all the officers who were not members already to enlist themselves as members and help the Union in enlisting members in the future. We would also request the students who pass out of the colleges to continue their membership.

Officer bearers: During the year the Manager Sri T. V. Subramaniam and the Treasurer Sri G. Rangaswami resigned their posts consequent on their transfer outside. Sri S. Muthuswami was co-opted as Manager in the place of Sri T. V. Subramaniam.

General Body Meeting: There was a General Body Meeting of the Student Members of the Union on 20—1—'49 to consider about the Government Order for requesting the student members to increase their subscription from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- and this was readily accepted by them for which we are thankful to them.

Meeting of the Managing Committee: 15 meetings of the Committee were held during the year.

The Madras Agricultural Journal: The Journal continued to be published with unfailing regularity and promptness.

Editorial Board: 10 meetings of the Editorial Board were held during the year. A good number of articles on various subjects were received for publication in the journal and we have great pleasure to record our thanks to the various authors who have contributed to the success of the journal. We appeal once again to the officers of the Department to evince greater interest in the journal by sending more popular articles to help the countries' progress of scientific agriculture. The monthly publication of "*Hints to Farmers and Agricultural News Letter*" in the journal are the new features introduced during the year and we are glad that the contributions are appreciated by our readers.

We have great pleasure in recording our thanks to Mr. C. S. Krishnaswami, Editor and to other members of the Editorial Board for the able and efficient conduct of the journal during the year. We record our appreciation of the promptness of our printers, The Coimbatore Co-operative Printing Works, Ltd., Coimbatore — and with their co-operation and interest the publication of our journal has been made easy.

Subscribers: The number of non-member subscribers to the Journal during the year was 200. Discontinuation of the despatch of journal for non-payment of subscription for over three years was done from the beginning of this year and this has accounted for reduction of subscribers to the journal. Due to high cost of printing and paper the managing committee has resolved to increase the subscription of the journal from Rs. 4/- to 6 and this needs now your approval. We wish to invite the attention of the moffusil members that they would be rendering a great service to the Union if they would help in enlisting more subscribers.

Finance: The Managing Committee records its gratitude to the Government for the ready help in granting us the increased subsidy for the journal Rs. 1,800/- from Rs. 400/- with this year 1948-'49 on wards. The auditors' report and financial statement are before you. Our finances have improved due to continuous collection of all arrears due from 1945 onwards. The committee has canvassed a number of advertisements during the year and increased its finances during the year. A sum of Rs. 500/- was added to the fixed deposit as Reserve Fund for the Union. A sum of Rs. 400/- was spent for building and furniture repairs to the Union, as these were not done for many years.

Ramasastrulu Munagala Prize: We have to record with regret that the response for the Ramasastrulu prize was meagre this year also. Only two essays were contributed. We regret to report that the committee of judges, who at our request scrutinized these two essays declared that neither of them merited the award of the prize.

Acknowledgment: Now it is our pleasant duty to convey our thanks to the various members of the Union who have helped in different ways during the period under review. We are specially thankful to Mr. M. C. Cherian, our ex-officio president for his keen and sustained interest and sympathetic attitude in all union activities and to Mr. P. V. Ramiah, Principal, Agricultural College, Bapatla for his help to our Union in all activities concerning that College. To Mrs. R. N. K. Sundaram, our thanks are due for distributing the sports prizes last year. We have pleasure in recording our grateful thanks to the convenors and members of the various committees who whole-heartedly helped in celebrating the College Day and Conference last year.

General Body Meeting.

Proceedings of the General Body Meeting of the Madras Agricultural Students Union. The business meeting was held on the 31st July 1949 at the Research Institute with Sri M. C. Cherian, ex-officio President in the chair. The report of the Managing Committee for the period 1948-'49 was presented and approved. The auditors' report was then discussed and was passed with a minor amendment. The resolution tabled by Sri C. Balasubramania Mudaliar was considered and passed with an amendment. In accordance with the above the revised rates of subscription become (i) all student members Rs. 3/- each (ii) officers with salary of Rs. 100 - 250/- Rs. 4/- and (iii) those with salaries of Rs. 250 and above Rs. 6/- a month. Two resolutions given notice of by the student members were unanimously passed and recommended for immediate communication to the proper authorities. The election of the Office bearers for 1949 - '50 was then gone through. The list of elected numbers is appended in the cover page. With a vote of thanks to the retiring committee proposed by Sri V. T. Subbiah Mudaliar and with a short address by the newly elected vice-President Sri P. Krishna Rao the meeting terminated.

The Thirty-second College Day and Conference

List of prize winners in 1948.

Name of Winner.	Name of Medal.	Description of Prize.
A. Appa Rao	Robertson Medal	For Agriculture
S. Muthuswami	Glogstoun Medal	For General proficiency.
A. Appa Rao	Kees Medal	For Agricultural Chemistry.
A. Appa Rao	Raghunatha Rao Medal	For practical Agriculture.
G. Rajagopalan	D'Silva Memorial Medal	For Animal Hygiene.
H. Poornapraghnachar	Goshen Medal	For Agri. Zoology.
V. Muthiah	Anstead Medal	For Plot cultivation.
A. Venkataraman	K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar Medal	For Highest number of marks in the First examination.
D. Meenakshi- sundaram	Sampson Memorial Medal	For Agri. Botany.
D. Meenakshi- sundaram	Dev. Bah. L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Medal	Highest in all the three examinations.

College - Day Sports, 1949

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

Champion of the year 1944—V. N. LAKSHMANAN.

Cross Country Race: (5 Miles) (The Norris Cup)

1. Kalliappan, R.
2. Krishna Alwa, H.
3. William Paul.

Long Jump:

1. Balakrishna Alwa, K. N.
2. Ramiah, S. M.
3. Lakshmanan, V. N.

Pole Vault:

1. Shanmugam, C. T.
2. Ratnaswami, M. C.
3. Yeshvant Ail.

Cricket Ball Throw:

1. Ranganathan, P.
2. Duraiswami, R.
3. Balakrishna Alwa, K. N.

100 Metres Dash:

(The Saidapet Old Boys Cup)

1. Lakshmanan, V. N.
2. Raman, S.
3. Balakrishnan, V.
(New Record)

110 Metres Hurdles:

(The Ramaswami Sivan Cup)

1. Lakshmananan, V. N.
2. Francis, S. P.
3. Ranganathan, P.
(New Record) Time 19 2/5.

Shot Put: (16 lb.)

1. Krishna Alwa, H.
2. Lakshmanan, V. N.
3. Appiah, K. M.

High Jump:

(The Tadulingam Cup) 4' 10"

200 Metres Hurdles:

1. Lakshmanan, V. N.
2. Balasubramaniam, V.
3. Francis, S. P.

1. Ranganathan, P.
2. Lakshmanan, V. N.
3. Paramanandam, P.

Invitation Race: (800 Metres):

1. Chinnaswami, S.
Municipal High School,
R. S. Puram.
2. Natarajan, K. A.
St. Micheels' High School.
3. Sankaran, C.
Govt. Arts College.

Hop Step and Jump:

(37' 2½ New Record)

1. Paramanandan, P.
2. Ranganathan, P.
3. Lakshmanan, V. N.

400 Metres Race:

1. Kolandaswami, S.
2. Shanmugam, C. T.
3. Rajagopalan, T. V.

Javelin Throw:

1. Appaiah, K. M.
2. Yeswant Ail.
3. Ramamurthi, K. V.

1,500 Metres Race:

(The Anstead Cup)

1. Kaliappan, R.
2. Ayyaswami.
3. Mahalingam.

Old Boys Race: (Handicap)

1. Jayaraj.
2. Varadarajan, S.

4 x 400 Metres Relay Race

The Chunnampet Shield.
(Intertutorial)

1. P. D. Karunakar's Wards
2. V. T. Subbiah Mudaliar's Wards

Tug of War: The Ramnad Shield.
(Inefertutorial)

1. R. Balasubramaniam's Wards.
2. V. T. Subbiah Mudaliar's Wards.

Obstacle Race:

1. Balasubramaniam, V.
2. Yeswant Ail.



Crop and Trade Reports.

Cotton Raw, in the Madras Presidency: The receipts of loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st February, 1949 to 29th July, 1949 amounted to 250,047 bales of 392 lb. lint as against an estimate of bales of the total crop of 1949. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 287,475 bales. 333,531 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 2,835 bales were exported by sea while 65,324 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi and Bombay. (From Director of Agriculture, Madras)

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