

THE JOURNAL  
OF  
**The Madras Agricultural Students'  
Union.**

---

---

**Vol. V.**

**March 1917.**

**No. 3.**

---

---

*N. B.:-Contributors are requested to send in their contributions typed or written legibly in ink on one side of the paper only.—Editor.*

---

**Editorial Notes.**

---

Readers of our journal might remember the short extracts we published from time to time regarding the dietetic value of sugar. In fact it is now freely acknowledged that sugar is not a luxury but an essential article of food and new uses are constantly being discovered for sugar as a food, as an energizer and as a dressing for wounds.

Ever since the declaration of the present European war, patriots in different parts of the empire have been paying marked attention to a consideration of the ways and means by which the output within the empire could be so augmented as to put the enemies out of our Empire's markets for all time to come. Naturally enough India is frequently mentioned as the country where the problem

India's  
possibilities  
as a sugar-  
producer.

could easiest be solved because of its extensive acreage, its cheap labour and its, as yet undeveloped, resources.

We have recently received a copy of a booklet entitled 'The High price of Sugar and How to Reduce it' by Harold Hamel Smith, Editor of the '*Tropical Life*.' In the above the author discusses the future possibilities of India as a sugar-producer and passionately pleads for a rapid increase in the Empire's output—if possible even before the war is over—so as to stifle all attempts at competition by our enemy countries when once peace is restored.

The Chapter entitled 'When will India export Sugar to England' is very instructive. At present India with its over 2,000,000 acres under cane, produces only 2,600,000 tons of sugar while her palm sugar industry gives an additional half a million tons. Her normal annual requirements is estimated at 4,550,000 tons and this consequently necessitates an import of 800,000 tons from abroad. He argues that if only the yield of sugar per acre could be increased to the modest amount of 2 tons as against the 4 tons of Java or the 9 tons of Hawaii, India could not only produce all the sugar she wants but besides export to the extent of 500,000 tons. Such an increase would make her richer every year by £ 26,000,000 which is a little over one fourth of India's gift towards the expenses of the War. In the words of the writer the possibilities for India as a sugar producer 'beats anything that Mr. Dunlop is telling us in his clever advertisements of 'The Dunlop Rubber Co.' "India has not got the sugar in her warehouses but probably has got it in her

canes or would have if the land was properly manured and cultivated as it should be and is both in Java and in Hawaii." As practical agriculturists we know that all this may not be so easy as it appears on paper but there is no doubt that the above figures warrant a thorough study of the question in all its aspects.

In the opinion of the writer the present low yield is attributable in the main to the following three causes.

(1) Unsatisfactory cultivation and inadequate manuring.

(2) The inferior nature of the varieties grown.

(3) Defects in the methods of manufacture which is estimated to result in a loss of about 25% of the sugar.

The first problem is being worked out now practically throughout India, while the second and the third are in the hands of the Govt. Sugarcane Expert and the Sugar Engineer respectively.

As examples of the enormous profits which Sugar Industry on a factory scale puts into the pockets of its votaries the author mentions the South Porto Rico Sugar Co., which declared an aggregate dividend of 58% one year and those of Hawaii with dividends between 24 and 36 %.

We trust and hope that with the new situation created by the war this question will receive increased attention and India will, ere long, take her legitimate place among the great sugar-producers of the world.

---

We have received from a gentleman who from his position has had exceptional opportunities of watching the origin and progress of the Union a letter congratulating us on the capital way in which the Journal is maintained. We are indeed thankful for such appreciation and shall do our best to deserve it in future. The work is not light but we hope that with the help of our numerous readers, a regrettably small proportion of whom are contributors, the present standard will be maintained.

An  
Appreciation

### **The annual routine of a ryot in South Canara.**

Though the title is comprehensive I confine myself to a particular village, namely, Belenji of Karkal Taluk, which is located about 25 miles distant from the coast line and borders the Western Ghauts. The soil there, is chiefly laterite. The rainfall is very heavy—about 150 inches in some years—and commences about the first week of June. The soils are fertile and the money-lender is satisfied if he gets 4% interest on his investment. The land is classified into :—

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Bettu lands. | } (a) Bana Bettu.<br>(b) Thale Neeru bettu. |
| 2. Majalu.      |   |
| 3. Bailu.       |   |

1. Bana bettu is land which depends for water entirely on Bana (=sky) i. e., rain. Thale Neeru bettu is land which has some source of water at the Thale (=head) of the bettu land.

2. Majalu lands occupy an intermediate position between the Bettu and Bailu lands.

3. Bailu lands are those which are abundantly supplied with water. These are either single, double, or treble cropped, according to water facilities.

The ryot begins to plough the nurseries—which must of course be fertile, in December. This is also the period for the cultivation of