

the engine was not cultivated which means so much increased profit was lost to the owner. The following may be cited as instances of efficient management. A gentleman in Pettai, Saidapet Taluk, is successfully cultivating wet paddy in about 25 acres solely with the aid of a pumping installation and he is realizing a net annual profit of not less than Rs. 1,000. In another case a Muhammadan gentleman of Yemminganur, Bellary District hired an engine from this Department with the object of baling out water from a well and deepening it. Last year he raised sugarcane in about 2 acres and the profits therefrom were enough to pay up all the engine charges and in addition he realized very good profit by making use of the engine water for indigo vats. Seeing the paying nature of the concern he has applied for a loan from Government for the purchase of an oil engine and pump for himself.

10. The engines that are used solely for cultivation purposes are idle from 4 to 6 months in the year. The ryot does not realize that for every day on which the engine is idle he is losing something in the shape of interest and depreciation of machinery. It is therefore desirable that some industrial plant suited to the locality should, wherever circumstances permit, be attached to the engines for work when they have no pumping to do.

K. R. Sundaram Aiyar.

Loans Tashildar.

**A Peep into the cultivation of paddy in (Theri)
lands (sand dunes) of Tiruchandur
Taluk, Tinnevely District.**

While I was returning from Kulasekarapatnam during my holiday trip I halted for a day at Ammapuram and during my evening ramble my attention was drawn to a greenish patch of about 20 acres at a distance of about a quarter mile amidst an area of a couple of hundred acres devoid of crops and other trees, except a few palmyras scattered over here and there. As it was

the month of May—a period in which crops are not ordinarily raised in this locality—my curiosity was all the more aroused to find out what this greenish patch could be and I therefore proceeded to the spot. Here to my surprise I found paddy growing in their lands and irrigated by lift irrigation from shallow wells containing abundant supply of water. Each acre more or less contained a well and the bailing of water was done by picotas erected on both sides of the wells one opposite to other each worked by a single person. Small canoe shaped baskets made of Palmyra leaves each holding about four Madras measures of water were the buckets used in lifting the water. Both husband and wife stood on opposite directions and were lifting water for the paddy crop. The field was divided into narrow long beds just as it is done for Ragi cultivation to minimise flooding, and irrigation was given as it is ordinarily given to Ragi crop. When questioned, the cultivator gave out that he irrigated the crop thrice a week and never flood the land. The crop was nearing ripening stage and was quite good. As the name of the variety was quite unfamiliar to me I had to make further inquiries about the crop which revealed the fact that the name “Avasara Samba” அவசரசம்பா was quite appropriate as the crop came to maturity within 75 days from the date of sowing. The variety is a coarse one having brownish coloured husk with reddish coloured rice inside. A few rogues containing whitish rice inside were noticed in the field but these appeared to mature a week later, according to the ryot himself. Not having come in contact till now in this Presidency with a variety of paddy which could mature in 75 days and that too without flooding the fields, I wanted to verify about the age and questioned him the exact date of sowing but to my surprise I found that the Tamil date given by him showed that the crop was then 60 days old. As the grains in the ear-heads did not exude any milky juice on pressing between fingers, the crop will surely be ready for the sickle in another ten days' time. Further enquiry revealed that this was being grown even

in the adjacent villages where I also proceeded and satisfied myself that it was really a 70 to 75 days' variety. This is reported to take the same length of time when grown in different parts of the year. But I doubt this. The present crop was however grown during the last week of April.

As the Departmental Officers engaged on district work are almost daily receiving enquiries regarding short duration variety of paddy which could mature in 80 days, arrangements have been made by Messrs. Rangaraju & Bros. 5 Mount Road, Madras to procure 60 measures of seeds of this variety with a view to distribute at the rate of not more than one measure, free to such of the members of the Union who have passed out of the College and who can directly experiment and record the results for being published in the organ of the Union.—The Madras Agricultural Students' Union Journal. The seeds will be available by the 15th of August and those who are anxious to experiment may apply to the Managing Proprietor, Messrs. Rangaraju & Bros. 5 Mount Road, Madras.

J. Chelvaranga Raju.

Notes and News.

Working of Cows:—In the District of Coimbatore round Palayakottai, it is the common practice amongst the poorer ryots to use only cows for tillage and mhote work. Only the richer ryots keep bullocks for these purposes. Cows are worked right up to the time of calving and are put in the yoke very soon thereafter. Thus one sees in the fields calves of all ages accompanying their dams at work. Some of the cows when 4 or 5 months calved, yield $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ M. M. of milk per day while still doing draught work. Ryots say that they adopt this practice so as to be able to get along, on less capital and save the fodder. The cows, noticed in the yoke were doing quite effective work and were in fair condition.