

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.

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### Notes and News.

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*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.

*Note on Silage Making*:—The value of silage in Great Britain and India cannot be compared as the conditions are so very different. In the former country the introduction of turnips mangels and other succulent foods practically did away with the need for silage, as these crops could be stored for use during winter, when grass is not available. In India there are no succulent food crops which may be stored like the turnips, for use during the hot weather, when there is no grass. Therefore silage is of much more importance here than in Great Britain. Without succulent foods, stock farming in Great Britain would be a practical impossibility; indeed the introduction of these has had a most important effect on stock improvement and the development of the live-stock industry. In districts with garden lands in India, succulent crops for cattle may be grown all the year round; thus silage in these localities is of less importance than where the land is all dry. The relation of a supply of succulent cattle foods all the year round to the development and the health of stock, has still to be studied in Madras. I am of opinion that succulent foods during the hot weather will be even more valuable here than the turnips etc., during the cold weather at home. For these reasons I think silage experiments should be made and continued until a definite process suitable for local conditions has been worked out.

(Monthly Report, Dy. Director of Agriculture, Live Stock).

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*Increased food production in the United Kingdom*:—Lord Selbourne, President of the Board of Agriculture, and his secretary, Lord Middleton, issued sometime last year an important memorandum pointing out that Germany was producing more foodstuffs than England did and recommending that great efforts must be made to increase crop production in Great Britain. A number of special committees have been appointed and it was hitherto considered that more pasture land must be broken up and put under cereal crops. The expert opinion of the majority of

United Kingdom Agriculturists is, however, not for wholesale or indiscriminate breaking up of pasture lands without due regard to the availability of labour, machinery, capital &c., available, but tends to the view that more intensive cultivation will solve the question quicker, provided there is an adequate supply of fertilisers.

If intensive culture is demanded in Great Britain where the average yield of wheat is 3 times as much as in India, how much more necessary is it in India?

From the Chemical News. M. R. R.

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On the 17th Forenoon there was a Farm Managers Conference under the Presidentship of Mr. H. C. Sampson. The Deputy Directors of the I, II, VI and VII Circles, the Assistant Directors I and VII Circles, the Principal, the Inspector of Agricultural offices and many Farm and Assistant Farm Managers were present. Many questions relating to Farm outine were discussed and Farm Managers were invited to give their experience in connection with the eradication of bulb grass. Ways and means were also discussed for maintaining a more permanent record of demonstration work done by the different Agricultural Demonstrators. In bringing the proceedings to a close the Chairman hoped that in future more time would be devoted to Agricultural problems proper.

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A Conference of Agricultural and Co-operative Officers was held on the 17th afternoon to discuss various methods for bringing about a closer understanding between the two departments. The Director, the Principal and the Deputy and the Assistant Directors of Agriculture represented Agriculture while Co-operation was represented by Mr. Hemingway, the Registrar and Messers. Vedachala Iyer, Srinivasa Rao, Nageswara Rao, and Kunhunni Menon, the Assistant Registrars.

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The fifth meeting of the Indian Science Congress will be held in Lahore on January 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th 1918. His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of the Panjab has consented to be the Patron of the meeting and Dr. G. T. Walker, C. S. I. will be the President. The following sectional presidents have been appointed:—Agriculture, Dr. L. Coleman (Bangalore); Physics and Mathematics, Dr. Wali Mahomed (Aligarh); Chemistry Dr. G. J. Fowler (Bangalore); Zoology and Ethnology, Dr. Chowdhuri (Calcutta); Botany Mr. R. S. Hole (Dehra Dun); Geology Mr. E. S. Pinfold, (Rangoon); Dr. J. L. Simonsen, of the Presidency College, Madras, will be the General Secretary and Mr. A. S. Hemmy and Rai Saheb Ruhi Ram, of the Government College, Lahore, will be local Secretaries.

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### Departmental Notes.

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1. Mechanic J. A. D. Williams, to take charge of No. 1 Circle, comprising Ganjam, Vizagapatam, and Godavari Districts, head-quarters at Vizagapatam.

2. Supervisor, M. R. Ry., A. Viswanatha Ayyar, on relief by No. 1. is transferred to the Department of Industries.

3. Mechanic J. Babu Rao, to take charge of No. II Circle, comprising Kristna, Guntur and Nellore Districts.

4. Supervisor, M. R. Ry., P. V. S. Ramanujam Pillai, remains in charge of No. III Circle, comprising Bellary, Karnool, Cuddapah and Anantapur Districts. But his head-quarters will be moved to Bellary in place of Gooty.

5. Supervisor, M. R. Ry., S. Rajagopal Nayudu, on relief by No. 3 is posted to take charge of No. IV (a) Circle, comprising Madras, Chingleput and south Arcot Districts, head-quarters at Madras.

6. On relief by No. 5, Mechanic, M. R. Ry., P. S. Ranganatham Pillai, now, in charge of Cuddalore Circle, is transferred to the Department of Industries.

7. On return from leave on 1st July 1917 Supervisor, M. R. Ry., A. V. Varadaraja Mudaliar, will take charge of No. IV (b) Circle, comprising Note Arcot and Chittoor Districts with head-quarters at Vellore from Mechanic G. R. Veakateswara Ayyar who will remain in No. IV (b) Circle.