

THE JOURNAL
OF
The Madras Agricultural Students'
Union.

Vol. VIII.

April 1923.

No. 4.

Editorial Notes.

During the last twelve months there have been three changes in the Directorship. Mr. G. A. D. Stuart was relieved during the first week in April last, when he was appointed to act as Agricultural Adviser at Pusa. Mr. R. Cecil Wood acted for him till the end of March this year when he handed over to the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avergal, and to him we offer a hearty welcome. It is interesting to note that Mr. Swamikannu Pillai is not only the first Indian Director of Agriculture in Madras, but in the whole of India excluding Native States. We congratulate the Dewan Bahadur on the singular honour which he so well deserves. We can only attribute this new departure to the wise statesmanship of His Excellency, Lord Willingdon. Mr. Swamikannu Pillai has been connected with the Department for about twelve years, one way or another. He was first the Secretary to the Revenue Commissioner in charge of Land Records and Agriculture during the time of Mr. Castlestuart Stuart. He was afterwards the Registrar of Co-operative

Welcome to
the new
Director of
Agriculture.

Societies, a sister department to ours, during which time he addressed the members of the Union at an Agricultural Conference. For some months prior to taking over the Directorship, he was the Additional Secretary to Government in charge of the Agricultural Department, in which capacity he must have come in frequent contact with His Excellency, the Governor. There have been of late frequent changes in the Directorship, but we trust Mr. Swamikannu will be retained sufficiently long to enable him to indicate clearly the future policy in the impending changes.

Another year has passed away and one more batch of agricultural students has been turned out of the College. The College year came to a close on the 10th April with the awards of Diplomas and Certificates to the successful students. All ten students who sat for the Diploma passed, two with first class honours. Thirty eight out of forty two students of the short course got through. We are extremely glad of the good results, and offer our congratulations to the Principal, staff and students. Mr. McRae is indeed very keen in the interests of the students and we are sure he is glad that his efforts have been so amply rewarded. This good result is also largely due to the students' own self help, and as the Principal pointed out in his speech, the experiment started by Mr. Wood to make the students to help themselves in a large measure is becoming increasingly successful.

The Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avergal, then delivered extempore his address to

the students in his own lucid and masterly way. We have recently invited the attention of our readers in our Editorial columns to the necessity of economic studies, and it is opportune that the Director in his first utterance should have also laid special emphasis on this important subject. He referred in his speech to the coming political changes and the part that Agriculture will play in it to the economic revolution that is even now taking place, and drew the attention of his young listeners to their responsibility as Agriculturists in adding to the wealth of the country. He suggested that they should in their endeavour constantly invoke the assistance of the two sister departments of Industry and Co-operation. We commend to our readers his very thoughtful address published elsewhere.

Principal's Speech.

Mr. Chairman, Students of the Agricultural College,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the first occasion on which I give you a report of the activities of the college with a period of work behind me as Principal. You will see that we have had a busy year and have scored a considerable measure of success. At the beginning of the year there were 118 names on the roll, the highest number since the college was founded. Three students left near the beginning of the year, possibly because the out-door life was too strenuous for them, two resigned because they had inherited property which they had to manage and one was advised

to leave because of ill health. At the end then we had 112 on the rolls. The health of the students was good throughout, for with the exception of two cases there was no illness to speak of. This is in great part due to the active out-door life students lead both in practical classes and in games, and perhaps to the system instituted this year of each student contributing a small sum monthly as a medical fee, for this practically amounts to paying the doctor to keep them well instead of to make them well. Besides, our thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector, who has done his unobtrusive work faithfully.

M. R. Ry, Rao Sahib T. S. Venkataraman, whom we congratulate on the title recently conferred on him, resigned the wardenship of the hostel in the beginning of the session and M. R. Ry., Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan carried on the duties to the end of September when he wished to be relieved as the work of Warden and Assistant Principal in addition to his other duties was found to be too much for one man. M. R. Ry., C. Tadulinga Mudaliar kindly undertook the duties from October. During his period of wardenship, the arrangement for medical attendance was made and the knotty question of tiffins was solved. The current high prices have necessarily increased the hostel charges, though by careful management by themselves the students have been most economical in running the three messes. You are indebted to your warden and assistant warden for their solicitude in looking after your health and comfort and for their whole hearted services.

In the final examinations for the Diploma and the certificate the students have done satisfactorily, and the examiners have reported favourably on the classes as a whole. In the diploma class all ten students appeared and all passed, two of them A. Vittal Punja and K. K. Raghavan getting first class diplomas. The Robertson prize for the student who secured the highest marks at the diploma examination is awarded to A. Vittal Punja while the Kees Prize for the student with highest marks in Chemistry is divided between M. Gopalachetti and K. K. Subrahmanyam. The Professor of Agriculture has presented a prize of two books to C. M. Ranga Reddi of class IV for his experiment on the "Vitality of the seeds of some weeds."

In the certificate class 42 presented themselves for examination and 38 passed. V. T. Subbaya Mudaliar gained the Clogstoun Prize for the student who stood highest at his first appearance in the examination for the certificate of Proficiency, and E. K. Govindan Nambiar gained the Diwan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao Prize for the student who has shown the most diligence in the practical classes during this course. The result is very satisfactory and I congratulate you. I know that some students who were very anxious about the result are now rejoicing. You have to thank your tutors for the interest they have taken in your work, especially during the last term, and you may take some credit to yourselves for so willingly acquiescing in my suggestion of devoting a period every evening to quiet study and thought in your rooms. I have little doubt but you will make it a regular

part of the course with which you will be jealous of interference. The experiment has proved that students by their own efforts can help in increasing the success that this college achieved under the guidance of your former Principal.

The athletic side of College life received much attention and the games card was a very full one. We are fortunate in Coimbatore in being pitted in friendly rivalry against several teams attached to the various colleges and schools, all of which are keen as mustard (if I be pardoned for using sporting parlance) and though we won no trophies we had excellent sport. Hockey is easily the first favourite in games and 17 matches were played of which 9 were won, 7 lost and 1 was a draw. Foo-ball was in eclipse this year and out of 14 matches played only 4 were won. In cricket, however, we gained some reputation and won five matches out of the seven played. Our experience this year in matches showed us that we ought to have a greater reserve of players and that more students should be encouraged to reach match standard. Government have graciously come to our aid with a contribution that has enabled us to increase the playing ground and to procure more material, so that next year on the afternoons devoted to games every student will have the opportunity of taking part in some game, and I know the students are keen to take advantage of the opportunity and are grateful to Government for having made it possible. Colours have been awarded to Mr. Anstead, A. Vittal Punja, K. G. Sankappa Bandari for cricket, to W. Soans for hockey and to M. C. Narayana Menon and

A. K. Annaswami for football. Just before the opening of the session the tennis tatties were destroyed in a storm and as the courts were worn out the students' club was faced with a considerable expenditure to put the courts in order. However, the European Officers made a special grant, and the students contributed the greater part of the labour, but the work occupied a large part of the first term, and students were somewhat late in settling down to play. In the second term play began in earnest and a large number of students joined. In the Cecil Wood Tennis Cup tournament, played in the 3rd term, there were 15 competitors. K. G. Sankappa Bandari won the cup and M. C. Narayana Menon was the runner up.

The College was represented at the Grigg Memorial Sports and none of the competitors returned without a prize. During Armistice week the inter-class tournament in cricket, hockey and football was held and the Victory Cup, instituted last year by the Students' Club, was won by the first year students. The intertutorial competitions for the Rajah of Ramnad's Tug-of-war shield and the Zamindar of Chunnampet's Relay Race Shield excited much enthusiasm and resulted in a victory for Dr. Norris' wards who carried off both Shields. B. Dasappa Malli of Class I secured the Vengayil Krishna Nayanar Cup which is presented to the student, who has shown the greatest prowess in athletics generally, and he established a record by securing more marks than any previous champions. K. Sankappa Bandari of Class III won the Parlakimidi Cup presented to the best all round sportsman of the year. Of the three new cups instituted this year for

events in the athletic sports, Mrs. Anstead's Cup for the Mile Race was won by K. S. Krishnamurti of Class II, Dr. Norris' Cup for the Cross Country Race by K. G. Sankappa Bandari of class III, and the Saidapet Old Boys' Cup for the 100 yards race by B. Dasappa Malli of class I.

In the literary section seven papers were read and one debate was held and the meetings were all well attended. Valuable as those meetings are, they should not form the only part of your activities in this direction. You subscribe to 9 newspapers and periodicals and have interesting informal discussions in the reading room on the events and topics of the day. Next year I suggest that you make these a little more formal and discuss them in debate. You will find them quite as interesting and more stimulating.

Before I finish I wish to pay a tribute to the members of the teaching staff for the help they have given in carrying on the work of the college. Never have I asked for aid in vain and they responded willingly in giving their time for the special tutorial lectures delivered during the last term. They have a real interest in the students which I can assure you does not end when you leave college. I hope you will keep in touch with them after you have gone and think of your teachers and your friends. May I draw your attention to the Madras Agricultural Students' Union? I hope you will all join if you have not done so already. It is an organization to keep past students in touch with their *alma mater*. The Journal

will bring to you, in your isolated fields of work, news of the college and reminiscences of your college life. I hope also that through its pages you will keep us at college informed of what you are doing. I hope you will attend the College Day as often as you can and take part in the annual conference, in the sports and in the entertainments.

Those of you who are leaving college are going out into the world to fight your way. The training you have had here doing things for yourselves will stand you in good stead in the affairs of life. The knowledge you have acquired is perhaps not very comprehensive but it is definite. Use it intelligently. Never hesitate to say, "I don't know" but after you have said it, never rest till you do know. The next best thing to knowing a thing is knowing where to get information about it. That means that you will still have to refer to your friends in college for help. You will get it freely, so give of your knowledge freely to the people who will ask you for help. One thing more, do your best to add something new to the sum of human knowledge and in that you will find satisfaction greater than you have yet experienced.

Director's Speech.

The following is the full text of the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avergal, I. C. S., Director of Agriculture, on the occasion of the presentation of diplomas and certificates to the successful students of the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, on the 10th April 1920.

MR. McRAE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I think you will all agree with me that you have listened to a very excellent report by Mr. McRae of the work done during the last year. The first feature of the report which naturally attracts attention on a day like this is the success attained by the students in the Diploma and Certificate examinations. I think Mr. McRae may legitimately take pride in the great success of the students this year. (Applause). All the diploma candidates succeeded in securing diplomas and only four of the students of the certificate course failed to attain their object. This, apart from other considerations of great importance to the department, is a matter upon which every one assembled here has a right to be congratulated. In the next place, I think, we may all congratulate Mr. McRae upon the excellent physical record of this year. It was not to be wondered at that considering the very great zeal displayed by the students in athletics and the very great encouragement given to them by the staff, so much of the report should have been devoted to the physical side. And it is as it should be. There are departments of work in which, however good a student's physical condition may be at the start, he is called upon to face perils and risks of a peculiar nature. In those departments it may be sometimes permissible to admit students whose physical standard is not perhaps up to the highest obtainable, because we expect that they will lead a life more or less exposed to peril and whether they are well or ill equipped at the start they must face common dangers. But in Agriculture we send you students to live a life in the open country, not only to preach agriculture to your fellow citizens and fellow countrymen, but also to set an example in your own persons of what an enlightened agriculturist ought to be. I think, therefore, that not too much importance is attached to the question of the physical side of your education, and I am very much interested to see that as a result of the special efforts in this direction you have uniformly kept good health, you have uniformly

improved your physical condition, and you are in every way fitted not only by certificates and diplomas but also by physical training to play the part that you are intended to play in life.

It is usual, I believe, on this occasion to address oneself in a special manner to those students who are leaving the institution to fight the battle of life as Mr. McRae has put it. I do not know if you expect any very startling disclosures from me as to what is to become of the department in future, though, I observe, that, in the past speeches, the agricultural policy has been much dwelt upon. I am so new to the department that the fact is hardly worth apologising for. But I observe that I am not the only novelty here and I cease to wonder at myself as such. Since Mr. Wood addressed the students on the last occasion, a new Principal has been in charge of the college. A year has gone by and a new Director has taken charge of the Department. It is some relief to me perhaps, when considering how ill fitted I am for this new task, to look ahead into the future, into that future of which you will see more than I can expect to do. And I see coming upon us a state of things in which not only will the Director of Agriculture in all probability be another officer, but the representative of Government who has charge not only of Agriculture but of other kindred subjects—will be situated possibly in very much the same position in which I am situated today. That Minister of Agriculture will have charge not only of Agriculture, but half a dozen of equally important subjects, co-operation, industries, and certain other subjects that I need not now mention in detail. It would naturally occur to you, as it occurs to me, that such a responsible officer of Government, as the Minister is going to be, will probably consider himself still less equipped for this task than I am for instance, for inasmuch as all his knowledge of these important subjects will have been picked up from newspapers and general reading and general conversation. But all this change connotes something else. It connotes a very

much greater change that is coming, has come and will come upon the country. To you students of the College of Agriculture, these changes must have appealed already in more than one aspect. So far as your vision has extended during the time that you have spent within the walls of this College you have been made aware of the great scientific remodelling of this country that has gone on during the last few years. You could not but have been aware of the fact, however young you may be, that every book that you read, every newspapers that you have perused, and practically every lecture that you have listened to, will have brought home to you the fact that the India of the future is not going to be the India of the long centuries past. (Applause). That is the scientific awakening of which every body concerned—Government Experts and leaders of public thought—have been slowly laying the foundation. But while you are yet engaged in considering the causes and the results of this scientific awakening, lo! there appears on the horizon an awakening of a very different kind, the political awakening of India, and you will have noticed that the whole scientific interest to which the country is even yet quite new is being caught up by the vortex of political changes that are coming over the country and neither you nor I nor any one else can say—in what form it will finally emerge to the surface again.

You will wonder whether science is going to receive as much attention at the hands of the administrators of the country as it has done in the past, because there is no doubt that everything, at any rate for a few years to come, will more or less be subordinated to the political transformation of the country. We do not know how this is going to be, but I am here to draw your attention to the practical consequences of these changes so far as you young men going out into the world are concerned, and I wish to draw your attention to the fact that, however great these changes may be, however momentous the influence of the political changes upon the scientific awakening of the country may be in the future, there is

one important point, one common ground upon which the political revolution seems to meet the scientific revolution. That common ground is the economic revolution of the country upon which the politicians and scientists alike are interested. The politician of the future will not fare well unless he bestows earnest and serious attention upon the economic revolution of the country, and you have seen in the examples of the experts and professors who have trained you that the man of science who has been brought up all along to regard his own special science with enthusiasm and devotion keeps steadily in view also a secondary object in life, second only in importance to his scientific zeal, viz., the economic improvement of the country. Now what is the economic revolution that is coming upon the country and in which you are so intensely interested? You will realise at once that it is the great anxiety of everyone to improve the wealth-producing capacity of the country. You know very well that the production of wealth is a very different thing from what those people who have not thought of the subject are accustomed to fancy. Production of wealth is not the earning of money. Production of wealth means the production in increasing quantities of all that goes to make a country really rich. To the individual wealth does spell in most cases money. A man is said to be wealthy who has money. But to the nation it is not so. Owing to the present war the circulation of currency in the world has been increased to such an extent that we find ourselves in the throes of high prices. High prices may be due to many causes, but the chief cause is the artificial increase of the currency that has been brought about by the war. It is evident therefore, that the mere increase of the currency or paper or coin does not mean an increase of wealth. In fact the only way in which we can combat the evil results of the war is by increasing the wealth of the country. The economic improvement of the country can be brought about only by increasing its wealth-producing capacity, i. e. its capacity for producing those things that are useful to man. What are the directions in which you can improve the economic

conditions of the country? So far as we can see at present, there are only two ways in which its economic improvement can be brought about; you can increase the natural productions of the country, or you can increase the value of the artificial products brought into being by human industry. Reduced therefore to its final elements, the economic betterment of India means nothing more or nothing less than the betterment of the country on its agricultural side and its betterment on its industrial side. We have now come very near home in studying the economic revolution of this country. We find that what you students have been studying and preparing for in the course of the two or four years work in this College is neither more nor less than playing an important part in the future economic revolution of this country. The industrial side of our economy is being improved by the Government and by the officers in charge of it with as much zeal and as much perseverance as they are capable of. But we have to bear in mind that while industry is a comparatively new object of attention in this country, agriculture is not. Agriculture has been pursued in this country for ages. It has been the pursuit of the bulk of the people. No doubt to you who have been trained in agriculture it is of the greatest consequence to bear in mind that you should bring about the result by your individual exertions as men, which will have momentous consequences to the future well-being of this country. If you look at it again from another point of view, you are the means at our disposal for the economic betterment of this country. Limiting ourselves to the agricultural side, there are two means of bringing about the economic progress of this country. One is that the people themselves, those who pursue agriculture, those who are directly interested in agriculture, or the agriculturists of the country should become more and more learned in the lessons that are taught by modern science and modern agriculture; the other is that the new conditions should be brought home to them by people who have made it their occupation to do so. We know very well there is not much to be expected at present from the first mentioned means of Agricultural betterment, — partly owing to the present conditions, partly owing to the lack of

education. But it is not so with the second means of bringing about the agricultural improvement of the country ; at any rate it should not be so, if we had a sufficient staff, a sufficient number of teachers to propagate agricultural ideas in the country. You will agree with me that from this point of view our beginnings are very small. Great as has been the success of this College, it has been able to furnish only a few dozen trained students every year for the needs of the millions of people in this Presidency depending upon agriculture. This is by no means enough. When politicians talk to us of universal education and compulsory education, no observation is more commonly made than this that the number of teachers at our disposal is infinitesimal comparing with the number that will be required to make education compulsory or universal. If this is the case with a department which as you know is engrossing I may say half the attention of the Government and of the public and of the politicians, how much more is it the case with Agriculture.

You will therefore agree with me that great as are the needs of the time, great as is the necessity of bringing about an economic revolution through agriculture, the means at our disposal are very small, and this fact is most regretted by the Government itself. How much more it becomes the duty incumbent on the few among you who have been invested with this special mission to discharge it to the best of your ability, to the best interest of your country. It is true that a very great responsibility lies upon you, but it is also true that there is no great movement anywhere in the world which does not owe its inception to the exertions of only a handful of individual workers. So are you—the diploma and certificate holders the missionaries, the propagandists of the future agriculturist. I do not think that anything can more stimulate you to a faithful discharge of your duties than the reflection that so much depends upon you, that the success or failure of the movements that are coming on in this country, of the scientific and political revolutions that have been slowly taking place during the last few years, the success or failure of these revolutions depends in a great measure upon the success or failure of your special efforts.

What the Government and the public will do to encourage and stimulate you in the discharge of your duties I do not think it is necessary for me to dwell on, except in a very general way. It goes without saying that a very great part of the attention of the country will be devoted in future to Agriculture and Agricultural improvement. You may find perhaps that in the first few days of the coming changes your own particular branch of the service, your own particular profession may seem to be regarded with apparent neglect amid the much more engrossing political activities of the country, but it cannot be long before agriculture receives its true share of attention from the public as well as the Government. You cannot, because the country is engaged in other activities at present, relax your efforts to make yourselves more and more useful to the country. I hope that everything will be done by the Government of the future, because we are chiefly concerned with that government at present, and with preparing for it rather than with the policy of the present Government. I hope that everything will be done to encourage it. Just now it is necessary that we should secure among us as many co-operators and helpers as possible. Because it is patent that we cannot bring home to the Agriculturist the needs and accomplishments of modern science except by the deliberate exertions of an army of agricultural teachers and propagandists. We want more men to follow in your footsteps and we want them to increase in numbers year after year. Your Principal has drawn the attention to the need for your continuing to be students, to be research workers and experimenters in the science of agriculture. He has told you that it will be your duty to endeavour to add to the sum of knowledge of the world and of your country. To this I have to add the observation that it will be also your privilege, if you work in the right direction and with zeal and energy to add to the store of wealth, the real wealth of your country.

You will find that in the future you will have to turn your attention not only to deepening and making more profound your own knowledge of your own subject, but to attend to all those other kindred subjects and methods which go to the making and increasing of human wealth. Between the departments of industry and agriculture

there is a natural union and you will find that you will have as often to borrow from the science of industry as from the science of Agriculture in order to add to the stock of the wealth of your country. You will also find that in the modern circumstances of our agriculturists it is necessary not only to devise means for increasing their wealth but also for making sure that the producer receives a due proportion of the money equivalent of that which he produces year after year. You should produce more wealth in the country and you will have to fill the individual craving of the agriculturist for more individual wealth. With him too things are not as they were. The country may or may not be producing very much more than it has done for many centuries past. But the ambition of the agriculturist is very much larger and wider than it was in the past. Formerly he was content to earn that which was enough for his subsistence, because it was not possible for him even to think of taking his wealth beyond the limits of his village or his taluk. At present owing to the improvement of communications, the expansion of ideas and the increase of knowledge which, thanks to education, has been brought home even to the illiterate agriculturist, his idea of earning wealth is not the same as it was before. He is not content with earning enough for his own individual needs but is anxious to earn more and more and it will be your legitimate duty in endeavouring to add to the wealth of the country to bear in mind that you have to satisfy the aspirations of the individual agriculturist that you should secure for him as much as possible of the returns of his own production and his own agricultural efforts. Perhaps you know that I am alluding to the necessity of turning your attention to co-operative methods. Co-operation has a great deal to do with the success of agriculture indirectly, because though it does not aim at increasing the actual output of the land, it aims at evolving the means to secure to the agriculturist the return from his land the produce of his labours. I need not say much more on this occasion. I only wish to draw your attention to those things which will have to engage your mind in the near future, over and above the prosecution of the special studies in which you have been engaged. It seems to me that although the immediate prospects of

an agricultural student or certificate holder or a diploma holder' entering upon life is not a very attractive one, though it is not one which perhaps offers as many chances of increasing one's individual wealth as the legal or other learned professions, yet there is a great deal to recommend the particular career which you have chosen for yourselves. (Applause).

It is a career which, as I said, will grow very much more in importance to the public than it has done in the past. Even if it were not so important in the public eye, it would, as you know very well from your own experience, possess sufficient attraction to engage the best efforts of your lives. But what I said was the case with the agriculturist is also the case with student of Agriculture. He wants to better his individual prospects and that is a legitimate ambition. My advice to you is that you will gratify your ambition by responding most faithfully to the dictates of your own conscience, by executing to the best of your ability these duties which you have learned to discharge. I do not know if I have anything very much more useful to tell you just now because I hope to make the acquaintance of some of you if not of all of you, and I may be able to enter into more personal details hereafter. We shall come to know each other; we meet today as new acquaintances; you with the full measure of knowledge which it has been permitted to you to acquire and I, I might almost say with a full sense of a lack of knowledge, of that knowledge which you have been acquiring. However we are all learners in the world. As I learn some of my new duties, I hope I shall also learn more of the value of the services and your attainments.

I wish you, just as my predecessors on this platform have wished you, all success and prosperity. I have no doubt that you go out with the most earnest of resolutions to play well your part in life, and that resolution is the best guarantee that any one can hold out for your success. May it always be well with you, and may your lines be cast in pleasant places.
