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Editorial Notes.

“At the head of all science and arts, at the head of all civilization and progress, stands, not militarism, the science that kills, not commerce, that accumulates wealth, but agriculture, the mother of all industry and the maintainer of life—President James A Garfield.”

Agriculture being thus the most ancient and most important industry, has gathered unto itself any amount of tradition. Man's attempts and his failures, his shortcomings, his successes and his risks, the obstacles and his endeavours to overcome them have all taught him what to expect of nature, how cleverly to adapt himself to her changing moods and how best to utilise her bounty. The discoveries of modern science only tend to emphasize the supreme need that ever exists for co-ordinating man's activities with nature's efforts. Experiences gathered therefore in several

**Agricultural
Sayings and
Proverbs.**

climates amidst various conditions—experiences which have crystallised themselves into suggestive epigrammatic sayings—afford an interesting study in the progress made, despite difficulties, since the first ploughman turned his sod. Agricultural sayings and proverbs are innumerable in every country and are a correct measure of the conditions of farming in individual tracts and of its success or its failure. They focus the experiences and the wisdom of many and vary from tract to tract as conditions also vary. Often two proverbs appear contradictory when the knowledge of fundamental differences in their evolution is absent or obscure. The existing territorial divisions in India are the outcome of administrative expediency and do not coincide with the natural divisions which are well marked and determine the homogeneity of a tract for agricultural operations. The Coffee and Tea plantations in the Nilgiris district do not differ from those located in the Mysore territory. The paddy flats in North Kistna have been formed at the same time and are the result of the deposition of the same alluvium as paddy fields in South Godavari. The hilly tracts of Ganjam and those of Orissa abound with the same forests. The black soil cottons whether of Dharwar or Bellary suffer from the same pest.

An agricultural proverb as the embodiment then of the accumulated experiences of seasons, practices and the daily routine in the life of a ryot in a particular tract is of special value to an agricultural student. Further, a knowledge of it would help a practical man to understand the

limitations of his undertakings and to assess his efforts at their correct value. For example in the Tamil country the seasons are named after months which are longer periods of time than Karthis or Nakhtars which are of about 13 days' duration and are referred to in other parts of India indicating that operations can be safely extended over a longer period in the south than elsewhere.

A collection of agricultural proverbs is therefore essential. Sporadic attempts have been made in the past. A Wilson in Madras or a Ganga Ram in the Punjab however enthusiastic they be, have not been able to achieve much. Feeble attempts are made in the Madras Department of Agriculture Bulletins Nos. 22 and 24 which lack precision and do not enable one to accurately fix the localities where the sayings are current. Further the renderings into English are not properly made and are diffuse. Systematic examination must be made. And it should be the aim, as we believe it is within the competence, of agricultural departments in this country to make substantial contributions through this means to the building up of the edifice of agricultural science.

The Government of Bengal is arranging to establish a sericultural farm at Kalimpong on a plot of 20 acres outside the development area. In this presidency the post of

Sericulture. Sericultural Expert was sanctioned and Mr.

K. T. Achayya joined in October 1919. He has been, we trust, making enquiries into the local practices and formulating proposals for the opening of Sericultural seed plots and experimental farms. Kollegal, the home of

silk in the British portion of Madras, has a very large area under mulberry cultivation and silk is a familiar cottage industry. With the contiguous portions of the Bangalore and Mysore districts this tract covers an extensive area of a million acres. Should the silk industry be placed on a sound basis and growers be made self-reliant huge sums of money that find their way out into the coffers of other countries may be saved to India and the status of the agriculturist sensibly raised.

Almost at the threshold of his career in Bengal, Lord Ronaldshay passed the Ghee Adulteration Act at the insistent and very sincere demand of the Marvaris and other consuming members of the population. The cry then begun has gone forth to all corners of India and during the short space of another three years both Government and the public have been deeply considering the subject of cattle preservation from several points of view. The resolution brought forward by the Hon'ble Purushothamdas Thakurdas in the Bombay legislative council which was supported both by Hindu and Muhammadan members indicates the strong views held on this matter by even the most level-headed of Indian Provinces and is to this effect that "the Government of Bombay do represent to the Government of India the necessity of a special committee being appointed to submit a comprehensive report regarding the condition of cattle in the whole of India and the advisability of devising checks on the slaughter and export of cattle in general and milch cows in particular." We are glad this was accepted by the Government.

Cattle Pre-
servation.

The joint conference of the standing committee of the corporation of Madras have resolved to recommend to Government the construction of one milch yard near Edapalayam, Government and Corporation land being available. The estimated cost of the depot is Rs. 40,000. It is proposed to extend this to other localities if the experiment is popular with cattle owners. We fancy due enquiries have been made and local support secured, so that Calcutta experience may not be repeated in Madras.

A Burmese Press Communique recently published outlines a scheme of reconstruction which has become necessary owing to the progress made with the various projects to which the Government of His Honour Sir Reginald Craddock has committed himself. An examination of the projects has disclosed a distinct shortage of expert advisers which the Secretary of State and the Government of India are taking steps to rectify. Several private firms have arranged to secure lands for growing canes and erecting mills for crushing them. Experiments are proceeding with cotton and Mr. Sampson, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Madras, who has lately directed his attention to the study of "Coconut" is shortly due to visit Burma to examine the coastal areas in the Arakan division as regards their suitability for coconut cultivation. We hope his visit would bring to us in Madras a rich harvest of observations made and ideas gathered regarding paddy cultivation and the economic relationship between the

Development
in Burma.

Burman landlord and the floating Indian population that supplies labour for all agricultural operations.

For one thing we may note in passing that this stronghold of Buddhism has very nearly solved the knotty question of elementary education and antagonism of interests between the classes and the masses. She is rapidly changing and should soon establish an Agricultural College for which conditions were not found suitable a few years ago.

The Government of India have agreed to release four
Wheat
Export. lakhs of tons of wheat for export from Karachi before the end of March 1921. This export is contingent on the crop being big enough to keep the wheat prices at or below Rs. 5—8—0 a maund at the Lyallpur market.

. **The aid of Science to Indian Agriculture.**

The application of science to industry during the last few years has produced revolutionary changes in the industrial world. New industries have been created and the old ones have had their production increased and improved. This development has produced a wonderful change in public sentiment towards science.

In Britain a generation ago what was termed the practical man regarded the scientist with a degree of suspicion, and this is the case now in India. To-day in England all the great industries look to the Universities for their experts, and most of the large manufacturing firms have their own research departments. It is more and more being recognised that scientific methods pay, and that the sums spent on scientific research are a trifle compared with the results obtained.