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**Editorial Notes.**

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**Their Excellencies at the Agricultural College.**

The main building of the Coimbatore Agricultural College and Research Institute—a handsome specimen of the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture—was begun early in 1906 and completed in 1909. The foundation stone was laid on the 24th September 1906 by H. E. Sir Arthur Lawley—then Governor of Madras—who himself, three years later, opened it on the 14th July 1909. At the time of the opening of the Institute, the building had been designed to include, besides the Lecture Rooms and the Students' Chemical Laboratory, the Research laboratories of the Botanist, the Chemist, the Mycologist and the Entomologist. Since that time, the institution has undergone a steady though slow expansion and at the time of writing no less than eight expert officers—each requiring separate laboratory accommodation—have been added, leading to a heavy congestion of staff and thereby affecting the efficiency of the Teaching as well as of the Research Section. It was with a view to

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remedy this situation that proposals for providing a new building for teaching were made and, with the sanction of the Government, work was commenced in April 1921. At the invitation of the authorities, His Excellency kindly visited the Agricultural College on the 30th June 1922 in order to lay the foundation stone of the New Building.

A temporary pavilion had been erected by the Department of Public Works—under whose supervision the building is rapidly rising—for the function and tastefully decorated with palms and festoons and with numerous flags and buntings, while a Union Jack floated gracefully at the top. A handsome arch of welcome had been erected to greet H. E. the Governor at the entrance to the path leading to the Shamiana. It is gratifying to record that the weather which had been very inclement the previous three days and had threatened to make things very uncomfortable, cleared up on the morning of the 30th, and a fine but cool day contributed to the complete success of the function. After finishing the inspection of the large herd of pedigree cattle attached to the College Dairy, His Excellency visited the office of the Cotton Expert and inspected the very interesting work turned out there. At about 12 noon, Their Excellencies motored to the Pavilion and were greeted at the entrance by the Guard of Honour furnished by the troop of the Estate Boy Scouts. After being introduced to some of the distinguished guests, Their Excellencies were garlanded and a splendid flower bouquet was presented to Her Excellency.

Among the distinguished visitors were Messrs. the Hon. Rai Bahadur K. V. Reddi Naidu Garu, Development

Minister, the Hon. the Rajah of Panagal—Minister for Local Self-Government, Mr. Braidwood, Collector of Coimbatore, Rai Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M. L. C., Vellingiri Gounder M. L. C., C. V. Venkataramana Iyengar M. L. C., V. Sambandam Mudaliar M. L. A., Kumara Zamindar of Uttukuli etc. etc.

Mr. H. C. Sampson, C. I. E., Director of Agriculture, in welcoming Their Excellencies to the Agricultural College on behalf of the Departments of Public Works and Agriculture, referred to the adverse criticisms the Agricultural Department had received both in the press and in the Legislative Council and declared that India was a poor country and that in order to make her prosperous it was essential that research should continue both at the Institute and on the district Farms, so that well-tried improvements that might result therefrom might be demonstrated to the actual farmer. He further showed, by giving statistics, the sheer impossibility of turning out any tangible work while the department continued to be so undermanned as it was at present, there being only one demonstrator for an area of every one million acres. He instanced the cases of the creation of the Tirupur cotton market and the definite improvements in cotton effected in the southern districts as evidences of the value of demonstration. (The full speech is given elsewhere in extenso).

The Minister for Development supported in eloquent language the claims made by Mr. Sampson as to the quality and quantity of work turned out by the Department and declared that the Madras Agricultural Department as well

as the Coimbatore Research Institute could stand comparison with any in India and perhaps also in other parts of the world. He then appealed to His Excellency that he might, in view of the great interest he always took in Agricultural affairs in general and in the uplift of the ryot in special, be kind enough to allow his christian name of "Freeman" being associated with the new buildings.

Rising amidst applause, His Excellency thanked the Director of Agriculture for the warmth of the welcome accorded to him and said he was indeed very glad to think that one of his names was going to be associated with the building. Referring to the criticisms levelled against the department, H. E. declared that he could safely assert that no public department, no public man, could or indeed should expect to be free from critics whether helpful or destructive of their labours. While speaking in terms of eulogy of the work turned out by the department, he declared that he felt that it was unduly inclined to hide its light under a bushel and that it was sadly wanting in self-advertisement. As one of the forms of advertisement he suggested the organisation of a larger number of Agricultural Shows and Exhibitions where the work of the Department could be brought to the notice of the ryot.

At the request of the Superintending Engineer—Mr. P. Hawkins—His Excellency, amidst loud cheers, placed the foundation stone in position and declared that the stone had been well and truly laid, adding humourously that while it was apparent that the stone was being laid at a much later stage than usual, he was glad that from the height of the walls around there was no fear that this stone would prove to be

one of those grim spectres, often met with by Governors, that had never borne the burdens they were intended to carry.

Their Excellencies and party then went round the new buildings and on return had lunch with the Officers of the Indian Agricultural Service.

#### **Poultry Show—Ootacamund.**

The Poultry Show was held as usual at Ootacamund on the 27th May in the Flower Show week. There was a large number of interesting exhibits from various places in the neighbourhood and the show proved to be of much educative value. It was attended by Their Excellencies and other distinguished visitors. The Agricultural Department was represented by Messrs. Littlewood, Munro, Saadat-Ullah Khan and Muniappa Pillai (Veterinary Assistant). Poultry, Eggs and Butter sent up as exhibits from the Central Farm met with record success. The Poultry were awarded one first and four second Prizes (all silver medals), one of the cocks winning a silver cup as a special Prize. First Prizes were awarded also for Butter Samples and Eggs.

It is also interesting to record that exhibits (not entered for competition) of Poultry and Eggs sent to the Tirupur Cattle and Pony Show won much approbation. Both at Ooty and Tirupur, the white Leghorn Eggs exhibited sold at Rs. 3 a dozen and a keen demand has developed for the white Leghorns and their Eggs.

#### **The Tirupur Cattle and Pony Show.**

The Cattle and Pony Show was held at Tirupur on the 10th, 11th, and the 12th June 1922 and was accompanied

as usual by an exhibition of Agricultural and Industrial products. The show was crowded with spectators and there was quite a large variety of exhibits. M. R. Ry. Vellingiri Gounder Avl. M. L. C. and M. R. Ry. Alagiriswami Reddiar Avl. of Dalavaipatnam exhibited agricultural produce and fruits. The Zamindar of Kattuputhur, Trichinopoly District, brought his cattle for exhibition, as also several others, but the best types of Kangayam cattle and ponies exhibited were those of the Pattagar of Palayakottai. Prizes were awarded to many of the exhibitors though the Pattagar was as usual the recipient of the majority of them. Mr. F. Ware, I. V. S., F. R. C. V. S. Chief Superintendent, C. V. Dept. with two others judged the ponies, while Messrs. Littlewood and Munro similarly acted as Judges for the cattle and the agricultural produce respectively. The Agricultural Department was represented at the Exhibition by the Agricultural, Mycological, Entomological and Sericultural Sections—the exhibits of each section being kept in a separate stall. The exhibits as well as the lantern lectures held during the evenings attracted crowds of ryots and were appreciated by them. The Show was opened by Mr. H. L. Braidwood I. C. S.; Collector, and the prizes were distributed by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Naidu Garu—Minister for Development who referred in his speech to the valuable work done by the Madras Civil Veterinary Department and declared that within the last two or three years about 50% of the cattle mortality had been reduced, credit for which he said was due to every member of the Department.

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