

THE  
AGRICULTURAL MAGAZINE,  
COLOMBO.

*Added as a Supplement Monthly to the "TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST."*

The following pages include the Contents of the *Agricultural Magazine* for June:—

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JUNE, 1895.

[No. 12.

NATIVE CATTLE IN TOWNS.



THE damage done by native cattle to cultivated areas is a cause of common complaint, and quite lately we had the Director of Botanical Gardens writing on the subject and saying, "I have fought against this nuisance for years, but without much effect, as the existing laws and public opinion appear to be against any really efficacious measures." Our present complaint is also against the existing laws and against public opinion, which are as patient of cattle trespass as of what is, if a less destructive, a yet more dangerous custom of the country, viz., the driving of large herds of cattle for pasture along the public roads. This practice is a source of danger in more than one sense. It is dangerous to pedestrians, especially children, who frequent the public parks in the suburbs of the city, and it is dangerous to equestrians and those who drive in their carriages. The droves of cattle to be met along our public roads are supposed to be on their way to or from the pasture grounds, which are a source of revenue to the Municipality or other bodies or proprietors who charge a capitation fee of one rupee per month for cattle grazed on their lands. But the drover—and there is no more than one man for some fifteen or twenty head of cattle—never loses the opportunity of utilizing all the forage to be picked up free of cost on the roadsides, where the grass is generally thick and luxuriant. Native cattle, and particularly native buffaloes, are by no means the most

domesticated of the so-called domestic animals of Ceylon, and there is therefore always the possibility of men, women and children being gored, or of horses and carriages being wrecked, through the incapacity of the drover to control his herd. Indeed, we know of many accidents that have occurred through this source of danger.

But the practice against which we complain is a source of danger in a more serious way; namely, as a means of disseminating cattle disease, particularly foot and mouth disease, and murrian—which are so easily conveyed from one animal to another. We have seen herds of native cattle being driven along the public roads, and round about infected areas, when both these forms of disease were prevalent in the town. The animals are so little under the control of the herdsman, that often some of them break away from the herd, and, effecting an entrance through a live hedge or through wire fencing (as only native cattle in Ceylon can), enter an area to which they carry or from which they convey the infection of disease. We consider this evil of driving untethered cattle along the public roads a most serious one which calls for speedy redress. It is all very well to be told that due restrictions are imposed on the movements of animals during times of diseases. We ourselves have not seen much good come out of these regulations; but this we are confident of, that the licence which allows of cattle wandering along public roads, skirting private grounds, gives great facilities for the spread of disease among live stock. The grazing of cattle by the roadside, and especially

in the vicinity of cultivated grass lands, from which the nomadic animals might get a few bites of succulent fodder by craning their necks through the fences, goes on most commonly under the cover of darkness, and the owners of native stock in towns are even in the habit of driving their cattle into private gardens and grass lands, during the night time, for a supply of food. Under the circumstances detailed above, we think it is high time that some measures were passed which will enforce upon owners of native cattle in towns, the duty of having all animals that are being conveyed along public roads secured with ropes and kept well under the control of drovers—two animals to each man; further, all cattle should be prohibited from grazing along public roads. We feel sure that these measures will meet with the approval of all owners of stock who have the welfare of their animals at heart, and are adopting the most approved methods of stock-keeping.

#### RAINFALL TAKEN AT THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE DURING MAY, 1895.

1	..	Nil	13	..	1.06	25	..	.22
2	..	Nil	14	..	.02	26	..	.01
3	..	Nil	15	..	.34	27	..	.27
4	..	Nil	16	..	2.75	28	..	.34
5	..	Nil	17	..	.11	29	..	.31
6	..	.41	18	..	.01	30	..	.35
7	..	.32	19	..	Nil	31	..	.01
8	..	.48	20	..	.06	1	..	.01
9	..	.01	21	..	.01			
10	..	.01	22	..	Nil	Total	..	12.71
11	..	4.65	23	..	Nil			
12	..	.96	24	..	.01	Mean	..	.41

Greatest amount of rainfall in any 24 hours on the 11th instant, 4.65 inches.

Recorded by P. VAN DE BONA.

#### OCCASIONAL NOTES.

From the consignment of rhea cuttings received from Calcutta, about 100 plants are now flourishing on the School of Agriculture grounds.

A large quantity of seed was gathered from the Reana plots grown at the school, and after distribution among our Agricultural Instructors, there is still a good deal left, which can be had in small quantities on application.

We have during the past month had further applications for the seeds of the Cow-pea from planters both in Ceylon and India. A trial is going on with two varieties of paddy seed received through the kindness of Mr. Prasanna Nath Lahiri, the writer of the article on Early Paddy which appeared in the April number of the Magazine. These are known as Dinagapore aus paddy and Banafuli rice.

The Ceylon Government Dairy is once more in full working order, having only now completely recovered from the shock which it received in February last year, when cattle murrain worked such havoc with the stock. The daily output of

milk is at present about 40 gallons, all of which goes to the Government hospitals. Six Sind cows and a Sind bull were added to the herd in April—having been purchased from the lot imported by Mr. T. H. A. de Soysa. It is intended to draft out a number of calves and a few cows from the dairy herd (as was done last year), and offer them for sale by public auction in the course of next month.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following exchanges:—St. Thomas' College Magazine, Our Boys, Agricultural Journal of the Cape of Good Hope, the Agricultural Gazette of Barbadoes.

#### LAWS OF CEYLON RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

##### CHAP. V.—RULES FOR ENFORCING CUSTOMS.

1. All rules framed under the provisions of Sections 3 and 6 of Chapter III. shall be transmitted by the Government Agent to the Governor, for his approval or disallowance with the advice of the Executive Council; and if such rules shall be approved, notice shall be given by proclamation; and the said rules shall be published in the Gazette, and in the district as to the Government Agent seems fit, and shall thereupon become binding, and shall be as legal, valid, and effectual as if the same had been inserted herein; Provided that nothing in those rules shall be repugnant to, or inconsistent with, the true intent and meaning of this Ordinance.

2. The Government Agent may, if it seems advisable, or shall, upon the requisition of a reasonable number of the proprietors of a district, call a public meeting of the proprietors to add to, amend, or repeal any rules which are in force, or in case he has drawn up rules under Sec. 6 of Chap. III. add to, amend, or repeal any such rules, and draw up new rules in lieu of them. Provided that any alteration, made by proprietors, be determined at a public meeting duly convened, and by such a majority as is required by Sec. 5 of Chap. III., and subject to the provisions with regard to original rules contained in Chap. III., and that all alterations and all new rules made by the Government Agent shall be transmitted to the Governor for approval or disallowance, and shall, if approved, be published as provided in the preceding Section.

##### CHAPTER VI.

1. When it shall be necessary to convene a Village Council the G. A. shall give notice in the village where the offender resides or where the act is said to have been committed. The complaint shall be publicly inquired into by the G. A. or some person deputed by him for the purpose assisted by a Village Council. The inquiry must be held in the presence of the offender, unless he wilfully keeps away. If the Village Council finds the offender guilty of a breach of any of the rules, and if the G. A. be of the same opinion, the Village Council shall forthwith award and adjudge that the offender do pay a penalty not exceeding Rs. 10. No sentence, which has not been confirmed by the G. A. shall be carried into effect.

Provided that the deputation to convene Village Councils to try breaches of rules, and also the