

Expenses.	Amount. R. c.	Total. R. c.
Cost of feeding 40 cows at 50 cents per day per head ...	620 0	
Cost of feeding 5 cows at 46 cents per day per head ...	71 30	
Pay of 8 coolies ...	80 0	
Cost of carriage and ferrying of milk to Hendala Leper Asylum ...	13 75	
Carriage of milk to Club House ...	7 56	
Pay of the Manager ...	40 0	
		832 61
Net profits ...	—	555 29
		<hr/>
Total ...		1,387 90

Statement showing the Receipts, Cost of Maintenance, and the profit of the Government Dairy Farm during 1893.

Receipts.		Amount. R. c.
June	Amount realized by sale of milk, butter, manure, &c. ...	257 70
July	Do do ...	750 24
August	Do do ...	1,248 52
September	Do do ...	1,245 6
October	Do do ...	1,379 80
November	Do do ...	1,358 64
December	Do do ...	1,387 90
	Total ...	7,627 86

Expenditure.		Amount. R. c.	Total. R. c.
Amount paid to the Manager as salary from July 1 to December 31 ...	240 0		
Amount paid to six coolies as wages from June 1 to September 30 ...	240 0		
Amount paid to eight coolies as wages from October 1 to December 31 ...	240 0		
Amount expended in feeding cows from June 1 to December 31 ...	4,192 95		
Amount expended in transporting milk to Hendala Leper Asylum, &c. ...	64 93		
			4,977 88
Amount paid to the Manager being 6 per cent commission due to him on the profits realized ...	—	157 94	
	Net Profit ...	2,492 4	
	Total ...		7,627 86

The total cost to Government of establishing the dairy, maintaining it, and working it from June to December, 1893, including the purchase of stock, was R19,432.10.

On 31st December the estimated value of the dairy, including buildings, stock, utensils, Model Farm, &c., was R12,510.

The net profits realised from the dairy from June to December, 1893, were R2,492.04. This is exclusive of the profits realized from the working of the Alfred Model Farm, which aggregated R1,322.70.

The percentage of profit to Government for 1893 on the capital cost (R14,296.38) was 26½ for six months.

C. DRIEBERG,
Superintendent.

GENERAL ITEMS.

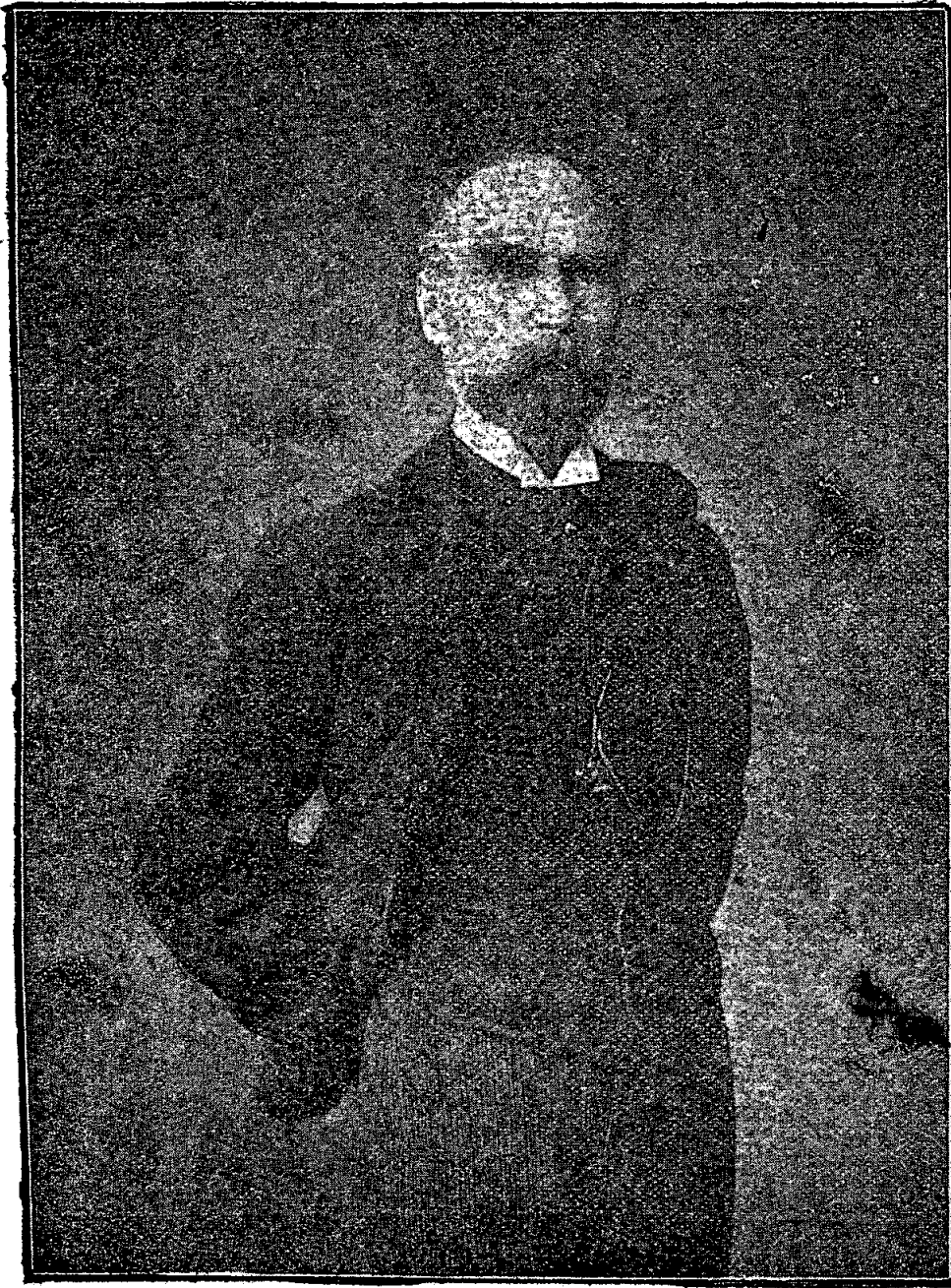
The drought in Colombo and its suburbs is telling severely on cultivated grass lands, with the result that the supply is short of the demand and prices are going up.

Mr. A. M. Fernando, late of the School of Agriculture, has been appointed by the Hon. the Government Agent of the Western Province to visit and report on cattle disease in the villages as soon as the occurrence of any cases is made known. Mr. Fernando has given much of his time and attention during the past two years to the subject of diseases among cattle, and should be able to do some good work among native cattle-owners.

A museum of a unique character, and the first of its kind in the Colonies, is about to be established in Brisbane. In it will be principally stored pathological specimens, by means of which information respecting the origin and nature of animal diseases could be given. This would seem to be an excellent idea and one which should be carried out wherever veterinary work is being done.

In the inaugural address of the President of the Association of Economic Entomologists of America, Mr. James Fletcher gives, among other interesting information, a fair idea as to what degree the knowledge of the habits of life of insects helps in devising means for checking them. He roughly estimates the damage done in the United States by insects at 1/5 of the value of the agricultural produce, or at the enormous sum of £76,000,000 per year.

The practice of branding is universal, and it is hardly possible to do without it, especially in the country, where the owners of cattle must use some distinguishing mark that is difficult to alter in order that their cattle can be recognised. But it is not necessary that the skin of the animal should be covered with letters or figures each about 1 foot square, or that the very best portions of the hide should be selected as the most fitting place to affix these marks. The brands used are, as a rule, far too large, particularly when young stock are being marked. A large brand applied to a young calf leaves a mark which grows with the growth of the animal, and finally spreads over a considerable portion of the side. If the calf is sold two or three times before it matures, and each successive owner affixes his own brand, the result is a series of grotesque symbols which by no means add to the appearance of the animal, and have the effect of greatly reducing the value of the hide to the leather merchant. If branding cannot be done without, the least, and not the most, valuable portions of the hide should be selected, and in the case of young stock brands of very much smaller dimensions should be used, so as not to create an immense mark when the animal is full grown. Brands would be just as readily distinguishable if placed on the neck, high up on the forearm, or low down on the thigh. Some owners have adopted the proceeding of branding the cattle on the forehead, and this has the advantage of leaving the useful portion of the skin intact. A change from the practice of indiscriminately spoiling hides should be devised and generally adopted.



MR. WILLIAM SHELFORD,
MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTES OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

*Tropical Agriculturist Portrait Gallery,
No. XIV.*