

Agricultural Development in India.

The following is a letter received by J. B. Spencer, Chief of the Publications Branch Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, from S. Higginbottom, an ex-student of the O. A. C. and now Agricultural Mission Worker in India. Undoubtedly the letter will be of interest to many of our readers who are interested in what is going on in India and in the part played by that great country in increasing the world's supply of food:

"The Gwalior exhibition has just closed and after it is all over it is said to have been the largest and most interesting on record in Central India. The North India Mission entered on a new era in mission work, for all the agricultural arrangements for the exhibition were in its hands. Mr. Griffin with his tractors actually plowing, his harrows, harrowing, his pumps pumping, and his fine crops of pedigree wheat and grain, proved an attraction superior to the wrestling arena. Dr. Kenoyer, in his beautiful research laboratory with experiments of all kinds under way that the Indian farmers could see and understand, his charts, microscopes, seed-testing, was more popular than the Indian juggler who makes the mango tree grow and bear fruit under a gunny bag.

"Mrs. Wiser with her demonstrations of fruit canning and vegetable preservation, showing the people of India a cheap, sanitary and easy way of saving food was more popular than the nautch girl. The Maharajah brought down the ladies of the place to see and learn her methods. As he was a mere man he could not go in under the canopy which was kept strictly purdah. The fruits and vegetables were grown in the palace gardens, the jars were made in the state pottery, common Indian cooking vessels were used and the common Indian portable stoves gave the fire for cooking and sterilization. Thus attention was drawn to the fact that India could do these things for herself just as well as depend upon Europe and America for preserved fruits and vegetables. A few days after Mrs. Wiser had shown the Rani and Princesses how to can and put up food, the Maharajah sent them back to demonstrate to Mrs. Wiser how well they had learned their lessons. He wanted to be sure they got it right, as he will have to eat the things they put up.

"Mr. Slater came over with a lot of his chickens from Etah to manage the poultry part of the exhibition. It was the best poultry show I have ever seen in India. The judging was done by Sir Edwin John of Agra who knows his job and the interesting fact emerged that all the first prizes and grand championships were won, not by imported birds, but by birds bred in the country from imported stock. From now on India will be less dependent upon importations but can develop types suited to her own needs. This is of the greatest importance to the poultry interests of India, and Mr. Slater has good reason to be happy over the outcome of his years of labor to introduce better poultry among the low caste convert as a way to improving their economic condition and fitting them to pay the salaries of their own preachers and teachers.

"We are anxiously waiting to know what reinforcements we can expect as every one of us is so sadly overburdened that good work is impossible with our students, and unless we give them the best we have, they will not be able to meet the large demands that India will make on her leaders in this great warfare against ignorance and poverty. It becomes increasingly difficult to manage without laboratories and class rooms, as the number of eager young Indian students multiplies. We are all praying that even during the great war these things may be given to us.

"The latest figures show that India has nearly four million more acres under wheat than in 1915, nearly as much extra under rice, while the area under cotton has increased over four million acres in the same time, her increase in acreage and in yield per acre of sugar shows that she will soon supply her own needs and have a surplus. Thus India is doing her bit to feed a hungry world and with proper equipment and leader-

Devonshire.

[L.S.]



CANADA.

PROCLAMATION

GEORGE the FIFTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, KING, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

To all to whom these presents shall come or whom the same may in any wise concern,—GREETING :

A Proclamation of conditional amnesty respecting men belonging to Class 1 under the Military Service Act, 1917, who have disobeyed our Proclamation of 13th October, 1917, or their orders to report for duty, or are deserters or absent without leave from the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

E. L. NEWCOMBE, } WHEREAS consider-
Deputy Minister of Justice, } able numbers of men
Canada. } belonging to Class I under our Military Service Act, 1917, called out on active service in our Canadian Expeditionary Force for the defence of Canada under Our Proclamation of 13th October, 1917, although they have thus become by law soldiers enlisted in the Military Service of Canada,

Have failed to report for duty as lawfully required of them under the said Military Service Act and the regulations thereunder, including the Order in Council duly passed on April 20 last,

Or have deserted,
Or absented themselves without leave from our Canadian Expeditionary Force,

And it is represented that the very serious and unfortunate situation in which these men find themselves is due in many cases to the fact that, notwithstanding the information and warning contained in Our Proclamation aforesaid, they have misunderstood their duty or obligation, or have been misled by the advice of ill-disposed, disloyal or seditious persons.

AND WHEREAS we desire, if possible, to avoid the infliction of the heavy penalties which the law imposes for the offences of which these soldiers have thus been guilty, and to afford them an opportunity within a limited time to report and make their services available in Our Canadian Expeditionary Force as is by law their bounden duty; and as is necessary for the defence of Our Dominion of Canada.

NOW KNOW YE that we in the exercise of Our powers, and of Our good will and pleasure in that behalf, do hereby proclaim and declare and cause to be published and made known THAT THE PENALTIES OF THE LAW WILL NOT BE IMPOSED OR EXACTED as against the men who belong to Class 1 under Our Military Service Act, 1917, and who have disobeyed Our Proclamation aforesaid; or who have received notice from any of Our registrars or deputy registrars to report for duty on a day now past and have failed so to report; or who, having reported and obtained leave of absence, have failed to report at the expiry of their leave, or have become deserters from Our Expeditionary Force, PROVIDED THEY REPORT FOR DUTY ON OR BEFORE THE TWENTY FOURTH DAY OF AUGUST 1918.

AND WE DO HEREBY STRICTLY WARN AND SOLEMNLY IMPRESS UPON ALL SUCH MEN, and as well those who employ, harbour, conceal or assist them in their disobedience, that, if they persist in their failure to report, absence or desertion until the expiry of the last mentioned day, they will be pursued and punished with all the rigour and severity of the law, SUBJECT TO THE JUDGMENT OF OUR COURTS MARTIAL WHICH WILL BE CONVENED TO TRY SUCH CASES or other competent tribunals: and also that those who employ, harbour, conceal or assist such men will be held strictly accountable as offenders and subject to the pains, penalties and forfeitures in that behalf by law provided for their said offence.

Provided however that nothing contained in this Our Proclamation is intended to release the men aforesaid from their obligation to report for duty as soon as possible or to grant them immunity from arrest or detention in the meantime for the purpose of compelling them to perform their military duty; Our intention being merely to forego or remit the penalties heretofore incurred for failure to report, absence without leave or desertion incurred by those men of the description aforesaid who shall be in the proper discharge of their military duties on or before the said twenty-fourth day of August, 1918.

Of all of which Our loving subjects and all others whom these presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. Witness: Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor, Victor Christian William, Duke of Devonshire, Marquess of Hartington, Earl of Devonshire, Earl of Burlington, Baron Cavendish of Hardwicke, Baron Cavendish of Keighley, Knight of Our Most Noble Order of the Garter; One of Our Most Honourable Privy Council; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order; Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Our Dominion of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of OTTAWA, this FIRST day of AUGUST, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, and in the ninth year of Our Reign.

By Command,

Thomas Mackey

Under-Secretary of State.