

RICE RAISING IN INDIA.

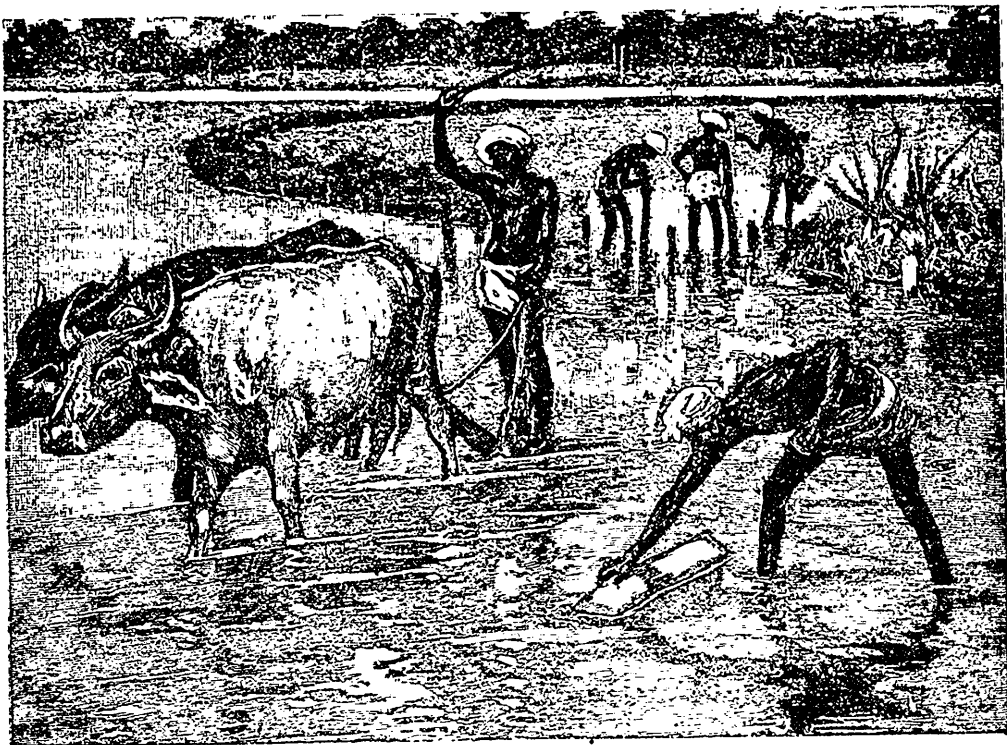
All farming is more or less a perplexity to one who does not understand it, but the cultivation of rice in India is beyond everything.

Rice is eaten everywhere in the tropics, and the more the farmers raise of it the better; so no good field for rice is ever neglected or used for anything else.

That is the signal for them to begin in right good earnest.

They go out into the water with a yoke of sacred bullocks attached to precisely the same style of plough that their great-grandfathers used. It is an ungainly affair, but they make it do the work required of it just as it has done that same work for centuries, and they are quite satisfied.

All they really care to do is to scratch up



Farmers Planting Rice in India.

When the winter's snows melt on the mountains, with the rains of the wet season to help out, the rivers rise till they flood all the country on either bank for many miles. Then the Hindus stand ready with their tools and seed, and only wait till the flood has reached its height, and begins, slowly,

to retreat.

Other men follow the plough with bags of seed rice fastened round their waists and carrying a piece of board in one hand.

With the free hand they scatter rice upon the soaked earth and make the water as muddy as possible.