

and that, although it is his aim to supply the world with
cheap food and raw materials, his primary object is to
sell his goods at a "profitable price" in order to get
a high standard of living as possible for himself and

Introduction: Scope of Agricultural Economics.

The scope of the Agricultural Economist is so wide that it is difficult to put all his activities into a single definition. The aim of his work, however, is always clear; it is to show the farmer where to direct his efforts to get a maximum profit from his estate. Agriculture is an industry and the farmer is a business man, and has as many economic problems as the owner of a business in any other industry, and needs a specialist economist to deal with the problems peculiar to his industry. The Agricultural Economist is concerned with the "science in which the principles and methods of economics are applied to the special conditions of the Agricultural Industry" (1), and his approach to the "collective phenomena of agriculture must be through the individual farm as a unit." (1). Agricultural Economics is not merely the application of general economic theories to Agriculture, but should maintain its place of dependence and assistance. (2) Both the general and the Agricultural Economist deal with the production and distribution of wealth; but the former is concerned with the wealth of the nation, whereas the Agricultural Economist is concerned more with the agricultural community and endeavours to show the farmer how he can obtain a fair share of the nation's wealth in return for the goods he has supplied. It must be realised always that the farmer is a business man, not a "philanthropic institution"

and that, although it is his aim to supply the world with cheap food and raw materials, his primary object is to sell his goods at a "profitable price" in order to get as high a standard of living as possible for himself and family.

The duty of the Agricultural Economist, then, is two-fold. Firstly, he must show the farmer which of his efforts in cultivation, marketing and buying are giving the best results; and to indicate to him along what lines his efforts must be directed in order to get maximum results now and in the future. Secondly, there is the Agricultural Economist's duty to the State. The whole world depends on the Agriculturist, because he is the producer of primary products, and it is generally recognised that a flourishing nation must have a well developed Agricultural Industry. World economic forces, however, often tend to suppress Agriculture, especially in a manufacturing country, and in such cases it is in the interests of the nation that the Government shall intervene and aid the Industry. The Government can do this by helping to form organisations for which it would be difficult to obtain capital in the open market, and by protecting the industry with tariffs, or by otherwise aiding it by passing suitable legislation. When a government decides to take steps of this nature, it is necessary that it shall have adequate economic information; and therefore the Agricultural Economist should understand thoroughly all phases of the industry, and should be in a position to supply the State with the information it needs. An example of this type of work is met with in S. M. Gilbert's "Survey of the Cocoa Industry of Trinidad," and is referred to again later in this dissertation.

Political?
8