

Madras Representative
Christian Council

Conference on
Rural Reconstruction
6-7 Feb. 1930

Report
(Rural problems)

INTRODUCTION

THE Kingdom of God cannot be successfully built in a rural country like India, unless a strong foundation is laid among the village people. Too often our rural brethren are illiterate, fever-ridden, half-starved, exploited by many and neglected by our better educated workers. Such conditions confront Churches and Missions with serious rural problems that provoke thought. We are trying to solve them each in our separate way, largely ignorant of each other's success and failures. The time has now come to pool our experience and work in union.

As a beginning in this direction a Conference was arranged by the Madras Representative Christian Council on February 6th and 7th at the Y. W. C. A., Madras, for a discussion of our rural problems. The Conference, which was preceded by preparatory group-meetings in Ikkadu, Vellore, Coimbatore, Alwaye, Martandan and Madura, had the advantage of the help and inspiration of prominent thinkers and leaders, such as Dr. K. L. Butterfield of America and others. One session was public at which heads of Government Departments and representatives of other agencies addressed the Conference. The other sessions were confined to Christian workers. The papers read at the Conference were so valuable that it was found advisable to collect them and publish them in book form. Our thanks are due to all who kindly consented to read papers and to give their manuscripts for print. The booklet is available from the C. L. S. or the Secretary, M. R. C. C., 'Gurukul', Kilpauk, Madras.

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