

on compulsory general legislation. The alcohol-petrol blend as a source of fuel for internal combustion engines is not yet an entirely successful and proved proposition fit for universal adoption. It is true it is being used in Germany, France and Italy. In America, where it is said to be in vogue, the American Automobile Association carried out several investigations in co-operation with the Secretary for Agriculture early in 1933 and issued two leaflets dated March and June 1933. According to the report of the American Automobile Association, alcohol is materially lower in heat value than gasoline and therefore requires adjustment of carburettors for equal performance compared with gasoline. Alcohol has the property of absorbing moisture and this results in the separation of alcohol and petrol in the blend and involve carburation and starting difficulties. In addition, increase in maintenance cost of motors may be expected owing to the deleterious effects on various parts of the system. Based on these observations, the Board of the American Automobile Association finally stated that hundreds of tests conclusively showed that an alcohol gasoline blend would be a great deal less efficient than regular gasoline and that its universal and compulsory use would add to the cost of up-keep. In the light of this experience, the decision of the Sugar Committee to carry out preliminary experiments is undoubtedly based on a very careful examination of the question in its several aspects.

This is about the disposal of factory molasses. There is still the problem of the disposal of molasses from small factories which manufacture white sugar by the open-pan system. The accumulations from individual factories may be small relatively,

but in the aggregate the quantity of molasses produced will be larger than that from big factories. Even if the manufacture of power alcohol and its use as motor fuel with petrol materialises, it will not be a paying proposition for the open-pan sugar producing concerns to transport his molasses to a central distillery. The disposal of this type of molasses still constitutes a problem, and calls for investigation. Taking everything into consideration the most promising line of development appears to lie in the use of molasses in agriculture itself for manurial and feeding purposes. This kind of disposal is already in vogue in Java, Hawaii and other sugar-producing countries, but it is necessary to carry out investigations with reference to Indian conditions before agricultural departments in India are in a position to make specific recommendations. A comprehensive scheme of research on the effect of molasses on the soil in regard to its physico-chemical and bio-chemical characteristics, on its effect on crops and on its value in the feeding of farm animals has been in progress at Coimbatore this year and some interesting and valuable data have already been obtained.

When considering the Indian Sugar Industry one has always to remember that the Industry will need to face World competition if and when protection is withdrawn in the fulness of time and the utilisation of waste and bye-products is one way of stabilising the Industry against such competition.

The Committee also considered and discussed annual reports of the various schemes previously sanctioned and fair progress was evidenced in all directions.

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Indian Science Congress.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

OWING to the continued plague epidemic in Poona which has only slightly abated, the venue of the Congress at Poona would have entailed special measures, such as obligatory inoculation of all visitors. The Local Committee, as well as the Congress authorities, have very carefully considered the situation and finally decided to avoid

the inconvenience and possible danger of a meeting at Poona. In consultation with the University authorities in Bombay it has been decided to transfer the venue of the Congress from Poona to Bombay. The original date of the opening of the Congress (2nd January) remains unaltered.