

SEASONAL NOTES

FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL IN COCONUT LANDS

This period of the year is mostly dry except during the latter part of April when inter-monsoonal showers can be expected.

During these months the kind of attention that a coconut land should receive is similar to that which should be given in the months of August, September and October—for details please refer to *Planters' Review*, Volume I, No. 1.

For instance, soil and moisture conservation drains should be cleaned and the bunds repaired. Seedlings which have been planted during the previous North/East monsoon should whenever necessary be watered, as this will be the first dry period that the young plants would experience. Mulching round young seedlings with coconut husks too, is particularly advantageous under such conditions. Any dead or unwanted palms that have been removed should be cut, piled and burnt as the stems would otherwise decay during rainy weather and function as breeding places of the Black-Beetle pest of coconuts. Coconut trunks for this same reason, should never be used as fence posts.

Drains, for draining out excess water in low-lying or water logged areas are best cut during dry months. In making these drains care should be taken to see that the sides of the drains are cut slanting outwards as otherwise there would be a tendency for the drains to break away. In heavy water logged lands it is best if sods of grass could be placed along the edges of the drains to prevent surface break off. The soil from the drains may either be put round the base of the palm or spread on the surface. Straight long drains down the slope should be avoided as these could, owing to the heavy flow of water during the rainy season widen out and ultimately form gullies.

Lining, for planting and Husk burying for moisture conservation as recommended in the Seasonal Notes of *Planters' Review*, Vol. I, No. 1 could also be practised in preparation for the Yala or May/June rains.

Some of the commoner pests of coconuts are White Ants; Black-Beetle; Red-weevil; Coconut Scale and Coconut Caterpillar.

White Ants

Seedlings planted in lands infested with White Ants should be treated with one of the following chemicals, by pouring one gallon of the prepared solution round the base of the seedling with a watering can. The recom-

