

The Economic Enquiry, Part II

(THE KSHATRIYA SECTION)

INTRODUCTION :

The Mahratta Kshatriya residents in the City of Madras form a fairly large proportion of the Maharashtrian community settled here permanently. But curiously enough they have lived all these years as a distinct social unit. It is understood that even among them, members of the different subsections live in separate groups or entities. No serious attempt was made hitherto to bring together the two main sections of the community. The Mahratta Education Fund has been established with the main object of improving the social and economic condition of the entire community in these parts ; and in furtherance of this object, it has already created a fund called the Economic Amelioration Fund. Under its auspices the present survey has been undertaken with reference to all the sections of the community. We propose to record in the following pages the results of the enquiry so far as they concern the Kshatriya section.

The reasons which impelled us to deal with the Brahmin and Kshatriya sections separately are two-fold. As already stated, the two sections have all along remained separate and developed distinct social habits and economic traits. The food requirements of the one are greatly different from those of the other. An evaluation of the material well-being and depth of poverty in the whole community on an unified classification of the results of investigation relating to both the sections was therefore bound to be misleading. Further, collection of information in regard to Kshatriya families was greatly delayed on account of the paucity of volunteers drawn from that section. The work had to be managed mainly by two volunteers who had offered to help us in this matter.

The Method of Enquiry :—The investigation in respect of the Kshatriya section was conducted on lines more or less identical with those adopted for the other section. The same form of questionnaire was used. The same doubt and distrust born of a lack of appreciation of the object or purpose of the enquiry of this kind were met with ; but our volunteers were able to disarm suspicion and collect fairly reliable data.

Though every attempt was made to reach all the families settled in the City, it was possible to record the particulars of only 228 families till the date of tabulation. These families were not specially selected for investigation. They were visited by our volunteers at random without any bias. The particulars obtained may therefore be taken as a reliable basis for our present review.

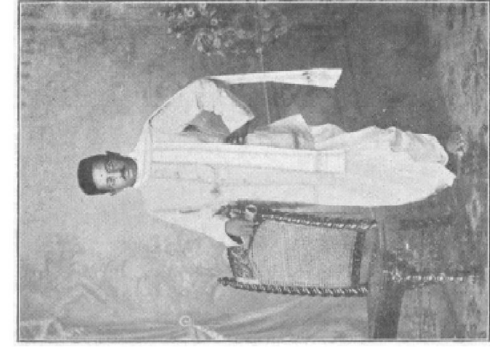
The particulars furnished in about a dozen forms were found to be rather meagre. They have therefore been excluded and the results noted below are drawn mainly from the forms relating to the remaining 216 families.

Distribution of families :—These 216 families contain 957 people, including men, women and children. A classification of the population according to age, and sex together with the number of occupied and unoccupied persons per 1,000 inhabitants is given below :—

TABLE A

	Total	Per 1000
Children under 14 years	303	315.6
Males between 14 and 20 years	64	66.9
" 20 " 40 "	180	188.1
" 40 " 65 "	105	109.7
" 65 and above	12	12.5
Females between 14 and 20 years	53	55.3
" 20 " 40 "	173	180.8
" 40 " 65 "	61	63.9
" 65 and above	7	7.2
	<hr/> 957	<hr/> 1000.0
Occupied Males	245	373.5
" Females	12	18.3
" boys under 18	1	1.5
" girls under 16	—	—
Unoccupied Males over 18	76	115.8
" Females over 16	273	416.2
" boys under 18	35	53.4
" girls under 16	14	21.3
	<hr/> 656*	<hr/> 1000.0
Whole population	957	
Number of families	216	
Children under 5 years	107	
Children between 5 and 14 years	195	
Children per family under 5 years	.49	
Children per family between 5 and 14	.91	
	<hr/> 1.41	

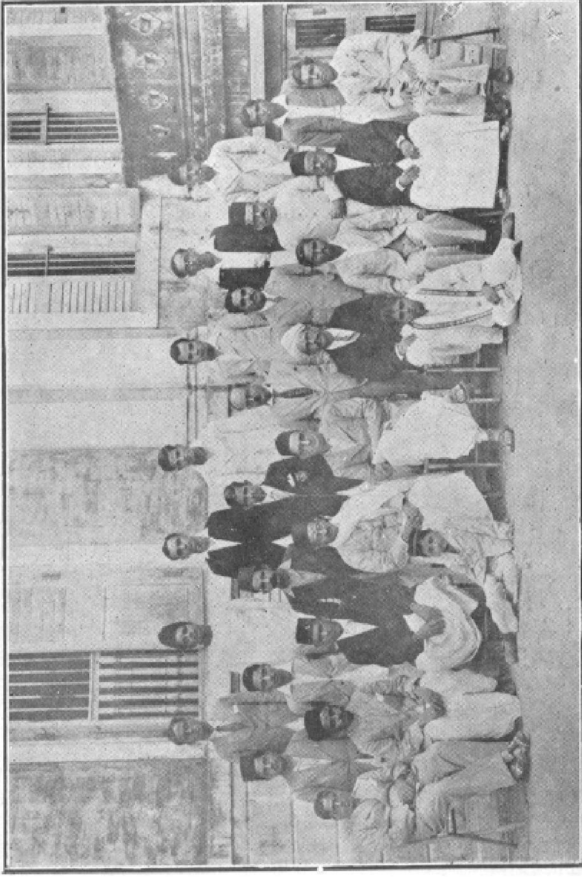
*The rest are boys between 14 and 18, girls between 14 and 16, and children below 14.



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The Family :—A family may be defined as a group of persons, usually relations, living together in a self-contained tenement and sharing, common food. It generally consists of a man, his wife and children. Very often his parents live with him. In some cases, brothers, sisters and other relations also form part of the family. The constitution of an average family is given below :—

AVERAGE FAMILY		
Earners		Non-earner
1·13	Men over 18 years	·37
·06	Women over 16 years	1·26
	Boys under 18 years	·16
	Girls under 16 years	·07
	Children between 5—14 years	·91
	Children below 5 years	·49
<hr/> 1·19		<hr/> 3·26

All persons, earners and non-earners 4·45.

A single earner in a family is thus found to support 2·7 other members, of whom more than 50% are children.

This average does not indicate fully the variety in the constitution of the family. Hence a classification of families by earning strength and number of dependent children is given below.

CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILIES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF EARNERS

No. of earners in the family	No. of families	Percentage of the total
1	182	84·3
2	28	12·9
3	4	1·9
4 and more	2	·9
	<hr/> 216	<hr/> 100·0

FAMILIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF DEPENDANT CHILDREN

No. of non-earning children including boys under 18 and girls under 16.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No. of families.	75	57	36	28	13	6	0	0	1
Percentage of all families.	34·7	26·4	16·7	12·9	6·0	2·8	0	0	·5

Over 84% of the families depend on a single earner for sustenance. The percentage of families with 2 earners is indeed small and that with more than 2 negligible.

As regards the number of dependent children, it is interesting to notice that families with less than the average number of children per family *viz.*, 1·4 constitute the bulk. Families with more than 2 children form but 21% of the total number.

A further classification showing the burden of responsibility of each earner in the family is furnished in the following statement :—

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF EARNERS FOR DEPENDANTS.

Degree of responsibility.		Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	
		earners	of such	earners	of such	
		over 20.	earners.	over 18.	earners.	
No responsibility		5	2·9	1	8·3	
Part responsibility for						
	1 person	...	...	1	8·3
do.	2 "	6	2·9	2	16·7	
do.	3 "	10	4·9	2	16·7	
do.	4 " or more	10	4·9	2	16·7	
Total responsibility :—						
0 children and	1 adult	35	17·1	2	16·7	
do.	2 "	14	6·8	...	...
do.	3 "	7	3·4	...	...
do.	4 " or more	3	1·5	...	...
1	do.	0 "	...	...	...
	do.	1 "	20	9·8	...	
	do.	2 "	15	7·25	1	8·3
	do.	3 "	6	2·9	...	
	do.	4 " or more	4	2	...	
2	do.	0 "	...	...	...
	do.	1 "	14	6·8	1	8·3
	do.	2 "	8	3·9	...	
	do.	3 "	4	2	...	
	do.	4 " or more	2	1	...	
3	do.	0 "	...	...	...
	do.	1 "	15	7·25	...	
	do.	2 "	7	3·4	...	
	do.	3 "	2	1	...	
	do.	4 " or more	2	1	...	
4	do. or more	0 "	...	...	...
	do.	1 "	5	2·4	...	
	do.	2 "	4	2	...	
	do.	3 "	1	·5	...	
	do.	4 " or more	5	2·4	...	
		204	100·0	12	100·0	

Housing :—As in the case of Mahratta Brahmin families the particulars given under the head "habitation" in the questionnaire were meagre. No detailed information was furnished regarding the type of houses inhabited, their situation and surroundings, facilities of water supply and drainage or the extent of accommodation, etc. No correct estimate can therefore be made of either the general housing condition or the extent of overcrowding. Nevertheless it is possible to discern some broad characteristics of the situation. The distribution of the population in the City shows that nearly 90% of the families live in the revenue divisions of George Town and Triplicane. The cause of this concentration is not clear. Perhaps the traditional herd-instinct common to all species accounts for it. The chief occupation of the people is tailoring; and as most of the tailoring houses are situated in the two localities referred to, there is a tendency to live in close proximity to their places of work. These parts of the City are noted for congestion and high rent. So the people have to endure the inconveniences of overcrowding.

An analysis of the particulars available shows that 14 families live in houses owned by them. The rest live in rented houses. The following table shows distribution of these families on the basis of the rent paid.

Rent paid	No. of families	Percentage
Rs. * 0 to 5 per month	49	23
" 6 " 10 "	79	37
" 11 " 15 "	18	8
" 16 " 20 "	4	2
Over 20	1	.5
Others (particulars not known)	63	29.5
	214	100

As it will be useful for purposes of comparison at a future date if a similar enquiry is undertaken, the Median, Quartile and Decile rent as derived from the recorded information, are noted below :—

1. Decile .. Rs. 5 0 0	4. Quartile .. " 8 0 0
2. Quartile .. " 5 0 0	5. Decile .. " 14 0 0
3. Median .. " 7 8 0	

Income :—The particulars regarding Income were the most difficult to obtain. Many do not keep accounts. Several have no regular employment. Some are employed on casual labour on varying wages. Hence it was difficult to assess the monthly income exactly. A few cases of exaggeration and under-statement were also met with. Every effort was made to check the figures furnished as far as practicable to ensure at least a reasonable approximation to the actual. It may therefore be taken that they are not wide of the mark. In making the estimate of family income it was assumed that the income of each earning member in the family went into the common purse.

Pensions were also counted as income. The following statement shows the number of families in the different grades of income :—

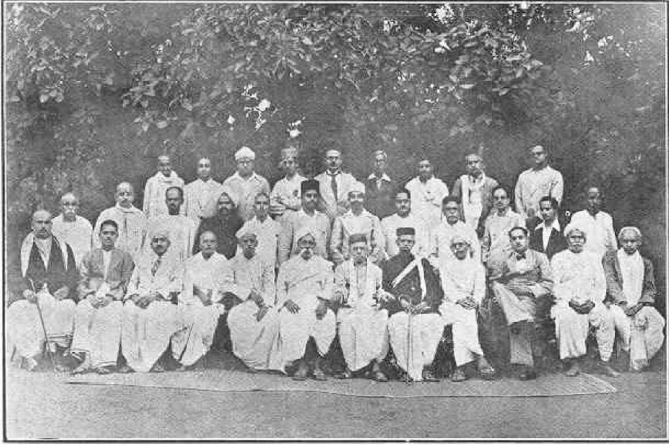
Monthly income.	Not known.	Rs. 1—10	11—15	16—20	21—25	26—30
No. of families.	23	2	10	33	29	34
Percentage.	10.1	.9	4.4	14.4	12.7	14.9
31—35	36—40	41—45	46—50	51—100	101—150	151 and over
19	20	6	15	31	4	2
8.3	8.8	2.6	6.6	13.6	1.8	.9

Poverty :—There is no universal definition of "poverty". The meaning of the term varies from time to time and place to place. The conventional economic standard based on the minimum primary needs of food, clothing, shelter etc., was therefore adopted to determine the line of poverty and an estimate made of the number of families above or below it.

The allowance made for food in the above standard is based on the scientific data regarding food generally, provided by Sir Robert MacCarrison in his book on 'FOOD.' A mixed diet which will provide nourishment sufficient for the physiological needs of an individual and ensure health and efficiency was drawn up by a suitable modification of the one prescribed by Sir Robert with reference to the actual conditions prevailing in the community. The required balance of protein, fat and carbohydrate contents and caloric value was maintained in it. The constituent elements of what has been considered a cheap and well-balanced diet are given below :—

Food stuff	Amount in		In grammes.		
	ounces.	Proteins.	Fats.	Carbohydrates.	Calories.
Atta	6	28.4	3.24	123.1	611
Rice	12	27.6	10.2	267.6	1190
Meat & Fish	2	11.94	3.96	...	168.
Oil	1	...	28	...	252
Ghee	1.5	...	34.6	...	312
Roots & Vegetables	8	4.4	36	31.8	148
Greens	8	3.1	24	10.2	56
Dhall	1	6.5	9.9	16.2	100
Milk	7	6.2	6.8	9	120
	46.5	88.14	79.21	456.9	2957
10% for waste	4.6	8.31	7.92	45.6	295
	41.9	74.83	71.29	411.3	2662

Based on the current retail prices of the different items, the cost of food per man was calculated at annas 4 per day.



THE MAHARAJA EDUCATION FUND, TANJORE BRANCH, 1937



THE MAHATMA EDUCATION FUND, TRICHY BRANCH, 1937

The expenditure on other necessities such as clothing, fuel, lighting and quasi-essentials was difficult of actual assessment. In most of the forms, no separate information in respect of these was furnished. Even in the very few it was given, the variation of expenditure was large. A more intensive enquiry in the case of about a dozen families selected at random was therefore undertaken ; which disclosed that the expenses for other necessities and quasi-necessaries were on an average, 25% of the expenditure on food. Thus the total provision for food and clothing and other essentials was fixed at annas 5 per man per day.

As regards rent it is not possible to lay down a general minimum. As an individual is free to obtain accommodation to suit his requirements and income, and as rent represents a definite item of expenditure which can be easily and correctly ascertained, the rent paid was subtracted from the computed income before finding whether the income was sufficient for the needs of the family. The family was then reckoned as consisting of so many equivalent male adults on the scales mentioned in Part I of this report. Thus the basic expenditure of each family was ascertained. It was compared with the net income (*i.e.*, after deducting rent) to ascertain how many live in "Poverty." A classification of the families with reference to the minimum standard of food and other requisites and income is given below.

	No. of families	Percentage
Certainly above standard	46	22.5
Probably above standard	32	15.7
Marginal above standard	14	6.9
Certainly below standard	88	43.1
Probably below standard	24	11.8
	<hr/> 204	<hr/> 100

The next table shows the number of persons included in the last three categories mentioned above:—

	No. of persons below standard.	Percent- age.	No. of persons probably below standard.	Percent age.	No. of persons classified as marginal.	Percent- age.
Earners :						
Men over 18	106	94.6	28	96.6	15	100
Women over 16	5	4.5	1	3.4		
Boys and Girls	1	.9	...	...
All earners :	<hr/> 112		<hr/> 29		<hr/> 15	

SOUTH INDIAN MAHARASHTRIANS

	No. of persons below standard	Percent- age.	No. of persons probably below standard	Percent- age.	No. of persons classified as marginal	Percent- age.
Non-earners :						
Men over 18	48	13.1	5	8.2	4	11.1
Women over 16	120	32.7	31	50.8	15	41.7
Boys under 18	26	7.0	2	3.3	1	2.8
Girls under 16	8	2.2	2	3.3	...	...
Children	165	45.0	21	34.4	16	44.4
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	367		61		36	
Earners & non-earners						
Men over 18	154	31.2	33	36.7	19	37.2
Women over 16	125	26.1	32	35.5	15	29.4
Boys under 18	27	5.6	2	2.2	1	2.0
Girls under 16	8	1.7	2	2.2	...	...
Children	165	34.4	21	23.3	16	31.4
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	479		90		51	

Only 38.2% of Mahratta Kshatriya families are above standard, while nearly 65% of the people are below the poverty line.

Causes of poverty :—From an analysis of the statistics relating to the families living in poverty it is noticed that poverty is generally due to one or other of the three main causes *viz.*, Dependants being unemployed, income being inadequate, and families being large. The number of families suffering from these causes is given below :—

	Certainly below standard	Probably below standard
Dependants unemployed	.. 13	
Smallness of income	.. 45	20
Largeness of family	.. 30	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	88	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The 30 families classified as "large" contain 98 dependants and 91 children ; while the 4 families classed as probably below the line of poverty contain 12 dependants and 9 children. The preponderance of dependants is thus obvious.

Education and Employment :—The distribution of all the persons in receipt of an independent income in the various avocations is noted below :—

Government servants in the superior service and clerks in private employ	68
Inferior servants such as bill collectors, attenders, peons, watchmen, etc.	57
Advocates	1
Doctors (Ayurvedic)	2
Tailors, etc.	45
Teachers	6
Binders	2
Watch repairers	1
Silver smiths	1
Businessmen	16
Motor and engine drivers, engravers, stone cutters, etc.	27
Compounders	1
Pensioners	9
Others	22

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It will be noticed that service (Government, Public and Private) claims as many as 50% of the total number of persons employed. Tailoring seems to be the main occupation of nearly 20% of the earning members. The learned professions, trade, commerce and industry are poorly represented.

Educationally the Mahratta Kshatriya community is backward. The educational qualifications of those in receipt of independent income are noted below :—

Poor education	209
Medicine : Ayurvedic	2
Law	1
S. S. L. C., or Matriculation	14
Intermediate	
Particulars not given	31

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The percentage of those educated beyond the S.S.L.C. or Matriculation standard is scarcely 6 to the total number of earners. Persons with university qualification are indeed rare. So the chief need of this section seems to be the spread of education (both general and technical) among the members of the community.

Unemployment :—The educated unemployed are rare in this section ; and 23% of the adult male population is unemployed. The spread of educa-

tion and the creation of an employment bureau will be helpful in the solution of this problem.

Suggestions :—The suggestions offered for the improvement of the economic condition in answer to the specific question in the questionnaire are not many. The only feasible suggestion made is that the profession of tailoring should be better organised and patronised by all the members of the community.

In conclusion, we wish to thank most heartily all the volunteers who threw themselves heart and soul into the work and thus rendered an enquiry of this type—the first of its kind—so fruitful.

Madras,
15—10—1937.

T. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
B. R. DHONDU RAO.



Raja Sri T. MADHAVA RAO, K.C.S.I.,
Dewan of Travancore, Indore and Baroda



Dewan Bahadur R. RAGHUNATHA RAO, C.S.I.,
Dewan of Indore



Bai Raja Bai VENKAT RAO,
Dewan of Travancore



T. RAMA RAO,
Dewan of Travancore

Eminent Maharashtrians of South India

(PAST AND PRESENT)

Rajah Sir T. MADHAVA RAO

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Mahratta Education Fund, it is a pleasant duty for us to pay our humble tribute of regard and reverence to those souls that have contributed to maintain the best ideals and traditions of our community. Among such men, Rajah Sir T. Madhava Rao easily occupies the first place.

Born in November 1828 at Kumbakonam in a family whose members had successively held the Dewanship of Travancore, Madhava Rao had inherited those peculiar traits which served him well in later life. His grandfather, Gundopunt, had occupied responsible positions both under native chiefs and the British power. His sons Rai Raya Rai Venkat Rao, and Ranga Rao, after a spell of office in the Board of Revenue, were also called upon to enter Travancore service where eventually they rose to the Dewanship.

Madhava Rao was the youngest of the sons of Ranga Rao. He lost his father in his eleventh year, and his mother passed away while he was 12. He thereupon came under the protection of his eldest brother, Vasudeva Rao, who supervised his studies. Madhava Rao passed through his educational career at Madras. He took full advantage of his opportunities at the High School which was just then opened under the Headmastership of Eyre Burton Powell. At the end of six years' study (1846), he left the High School as proficient of the First Class.

The next year he entered the Accountant General's Office from where within two years' time he was called to take up the Tutorship to the Princes of Travancore. His services in this capacity were so well appreciated that he was soon made Deputy Peishkar. The Revenue line gave him ample scope to show his administrative powers. He organised the department in a way that brought him applause from high quarters. The subsidy due to the British Government was in arrears, and even the salaries due to officials had not been paid for months. Revenue had to be rehabilitated, and a lot of corrupt practices had to be put down. With consummate ability, Madhava Rao showed what an Officer in his position could do within his area. Just then a series of complaints had gone to the Governor-General as to the State of Government in Travancore, and the State itself was threatened with annexation. The Resident, General Cullen, saw in Madhava Rao the person who could rescue the State from such a pass and made him Dewan in 1858.

In this role, Madhava Rao fully justified all expectations. He ruled with a beneficent but firm hand. Wrong-doers felt that their power was at an end

and that during Madhava Rao's term of office there would be even-handed justice all round. Robbers were apprehended and evidences were not wanting that there was a general feeling of safety among the citizens.

After the death of Maharaja Marthanda Varma, Maharaja Ayilliam Tirunal, one of the proteges of Madhava Rao succeeded to the Gadi in 1860. During his regime the conditions of administration were favourable. The Dewan had a firm grasp of the principles of political economy: He boldly abolished the State monopolies of pepper and tobacco, but made up for the loss of revenue by imposing duties on these products. There was thus a growth of revenue which not only enabled Madhava Rao to pay off all arrears but to liquidate a portion of the public debt. Apart from these financial reforms, Dewan Madhava Rao undertook several minor improvements. He reduced the land taxes which were heavily felt in the district of Nanjnad. He organised the High Court, established a College for Higher Education and improved the Medical and Sanitary Services. The title of Maharaja was conferred on His Highness in 1866 and in the same year a Knighthood was awarded to Madhava Rao.

One of the most difficult matters dealt with by Madhava Rao was the sensational problem relating to the "Upper cloth". The newly converted Shanar women contended (on the basis of the Queen's proclamation of 1858) that they had the right to appear with the upper cloth worn by the highest classes. This was resented by the Nairs and the other higher castes who also took their stand on the same proclamation wherein the Queen had graciously promised to respect longstanding customs and traditions. To meet such a difficult situation Madhava Rao issued a circular that they could appear with a "Kuppayam" (jacket) on, like the Syrian Christians. But instigated by the Christian missionaries, the Shanar women would be content with nothing less than wearing the apparel of the highest castes. Being convinced of the justice of his stand, Madhava Rao was firm in the attitude he had taken up and ultimately convinced even the Government that he had adopted the wisest course possible.

He also came into conflict with the Madras Government on a matter relating to the trial of a British subject named John Liddel. The Advocate-General, Mr. Mayne asked for the release of this gentleman after conviction on the ground that a Native State like Travancore had no jurisdiction over an European. This question was ably argued in a series of letters, until finally the Advocate-General agreed to revise his opinion.

Sir T. Madhava Rao succeeded in the course of 14 years in converting Travancore which had passed into a state of anarchy into a "Model State." Therefore his memory is still cherished in Travancore with love and gratitude and his Statue has been erected by public subscription in Trivandrum.

When he relinquished his high office in Travancore, Sir T. Madhava Rao was only 45 years old. He declined the offer of a membership of the Viceroy's Legislative Council for fear that the climate of North India might not suit him. He was requested to give evidence in England with regard to fiscal

matters ; but this journey too he could not undertake. In 1873 the Government of India recommended his name to the Maharaja Holkar of Indore who wanted a competent officer to administer his State. This was promptly accepted and as Dewan, Sir Madhava Rao remained in Indore for two years.

Meanwhile owing to the deposition of Mulhari Rao, Gaekwar of Baroda, Sir Madhava Rao's services were requisitioned as Dewan Regent of Baroda. Baroda was then in a state of chaos and confusion. Public order had to be restored and much waste in expenditure cut down. With his ripe wisdom and experience of Native States, Sir Madhava Rao achieved a miracle and restored peace and order in a short time. In recognition of his remarkable ability he received the title of Raja on the 1st January 1877, when Queen Victoria assumed the title of Empress of India. After a rule of 7 years, Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao went into retirement in Madras.

During his retirement, he occupied himself with a deep study of Marathi literature and composed a few Marathi poems which are still popular. Once he was also made Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Indian National Congress, showing that he had won an All-India reputation. He passed away quietly in 1891, full of years and honours.

By universal assent Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao was one of the greatest Statesmen that India has produced. His simplicity of life was only matched by his eagerness to be of service to the poorest of his friends. His ever-present motto was "Whatever you do, do it with all your might". This was the secret of his success and it is our earnest wish and hope that the present generation should take this lesson to heart and produce men as great as, if not greater than Rajah Sir T. Madhava Rao.

—:o:—

Dewan Bahadur R. RAGUNATHA RAO

The life history of Dewan Bahadur Raghunatha Rao must still be fresh in public memory. He lived to a ripe old age and will be remembered for the zeal and vigour with which he espoused the cause of social reform, particularly widow-remarriage. This of course brought him a certain amount of unpopularity which was inevitable, but no one doubted either his integrity or the profundity of his scholarship in Sanskrit and in Vedic lore.

Raghunatha Rao was a cousin of Sir T. Madhava Rao and son of Rai Raya Rai Venkat Rao who was for some time Dewan of Travancore and subsequently Revenue Commissioner under Sir Mark Cubbon in the State of Mysore. He was born at Kumbakonam in February 1831 and was first educated in a school in Bangalore Fort. In 1845 he entered the Government High School, Madras, but left the institution without taking the proficient's certificate. During the period of 4 years, when he managed his paternal estate, he gained an insight into the Revenue system of the country. He obtained a pleader's diploma in 1856 but entered Government service, first as Translator

in the Collector's Office. He soon rose to higher positions, as Sheristadar of the Civil Court and later Deputy Collector. He was placed on special duty with regard to the acquisition of lands. After serving in the Tungabhadra project, at the personal request of Sir Charles Trevelyan, he was transferred to the Trichinopoly and Coimbatore districts and eventually came to Madras as Town Police Magistrate and Justice of the Peace. A pilgrimage to Poona in 1893 brought him into a chance contact with Tukoji Rao, Holkar of Indore. Within two years he was requisitioned to serve in that State as Special Settlement Officer and later as Dewan in succession to Sir T. Madhava Rao. Raghunatha Rao had a difficult and delicate task to perform, for the Maharaja was not having good relations with the Government of India. Owing to his unyielding nature, he had soon to give up his position and revert to Madras as Deputy Collector. In 1888 he retired from Government service and spent the rest of his days in educating public opinion, on social, political and economic problems, mainly through the Press.

Dewan Bahadur Raghunatha Rao was as active in his old age as in his youth. He was a friend of the poor and presided over several agrarian institutions. He was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress and took a keen and abiding interest in the politics of the country. Even at the advanced age of 80, he turned out very valuable work as member of the Legislative Council and did his best to ameliorate the condition of his countrymen, in recognition of which he was made C.S.I.

On May 3, 1912, he passed away in peace. His life was remarkable for its ceaseless activity in the interests of the country. Although unbending to his superiors in office, he had broad sympathies and generous impulses. Public life in the presidency was made richer by his presence, and his career stands, "as a beacon light to those mariners who sail stormy sea of public life."

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Rai Raya Rai R. VENKAT RAO

Rai Raya Rai Venkat Rao is well known as the father of Dewan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao. His earlier years are involved in obscurity. That he was born at Kumbakonam is fairly clear.

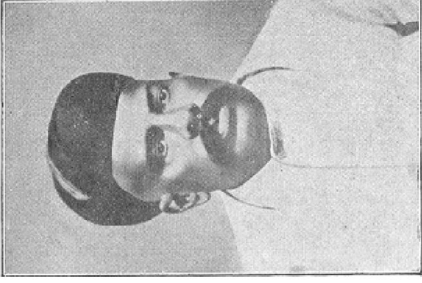
Mr. Venkat Rao was Dewan Feishkar in Travancore for two years (1820-2) from which position he was elevated to the Office of Dewan. There are many appreciative references to his ability, integrity and upright conduct in the correspondence between high officials of the Madras Government and the various Residents in Travancore, and the fact that he continued as Dewan for 10 years in the conditions then prevailing may be taken as bearing remarkable testimony to his powers. He was at his best in handling Revenue problems. The regularity and efficiency with which the various public departments were conducted received general approbation.



Dewan Bahadur C. KRISHNASWAMI RAO,
Ag. Judge, High Court, Madras



Y. P. MADHAVA RAO, C.I.E.,
Dewan of Travancore, Mysore and Baroda



Rai Bahadur T. GOPAL RAO, B.A.,
Principal, Government College,
Kumbakonam



C. RAMACHANDRA RAO SAHEB, B.L.,
Ag. Principal, Law College, Madras

Venkat Rao's services were soon to be transferred to another sphere. He went to the State of Mysore as Head Sheristadar, and was later styled as the Native Assistant to the Commissioner. The Commissioner, Mr. Morrison, derived great help from Venkat Rao in preparing his "Notes on Mysore," intended as the foundation of a report on the State of the country, its establishment and finances, and said of him that Venkat Rao should be regarded as "the first native revenue servant in this part of India." The esteem in which he was held by Col. Morrison's successor will be evident from the fact that on receipt of an application for leave from him, Venkat Rao was provided with a military escort to accompany him to Kumbakonam and letters were addressed to all the Collectors on his way to afford him every assistance during his progress.

In recognition of his good work in Mysore, the Government of India honoured Venkat Rao in 1838 with the title of Rai Raya Rai.

The year 1838 saw Venkat Rao as Dewan of Travancore in succession to his brother, Ranga Rao. He continued in this office for two years, but circumstances did not admit of his continuing in office longer. In 1843 he passed away.

In Travancore, Venkat Rao's name will be remembered among other things, in connection with the system of canals constructed by him for trade purposes between Trivandrum and Cochin. It remained for his nephew Sir Madhava Rao to remove the single Warkalay barrier which obstructed the passage by tunnelling.

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Dewan T. RAMA RAO

The life of Dewan T. Rama Rao illustrates the principle that 'a man of plain sense and cool resolution has more useful talents and is better qualified for the highest public service than a man of the finest parts who wants temper, judgment and knowledge of mankind.' It has been said of him that he was not only an able and loyal servant of his Sovereign, but a great friend of all honest men.

Mr. Rama Rao was born at Trivandrum in June 1830. His father Sakharam Rao was District Judge at Alleppey and had won for himself a reputation for scrupulous honesty and high character. These qualities were reflected in his son who in the midst of serious temptations maintained an uprightness that was almost unknown among his colleagues. Sir T. Madhava Rao whose cousin he was, entertained a high opinion of Mr. Rama Rao, so much so that in his later years he took Mr. Rama Rao as his trusted lieutenant.

The first years of Mr. Rama Rao's school life were spent in the Maharaja's Free School, where he picked up such English education as could be had in those days in the L. M. S. Seminary at Nagercoil. In 1851 he entered the Travancore State Service as a clerk in the Huzur English Office. His

renderings into the vernacular won for him the admiration of the District Judge of Calicut at whose instance he went to the Sessions Court at Calicut as Translator. He remained in British service for over a year, but was called again to Trivandrum as Tahsildar. The offer came when Sir Madhava Rao was Dewan Peishkar, but the state of service in Travancore was such that Mr. T. Rama Rao could not easily make up his mind. Nevertheless love of his own native land prevailed in the end and he joined the Travancore service. In 1857 he was promoted as Police Sheristadar and as such he gave a very good account of himself during the Shanar rebellion. His prompt and business-like methods and daring stood him in good stead in detecting crimes. In the performance of his duties he spared no one. Any other in his place would have shrunk from the delicate situation in which he was sometimes placed. But his superiors trusted him and warmly approved of his acts. He was, however, not free from the evil notice of those who were naturally afraid of him. Eventually, of course, he succeeded in maintaining his position despite influential opposition.

He soon rose to be Deputy Peishkar and then Dewan Peishkar. His magisterial work was marked by great ability and fair dealing. In the large portions of the State entrusted to him there was excellent order which proved a blessing to the people. In 1885 Mr. Rama Rao was made Head Dewan Peishkar and the next year he was made Dewan.

Mr. Rama Rao's elevation to the Stewardship of the State was hailed with joy by the Ruler and the people alike. His close association with the administration in several departments had given him a rare insight into the defects that needed mending, and so, his later years were packed with achievements of a major or minor character. His first act as Dewan was the celebration of H. M. the Queen's Golden Jubilee in an eminently Hindu fashion. What will constitute Mr. Rama Rao's best title to the subjects' gratitude is the institution of the Legislative Council "composed of a maximum of 8 members of whom not less than two were to be outside the service and presided over by the Dewan, or in his absence by the Senior member present." The Council has now been expanded and given extra powers to suit the times.

Among the many reforms introduced by Mr. Rama Rao may be mentioned the Revenue Survey and settlement, the organisation of the agency to work the system, the construction of embankments to ward off brackish water submerging cultivated lands, better drainage works, the separation of Revenue from Devaswom, besides judicial reform and educational improvements. Special mention may be made of the enfranchisement of the "Viruthi" which had been a source of oppression. The Viruthicars are persons to whom lands are given on condition of their supplying vegetables etc., on the occasion of certain ceremonies. Those persons were not allowed to give up their (State) lands and yet were compelled to give these supplies at a fixed rate, which was far below the market value of the goods. These are now paid a fair price,—the price that is ruling in the open market. This is only one of the many

instances in which Mr. Rama Rao carefully attended to the needs of the poorer classes of the population.

Despite these remarkable achievements, an agitation in favour of the recruitment of local people to the public services was brewing. Owing to the participation of certain European members, the agitation assumed threatening proportions. Lord Connemara thought it best to pay a personal visit to Travancore and judge for himself. His conclusion was that the agitation was baseless. He was perfectly satisfied with Mr. Rama Rao's administration and so in 1891, gave him the title of C.I.E.

When Mr. Rama Rao laid down the reins of office in 1892, he had served as Dewan for a period of 5½ years. He was already a Fellow of the Madras University and was also the only Indian fellow of the Incorporated Society of Science, Letters, and Arts of London.

Mr. T. Rama Rao was a conservative in many ways. His ideal was cautious advance and his criticisms on the Marumakattayam marriage Law, early marriage, and widowhood and the Gains of Learning Bill give evidence of his general attitude towards these problems. Mr. Rama Rao was eminently philanthropic. His numerous charities in the cause of the poor have earned for him the reputation of the "Good Dewan Rama Rao". He passed away on 8-6-1895 after a period of well-earned rest.

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V. P. MADHAVA RAO

Like his namesake of an earlier generation, V. P. Madhava Rao was Dewan in three Indian States—Travancore, Mysore and Baroda, and his ripe experience and judgment in political matters were responsible in a large measure for advancing the destinies of the whole of India along fruitful lines.

Madhava Rao was born on the 10th February 1850 at Kumbakonam. He was brought up under the personal care of his father Visvanatha Rao, a member of the Subordinate Judicial Service and a strict disciplinarian. At the early age of 19, Madhava Rao passed out of the Kumbakonam College as a graduate, winning the applause of his beloved Principal, Mr. Porter, for whom he always entertained the deepest respect and regard. In his youth he was fond of physical exercises, especially swimming, and used to jump in the river Kaveri from dizzy heights.

Soon after becoming a graduate, Madhava Rao joined the London Mission School at Bangalore as a teacher. His efficiency in this work attracted the notice of Dewan C. Rangachari and he was thereafter made Palace tutor in Mysore where the late lamented Maharaja Sir Sri Chamrajendra Wodiar Bahadur was his august pupil. From this sphere, he was transferred to the judicial service and again to the post of Revenue Sub-Divisional Officer at French Rocks where for the first time he began to show his breadth of outlook and sympathy for the poor. The provision of good drinking water in villages,

the formation of extensions to relieve congestion, the putting up of buildings for travellers etc., were some of the improvements he carried out. His Chief Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, was his consistent friend and supporter and freely consulted him in connection with the revision of the Mysore Land Revenue Code and Regulations with regard to the Jaghirs.

Public appreciation grew with his promotion to the office of Deputy Commissioner in which capacity he further extended water supplies, conservancy arrangements in towns, draining of water-logged areas, etc. He fully utilised his power of patronage by buying up hand-woven cloth in times of scarcity to relieve distress among the weavers. The Supari gardeners of Malnad parts equally received his attention when what is known as "Koleroga" affected this crop. The uncertain yield combined with the tax and octroi duties pressed heavily on them, and he aimed constantly at the abolition of these handicaps. Madhava Rao's services were also requisitioned in connection with the Regulation for the administration of Municipal and Local Funds, the Civil Service and Police Revision Schemes, and the City Improvement Committee, of which he was President.

As President of the Viceregal Reception Committee, Madhava Rao evinced a taste for the artistic and the ornamental, and his arrangements elicited the warm commendation alike of his superiors and the public. Soon after this, he was made Inspector-General of Police—the first Indian to occupy this high post. This position brought his talents as administrator to the fore. His organisation of the Police School became a model for other provinces and many years later some of the features introduced by Madhava Rao were copied in the Police Training School at Vellore.

In addition to his duties as Inspector-General of Police, Madhava Rao had to look after the plague-affected areas as Plague Commissioner. He set about this task with a zeal and energy which drew the unstinted admiration of even those outside the State. Indeed the *Pioneer* remarked, "Who would not live in a Native State with such men as Mr. Madhava Rao?"

The elevation of Madhava Rao to the Office of a "Member of Council" in these circumstances was hailed with great joy, and even the Mahomedans accepted him as *their* representative in Council. He was deputed on special duty to study the Bombay Land Revenue System and thereafter became the First Revenue Commissioner in Mysore while still a Member of Council. In 1899 he was awarded the title of C. I. E. and the next year he was given the Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal for his unique services.

About the close of 1904, he went to Travancore as Dewan. Within hardly two years, he was able to effect a good many improvements "of a far-reaching character, reforms which any administrator would consider himself fortunate to be able to achieve during a whole lifetime." One of these noteworthy reforms was the reorganisation of the Settlement Department. The scheme which Madhava Rao devised brought the completion of the settlement operations in a comparatively short time, which meant for the State

a saving of Rs. 35 lakhs in cost and 16 years in duration. A second reform was the introduction of the system of "daily audit", which enabled the speedy adjustment of advances which in the past had remained unadjusted over long periods. A third was the acceptance of cash payments of land and the other taxes which had been till then paid in kind and were felt to be an oppressive burden. Last but not least, was the inauguration of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly where the peoples' representatives had opportunities to discuss and influence public policies.

On the religious side, Madhava Rao was wellknown for his patronage-of Vedic learning and the construction of places of worship, patasalas and rest houses for scholars. For these purposes he had to acquire lands with great caution. His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Sringeri was his spiritual Guru, but his religious sympathies were catholic. The Ramakrishna Mutt, the Theosophical movement, the Uttaradhi, Vyasraya and other Mutts, the Muslim institutions and Christian Churches equally received his moral and material support.

In March 1906 he went back to the scene of his former labours as Dewan of Mysore. Madhava Rao's fame had grown to such proportions that he was presented with an address at a monster meeting of Englishmen, Americans, Frenchmen, Germans, Jews, Hindus, Mahomedans and Parsis.

Foremost among the things which Madhava Rao did for Mysore must be mentioned the steps he took for the eradication of plague and the improvement of the Sanitary and Health Services. He sought to relieve congestion by what has since become known as "town planning". A separate preventive branch in the form of the Department of Public Health was brought into being. The Veterinary Branch no less received his attention. He organised agricultural exhibitions, opened credit co-operative societies, and established a "Famine Reserve Fund" (1906-7) to meet impoverished conditions during the times of distress without dislocating the finances of the State. Education was improved by the abolition of school fees in village schools and by the introduction of religious and moral instruction in Schools and Colleges. Technical and Industrial Schools, were opened up at suitable centres, and foreign scholarships became a noticeable feature from the year 1907. The Dewan also took the bold step of doing away with the Sayer and other duties on arecanut which caused considerable hardship to the gardeners of this crop. This meant a loss of Rs. 4 lakhs of revenue, but the loss was compensated by the revival of this industry and its return to normal prosperity.

After retirement in 1909, Madhava Rao undertook an extensive tour "to gain first-hand information on the condition of India". He presided over the District Conference at Tanjore and was invited to the Coronation Festivities at Delhi in 1911. In 1914 on the invitation of H.H. The Gaekwar, he accepted the Dewanship of Baroda. Here he showed an interest in Art by calling for a Music Conference with a view to systematise the good features of the Northern and Southern styles of Music and musical composition. A

Sanskrit Conference subsequently held discussed the Purohit Bill, and Madhava Rao had a great hand in modifying its objectionable features. He also organised the first Health Exhibition in Baroda, and during the Great War (1914-18) rendered good services to the Troops and roused the loyalty of the public which resulted in liberal contributions to the War Relief Fund.

Madhava Rao was an ardent advocate of the Permanent settlement and succeeded in bringing about a settlement at intervals of 60 years after a great deal of correspondence. As regards the Public services he advocated recruitment by competitive examinations and the establishment of "Administrative Research" in order to bring the State to an up-to-date condition.

After retirement from Baroda, Madhava Rao devoted a considerable part of his energies to the social, economic and political uplift of India. Once he presided over the Annual Sessions of the Hindu Mahasabha and later went to England on deputation by the Indian National Congress to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1919. He was an ardent nationalist in his leanings and his contribution to the *Madras Mail* on the subject of the Memorandum of the 19 non-official members of the Imperial Legislative Council on Post War Reforms deserves special mention in this connection.

In September 1920 he fell ill and was practically incapacitated for public work. But a few years later he practically recovered his health; and in 1929 presided over the Silver Jubilee of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly (which he had brought into being in 1904) and personally paid his respects to the Maharaja of Mysore about a year before his death. He also paid a visit to his Guru at Sringeri. His popularity with all classes of people was a measure of his good work in all spheres. He passed away quietly in 1935. His rich contribution to the political advancement of India entitles him to our gratitude. That he was good enough to lend his personal support by becoming a Life Member of the Mahratta Education Fund should be a matter of legitimate pride for all of us.

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Pradhana Siromani T. ANANDA RAO

Pradhanasiromani Ananda Rao had the unique honour, besides being a Dewan himself, of being the son of a Dewan and son-in-law of another Dewan. He was the eldest son of that illustrious statesman Rajah Sir T. Madhava Rao, and his wife was a daughter of the good Dewan Rama Rao, a close kinsman of his father. The impress of these environments on his character was unmistakable. He was indeed a gentleman with unfailing courtesy and consideration for all alike.

Ananda Rao was born in Padma Vilas, Fort Trivandrum on the 15th May 1852. He studied in the Maharaja's College, Trivandrum and in the Presidency College, Madras, under Mr. Edmund Thompson. All the Univer-

sity Examinations he passed with distinction and finally took his degree in 1871, with a high rank in the first class.

After this he qualified himself for the post of a Deputy Collector in the Madras Revenue Board, but was recommended by General Daly for the tutorship of the Princes of Indore. As the Indore climate did not suit his health, he eventually joined the Mysore Service in 1873, as an Attache under the British Commission. In 1875 he became Assistant Commissioner and was in due course promoted to the Office of Deputy Commissioner. His remarkable coolness and courage enabled him successfully to deal with the Mysore strike. Far from treating those responsible for the troubles in a harsh manner, he walked up to them with only a single personal attendant and succeeded in winning over the strikers by his conciliatory methods.

Later, he was made Palace Controller and Chief Secretary, in which capacity he discharged his duties with great firmness. As he fell ill about this time, he had to go on long leave. On return, he was made Director of Statistics which paved the way for his becoming the Census Superintendent. His voluminous reports earned for him the thanks of Mr. Gait, Census Commissioner of India. He then successively filled the important Offices of the Revenue Commissioner, First Councillor and ultimately Dewan to H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore.

As Dewan, Ananda Rao was a splendid success. It is true he had none of that brilliance, initiative and inspiration which marked out his respected father above all ordinary statesmen. But his diligence and tenacity of purpose, his upright character, his open mind, his devotion to duty and his unbounded loyalty to his sovereign were assets that were bound to raise his general administration to a high level. Ananda Rao had set Gladstone as his ideal; and he tried to follow in his hero's footsteps as far as possible.

During the period of his Dewanship, several important events took place. Lord Minto paid a visit to Mysore as Viceroy; the marriage of H.H. the Yuvaraja was celebrated with great pomp and ceremony; and Mysore had a prominent part in the Delhi Darbar. The times were propitious for silent but useful reforms. Ananda Rao inaugurated the Mysore Economic Conference, sanctioned large funds for the spread of education, constructed the Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, commenced the Kannambady project, and pursued an active policy of railway construction. On the side of increase of revenue, he secured, through the friendly assistance of Sir Hugh Daly, the recognition of the claims of the Mysore Darbar to the surplus revenues of the C. & M. Station, Bangalore. Mysoreans are grateful to him for reserving the higher posts in the Civil Service to Mysoreans only.

For his splendid work in these directions, the Government of India conferred upon him the title of C.I.E.; and the Maharaja of Mysore not only honoured him with the title of Pradhanasiromani but treated him with exceptional privileges even after he retired in November 1912. A permanent establishment at the cost of Government was allowed to him and a Medical Officer was deputed to attend on him daily at his residence.

Dewan Ananda Rao passed away on the 19th July 1919. What endears him most to us is his preference for discriminate charities. The Executors of his will recognised this feature in the testator and created an endowment, named after him, of over Rs. 4,000 in the M.E. Fund for medical scholarships to poor and deserving students of our community specialising in Ophthalmology, with a preference for lady students. It is the biggest endowment that the Mahratta Education Fund has so far got. We therefore cherish his memory with respect and gratitude but may be permitted here to express the hope that his noble example will soon be followed by several others, for the lasting welfare of our community.

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Dewan REDDY RAO

Reddy Rao had the unique honour of being Dewan of Travancore on two different occasions, first from 1817 to 1821 and then again from 1843 to 1845.

Born of a talented Mahratta Brahmin Family in the Tanjore District, Reddy Rao went to Travancore along with Colonel Munro, who was then Resident, and by dint of his industry and intelligence rose very quickly in the public service until he became Dewan Peishkar. When there was some misunderstanding between Raman Menon, the Dewan, and the Resident, Reddy Rao was elevated to the Dewanship in which Office he distinguished himself by introducing several reforms. He relieved the Christian ryots from their ooziyam service; he introduced stamped cadjans for documents; he removed the restriction on the Sudras and others regarding the wearing of gold and silver ornaments; he introduced coffee cultivation in the land, which meant an appreciable increase in the State revenues; and above all, purified the administration of all corruption. He also entertained a number of vaccinators and by making the system of vaccination popular, improved the health of the public.

He made very grand arrangements for the marriage (or Talikattu) of Princess Rukmini Bayi, and for his efficient services he obtained from the Rani the Jahgir of two villages in the Shencottah taluk. Col. Newall (who had become Resident) objected to this acceptance of the jahgir as improper and so, Reddy Rao resigned his post in 1821 and settled in Kumbakonam.

More than twenty years later, when State affairs were all in a confusion, General Cullen, (who was then Resident) with the approval of the Madras Government, sent for Reddy Rao again and offered him the Dewanship in 1843. He then laboured for the welfare of the country for two years; and on account of old age, retired in 1845.

Reddy Rao was a very charitably disposed man. He has dug a large tank in Kumbakonam which is even now called after him. He encouraged

Vedic learning too, by building an agharam and bestowing all the houses in it as gifts to learned Brahmins.

It is this magnanimity that makes his memory fragrant even now. "Light begets light". And it is said that the famous Paehayappa Mudaliyar's mind was directed in the path of goodness and charity, because in early life he came under the influence of this Reddy Rao.

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English SUBBA RAO

Over a hundred years ago, when Education was not so widespread as now, a knowledge of English was a great accomplishment and a sure passport to positions of power and prestige. This accounts for the phenomenally rapid rise of Subba Rao, who went to Travancore in the train of Col. Munro as tutor to the Royal Princes in 1819. After remaining as tutor for five years, he served in various capacities until he rose to the post of Dewan Peishkar and was ultimately appointed Dewan in 1830.

His Dewanship is remarkable for various events. First, the Madras Governor paid a visit to the State (that was the first gubernatorial visit to Travancore). His Excellency was pleased with all that he saw and formed a very favourable view of the administration of the State and of the capacity for work of the New Dewan.

Subba Rao re-organised the Military Department and asked the Commanding Officer to train sepoy after the model of British troops. He also got down fresh horses and improved the dress of mounted troopers. The State forces were re-designated "the Nayar Brigade"—a name which is still in use to-day.

For the guidance of the Judicial Department, he drew up (along with Cunden Menon) a Code of Regulations, both civil and criminal, modelled on British enactments. This was the first code of Regulations (1836) and, though considerably modified later on, is the ground work of the present judicial administration.

The same year, a detailed census of the whole State was taken—the first of its kind—and it may be of interest for us to note that the population then was 12,80,668.

Meanwhile in 1834 an English School was opened at Trivandrum under one J. Roberts and as this was popular a few District Schools were started as feeders for the Central institution.

The Observatory and the Charity Hospital at Trivandrum also came into being in the course of 1836.

All these reforms, the Dewan was able to push through, because he enjoyed the full confidence of the Maharsja (His Highness Rama Varma, Swati Tirunal), and the Resident, General Fraser.

The next year, his popularity waned and so he sent in his resignation which was reluctantly accepted by the Maharaja (Feb. 1837).

But two years later, (April 1839) he was reappointed Dewan, and his powers were further strengthened. During the second Dewanship of Subba Rao, the *Puthanmatika* and *Rangavilasam* palaces were constructed.

In September 1840, General Cullen was appointed Resident and he had his own protege to back up. So, the position of the Dewan became uncomfortable, in spite of the fact that the Maharaja reposed the greatest trust in him. The result was that in June 1842, Subba Rao resigned his post and retired on a pension of Rs. 500 a month. He spent his last days in Tanjore. In his old age he was a loved and respected figure wherever he went.

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Dewan Bahadur K. KRISHNASWAMY RAO

"His life was gentle ; and the elements so mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'this was a man'".

The above quotation aptly describes Dewan Krishnaswamy Rao as we know him. He was President of the Mahratta Education Fund from its inception to the date of his death; and the esteem and affection in which he was held render it impossible to take a detached view of his life's work ; but one can feel sure that distance of time will only serve to enhance the value of his services to the present generation.

Mr. K. Krishnaswamy Rao was born in 1845 at Salem. His father Kanchi Venkata Rao had been Huzur Sheristadar at the Collectorate and died at Kurnool, to which place he was transferred, while Krishnaswamy Rao was still young. He was thus thrown on the support of his elder brother Kanchi Subba Rao, a name familiar to us in connection with the inauguration of the S.M.S.O. Sabha at Tirupati. After a brief period of education in the Venkatagiri Raja's High School, Nellore, where Kanchi Subba Rao was Tahsildar, K. Krishnaswamy Rao joined the Government High School, Madras and completed his Matriculation in due course. Owing mainly to poverty, he could not take a university course. He soon secured a footing as Translator in the District Court at Nellore, and by his diligence and capacity rose to the position of Head Clerk in that Court.

With a view to improve his prospects, he passed the Pleader's tests and the Criminal Higher Examinations. The then District Judge rebuked him for the mad idea of giving up his clerical post in favour of practising as a lawyer ; but soon after he was made District Munsiff and later Sub-Judge. About 1884, the Hon. Dewan Bahadur V. Rama Iyengar was at the head of the administration in Travancore. When he wanted a suitable person for the Office of Chief Judge of Travancore, the Madras Government recommended Mr. K. Krishnaswamy Rao for the post.

This office he filled with credit for nearly 13 years. Many reforms in Judicial administration were set afoot during his period, and the code of Criminal Procedure drafted by him was passed into law. Krishnaswamy Rao soon found himself a member of the Legislative Council which in a different capacity he had helped in bringing into existence. He was finally appointed Dewan of Travancore, in 1897.

The administration of the State remained in his hands for over 6 years, during which period his tact and judgment earned for him the approbation of the Government of India. The titles Dewan Bahadur, and C.I.E. were conferred on him as a mark of personal distinction ; in 1903 he retired from service and settled down in Madras.

Public life in Madras after this date was enriched by his presence. His active habits and mental energy placed him at the head of several institutions and their successful working was in a large measure due to his fostering care and guidance. He interested himself in Insurance, Banking, Education and the promotion of industrial training. In politics his place in Madras was no less important. He was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Session of the Congress held at Madras under the presidency of Dr. Rashbehari Ghosh. His constant championship of the cause of the citizens of Madras was responsible for a great deal of improvement in Civic amenities. He was easily accessible to all, and his mature advice on all matters was freely availed of by rich and poor alike.

Dewan Bahadur K. Krishnaswamy Rao was by nature extremely pious and generous to a fault. His charitable disposition led him to help many poor students and orphans to the limit of his resources. When he breathed his last in February 1923, the City of Madras became poorer by his loss. In fitting recognition of his services, a sum of Rs. 6,000 collected in pursuance of a Sheriff's meeting was utilised for the institution of a scholarship in his name in the Madras University.

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Dewan Bahadur C. KRISHNASWAMI RAO

No estimate of the character and accomplishments of Dewan Bahadur C. Krishnaswami Rao will be complete which fails to take into account the services he rendered to individuals and families as guide, philosopher and friend. In many respects he was the counterpart of his distinguished name sake. People knew him as "Trustee" Krishnaswami Rao in the same way that they had marked out his senior as "President" Krishnaswami Rao. Though reserved by nature, he was a warm friend at closer quarters. His prejudices were deep and strong, but once he was convinced of his mistake he was sure to make ample amends. He was a gentleman to the core, and his remarkable talents and abilities won for him the admiration of all those who came in contact with him.

C. Krishnaswami Rao was born in the year 1867 at Saidapet, where his father Kanchi Sama Rao was Tahsildar. At a very young age he lost his father, and was brought up by his mother under the careful supervision of a family friend in the person of Mr. Kurnool Ramachandra Rao. After an eventful academic career in the Presidency College, Madras, he attended the Law Lectures there and came out first in the Presidency in the B.L. Examination in the Second Class, there being none in the First Class that year. He was bound apprentice to Mr. C. Ramachandra Rao Saheb of the Law College at Madras, and when this was over, set up independent practice as Vakil at Kurnool.

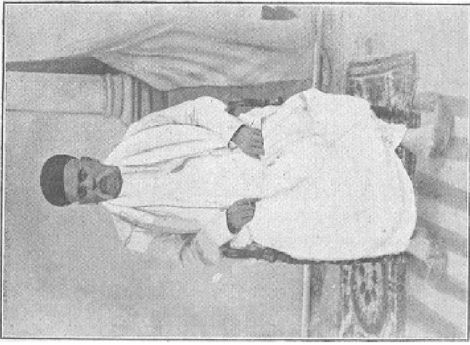
He soon built up a fairly lucrative practice. His undoubted abilities as a lawyer soon came to notice, and in the year 1893 he was first appointed as District Munsiff. His knowledge of Tamil, Telugu and Canarese put him in quick succession in charge of District Munsiff's Courts over the length and breadth of the Presidency; and his expeditious disposals of suits put him in all places where work was in heavy arrears. He had therefore to do hard work, and his constitution sometimes broke down under the heavy strain. He took leave about 1912 when he was acting as Sub-Judge and during this period gave valuable evidence before the Public Services Commission.

His able disposal of suits soon brought for C. Krishnaswami Rao the appreciation of his superiors. He rose to the position of District Judge and within the space of a few years he was made to act as Judge of the High Court at Madras. Owing to certain undercurrents, he was not made permanent as such though, Government had in the meanwhile recognised his merits and conferred on him high titles. He was sent to the Imperial Legislative Assembly at Delhi as nominated member on behalf of the local Government, from which position he retired after a few months' leave in 1923.

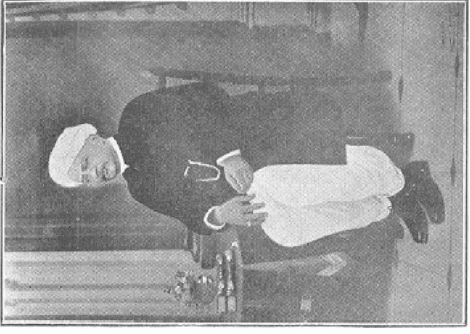
It was difficult for C. Krishnaswami Rao to reconcile himself even in retirement to a life of comparative idleness. He therefore set up practice and gave legal advice to certain Indian rulers among others.

In the summer of 1928, he came down to Madras on a short visit from Coonoor. A severe and unexpected Colic brought about his sudden end.

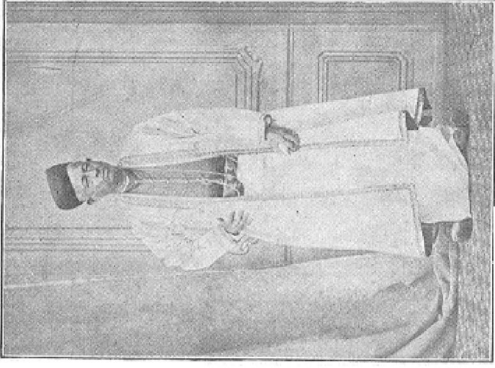
The best part of Dewan Bahadur C. Krishnaswami Rao's life was given to Government service. Nevertheless he had played a great part in rendering personal help to friends of a kind that they alone can appreciate. His connection with local institutions during retirement was not very important, for he was frequently drawn away to the mofussil on his professional work. But his sympathies were unmistakably on the side of the more unfortunate among us. Had he lived longer, the Mahratta Education Fund would have secured through him the financial support of several princes for foreign scholarships. That he was not spared to achieve this purpose must be a matter for sincere sorrow.



SREEHEL GOVINDA RAO, Tanjore



The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur G. SRINIVASA RAO,
Chairman, Municipal Council, Madurai, &
Member, Madras Legislative Council



T. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madras



D. B. BALAJI RAO, B.A., B.L.,
Secretary, Indian Bank Ltd.,
Vice-President, M. E. F. 1930—33

Dewan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO

Those who ever came into personal contact with Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao could scarcely have failed to notice his imperious personality, his sturdy character and his bold spirit of independence. He was one of those who proudly owned their Mahratta ancestry and cared little for the honours or titles that came in their way. By sheer merit and force of character he rose to a commanding position in British Service; and even those who opposed his views could not doubt his sincerity of purpose.

Ramachandra Rao was born in an aristocratic family in 1871. He was first educated in Trivandrum but graduated from the Presidency College, Madras. He entered the Statutory Civil Service in the year 1890 while yet in his teens. As Collector he served in several districts. There can be no two opinions as regards the high quality of his work; but his independent outlook often brought him into conflict with his superiors. R. Ramachandra Rao had an uncommon appreciation of the difficulties of the poor and had a passion to serve them. As their sympathetic protector, he saved them from the tyrannous exactions of petty officials. Once when Lord Havelock visited Kurnool as Governor, he refused to collect subscriptions for the occasion as famine conditions prevailed in the district and met the whole expenses from his own pocket.

During the years 1907—1910 he was Registrar of Co-operative Societies. R. Ramachandra Rao was one of the few who had a real understanding of the spirit of co-operation. His wide experience as a Revenue Officer had brought him into intimate touch with the conditions of the ryots and their special needs; and in his new position he put the knowledge to practical use. Liquidation of debt, the removal of illiteracy and reduction of the drink evil are some of the problems to which he gave special attention. His method was always to look years ahead instead of merely tinkering with the problems as they presented themselves for solution.

Of R. Ramachandra Rao's broadmindedness, a glimpse could be had from a perusal of his memo (as Secretary, Law Department) regarding the treatment of political prisoners. He was always fearless and outspoken.

At the time of his retirement (1926), Ramachandra Rao was Collector of Madras. Even while in service he had retained a continuous touch with Mathematics, and Astronomy. He was among those who in the early stages discovered Mr. S. Ramanujam's genius and helped to bring him to public notice.

Ramachandra Rao was an ardent patriot. The whole of his retired life up to 1930 when he got an attack of paralysis was devoted to the service of the country. His admirable organising powers were fully brought into play in 1927 when he conducted the All-India Exhibition in connection with the Congress Sessions at Madras. Some of his best work was done at Salem. He worked there in close association with the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar

and made a great part of it a "dry area". Ramachandra Rao was a sincere advocate of Swadeshi and wore Khadi as his habitual dress.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao was one of our most respected Presidents. He was often too busy to attend the M.E.F. Committee meetings, but when he did attend, his influence on the proceedings was irresistible.

For a period of five years after 1930, Ramachandra Rao was confined to his bed. He bore his sufferings with singular courage, but felt keenly his enforced separation from his work. In July 1936, he breathed his last at the age of 65. The whole Presidency mourned his loss.

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Sirkheel GOVINDA RAO

The term *Sirkheel* in Marathi means a "Minister". Govinda Rao was the adviser to the Ranees as well as the other relatives of Sivaji, the last of the Tanjore kings, and hence he had that appellation. He was a sort of liaison officer between the British Government and the Tanjore Principality. He was in sole charge of the establishment in the various departments of the Palace. He had to pay the pensions etc. to the Ranees which they got from the Government. There was a Palace Treasury and a regular staff of officers working under him.

As Palace controller and assistant to the Collector who was the Political agent of Tanjore, Sirkheel Govinda Rao wielded an extraordinary influence. It therefore speaks volumes about his scrupulous honesty and sterling character that he discharged his high and responsible duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. He was a living example of the maxim, that 'Character is the crown and glory of life'.

Hailing from one of the noblest families of South India, he never cared for wealth; and so he retired in his 53rd year and led a peaceful life. He passed away in 1908, soon after he had entered his sixty-first year.

His eldest son, Mr. G. Krishna Rao (the Zamindar of Maileripalayam and Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly) is a fine Marathi scholar and keeps alive the best traditions of the family. It is a matter of sincere pleasure for us to note that he is not only a Life Member but also a Director of the M. E. Fund.

—:o:—

Rai Bahadur Tandalam GOPAL RAO

Tandalam Gopal Rao is well known all over South India as a pioneer in the educational field. He was the youngest of the five sons of Bava Pandit who had served under the Tanjore Rajas and was born in 1832 in Ganapathi Agraharam on the banks of the Cauvery.

While young, Gopal Rao studied Marathi and Sanskrit at home and became proficient in these subjects. His elements of English were acquired under the tutorship of one Devaji Rao, but later on, he mastered the language by his own unaided efforts.

At the young age of 17, Gopal Rao entered Government Service as clerk in the P.W.D. at Tanjore, which was then directly under the District Collector. Within two years he was promoted to the responsible, though ill-paid post of Manager. In 1854 he resigned owing to lack of prospects in the Department, but was soon appointed as teacher in the Provincial School at Kumbakonam which had just then been started. As soon as the Madras University was established (1857), he passed his Matric and within two years more (1859) he completed his B.A., taking the first rank in the first class. For this brilliant success he was warmly eulogised by Mr. Forbes, member of the Imperial Executive Council and Mr. Holloway, both of whom had been acquainted with his previous work in the Revenue Department.

The fame of the Kumbakonam College was due in a large measure to Gopal Rao and Porter. Gopal Rao took classes in English, Mathematics and History and his record shows that as a teacher he "was nowhere surpassed". Mr. Powell who visited Kumbakonam was impressed with his methods, and once an English Civilian attended one of his classes by special permission and expressed unbounded appreciation of his teaching of Shakespeare.

Apart from his coaching powers, there was one characteristic peculiar to Gopal Rao. His punctuality was remarkable and this feature stood him in good stead in exacting from his colleagues discipline, and an all-round efficiency. In 1868 he was appointed Headmaster of the Provincial School at Calicut which was then in a chronic state of disorganisation. This school owes its restoration to normal condition to Mr. Gopal Rao whose services in this connection were appreciated by the public of the place.

One of Mr. Gopal Rao's long-standing grievances was that though he was permitted to act as Principal of the Kumbakonam College on several occasions, he was never made permanent in that post. There was no lack of appreciation for him even in Government quarters, as despite opposition from the Director of Public Instruction, Lord Napier had made him Inspector of the 6th Educational Division in the year 1870. In this position also, Gopal Rao distinguished himself and his success was such that the D.P.I. had to admit that "the experiment of employing a native of this country as an Inspector of Schools had been tried, and had proved a decided success". In 1879 he was honoured with the title of Rai Bahadur and in recognition of his services to the cause of Education he was also made a Fellow of the Madras University.

His death in 1886 grieved every one in the Educational field. Appreciative references as to his worth and work were made not only in Departmental circles but also in the Colleges where he had toiled and by contemporaries like Dr. Miller, Rai Bahadur Ranganatha Mudaliar and others.

Tandalam Gopal Rao had an immense capacity for work. His industry was admired, and he was often warned by his superiors not to over-work himself. In the midst of heavy duties, that he found time to compose Marathi poems is a matter for special praise. His translation of Goldsmith's "Hermit" in Marathi verse is a feat on the performance of which we may well be proud.

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Dewan Bahadur C. RAMACHANDRA RAO Saheb

Among the luminaries in the legal world produced by our community the name of Dewan Bahadur C. Ramachandra Rao Saheb stands foremost. He was a person with high ideals and could easily have won fame as a politician. But he preferred to devote himself entirely to the subject of law and won for himself the distinction of a research-worker in that field.

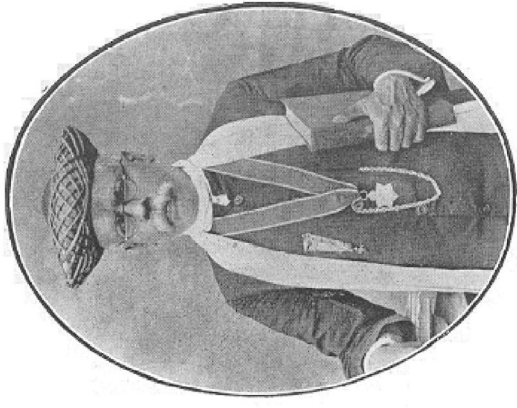
Ramachandra Rao Saheb was born in 1845 in the family of the Arni Jaghirdars. His intuitive love of learning prompted him to leave the home of his parents and join the Free Church Mission School in Madras, of which Dr. William Miller was then Principal. In 1867 he passed the Matriculation examination with credit and began to study law. It was possible in those days to appear for the B.L. Degree examination without becoming a graduate. Ramachandra Rao Saheb was one of the first to avail himself of this facility and passed the examination in 1870, entirely through his personal efforts. For a time he was bound apprentice to Mr. Tirumalai Srinivasacharya, but as this gentleman died shortly after, he attached himself to Raja T. Rama Rao. In 1871 he enrolled himself as a Vakil of the High Court and served as a Junior to Mr. T. Nagayya of Chittoor. When the latter became a Munsiff, Rao Saheb gained prominence in the profession. He was a contemporary of Sir V. Bashyam Iyengar and Dr. S. Subramania Iyer and maintained their friendship for life.

The year 1890 saw Ramachandra Rao Saheb as Junior Professor of Law in the Presidency College. When the Madras Law College was established (1892), he was made Chief Professor and continued in this capacity for a period of 10 years. He also had the honour of acting as Principal for a short time. He was looked upon as an authority in Roman Law and International Law, and had an acquaintance with certain obscure parts of these subjects, which was almost unique. He was an Examiner in Law for several years and also a member of the Madras University Senate for 17 years.

In the field of politics, his sympathies were with the Indian National Congress. He had been President of the Mahajana Sabha till his elevation to the Professorship of Law. He took part in the third Session of the Indian National Congress held at Madras in 1887. About this time the aims and ideals of the Congress were published in the form of a catechism in the "HINDU" of which Mr. M. Veeraraghavachariar was then Editor. This



T. LAKSHMANA RAO, B.A., D.I.C.,
Resid. Govt. Asst. Chemist,
Agri. College, Coimbatore



Rao Bahadur B. KRISHNA RAO BHONSLE, M.R.A.S.,
Resid. Secy. to the Commr. for Govt. Exams., Madras
Director, M. E. F. 1925-33



Rao Bahadur K. ANANDA RAO, M.A., (Cantab),
Professor of Pure Mathematics, Presidency College, Madras

attracted the attention of the members of the Parliament and it was openly suggested that action should be taken against Mr. Veeraraghavachariar. Ramachandra Rao Saheb boldly came forward and confessed to Lord Conmemara (the Governor) that he was the author of the catechism and that any contemplated steps should be taken against him and not against the editor of the "HINDU". Of course he was told in reply that no such action was thought of. Ramachandra Rao Saheb also presided over a Conference held in Madras to condemn the action initiated by Sir Bamfeld Fuller of Bengal against Surendranath Bannerjee and other leaders in 1906.

Rao Saheb was honoured with the title of Dewan Bahadur in 1897. He was invited to Delhi in 1903 in connection with the Durbar which he attended.

Dewan Bahadur C. Ramachandra Rao Saheb had a great regard for Dr. Miijer, whose pet student he was considered to be during his School days. In 1891, he organised the Old Boys Day in the Christian College along with other prominent "Old Boys". In the beginning for 3 years, successively, he presided over these celebrations.

He had an attack of paralysis which brought about his end on the 6th October, 1909. On his death a reference was made in Court by Sir P. S. Sivawami Iyer, then Advocate-General in very eulogistic terms.

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Rao Bahadur T. SUNDARA RAO

Mr. T. Sundara Rao was the eldest son of Rai Bahadur T. Gopal Rao. He was educated in the Kumbakonam College where his father was Principal. After a distinguished career at College, he took his B.A. degree in the year 1874 standing second in the Presidency in Mathematics.

His official life was begun as a clerk on Rs. 25 in the Board of Revenue. After a chequered career, he was appointed as Deputy Collector in 1888 and in due course rose to the first grade in 1911. His ability and character were held in very high esteem by all the people who came into contact with him.

Sundara Rao never gave up his attachment to Mathematics. His title to fame rests on the position he occupies in the History of this subject. His books on Paper folding and Elementary Solid Geometry attracted much attention even in America. He was throughout connected with the Mathematical Association, London and the Indian Mathematical Society.

Of the finer traits of his character, little is known to those beyond the intimate circle of his friends. Sundara Rao was a man of deep culture and inventive genius. He had designed a canoe for his own use. The cycle ink paste that is now being used in public offices and has brought about considerable economy to Government was first designed by him. An ordinary reed fountain pen made by himself was being used by him all through his life. He had made an ingenious contrivance to stop the fan of a Hjtchcock

lamp which served to prolong the life of the machinery. Photography and billiards were his special hobbies.

After a long period of Government Service he retired in April 1923. He lived to a good old age and almost to the end, he kept up active habits and exercise. His life is an example of plain living and high thinking—a trait that is commonly regarded as special to the early Marathas.

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The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur G. SRINIVASA RAO

Rao Bahadur G. Srinivasa Rao was a lawyer with extensive practice who at the same time found it possible to do a great deal of public service.

Graduating from the Government College, Kumbakonam, he studied for Law and while yet very young he settled in Madura, where he slowly built up a large clientele. Not content with his work in the profession, he entered the Municipal Council and, on account of his easy grasp of Municipal problems soon became the Chairman, in which position he introduced many wholesome reforms.

Srinivasa Rao was not only the first citizen of Madura but closely connected with every institution which laboured, directly or indirectly, for the good of the public. In the pre-reform days he was an elected member of the Madras Legislative Council and did substantial service to his countrymen in that capacity.

As a non-official who gave of his best for the public cause, the Government gave him the title of "Rao Bahadur". He was also held in high esteem in official circles. This is why successive Governors and Members of Council called at his residence whenever they visited Madura—a fact which is commemorated by means of suitable stone tablets in his house in West Tower Street, near the famous Sri Meenakshi Temple.

Srinivasa Rao had the honour of an invitation for the Delhi Durbar; he also went to England for the festivities in connection with the Coronation of His Majesty King George V and Queen Mary in 1911; and expressed himself as very much impressed with all that he saw there.

He died full of years and honours. His eldest son M. S. Jambuswami Rao is now the Agent of the Madura Branch of the Indian Bank Ltd. He is a consistent supporter of the M. E. F.

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Tanjore RAMACHANDRA RAO (1825—1879 A.D.)

Mr. T. Ramachandra Rao will be remembered as the first Indian to be appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Police in the City of Madras. He came of a Bijapur Desastha family which had settled down for a time in Mysore. Tanjore however claims to be the place of his birth (1825).

Of the events of his earlier life not much is known. Ramachandra Rao's parents were poor, but through his natural intelligence he picked up a good knowledge of English and came to Madras about the year 1840 in search of employment. Major Crisp, Marathi Translator to Government, took him in hand as quite a lad, trained him in calculation and composition and employed him as his private writer between August 1840 and March 1841. When Crisp became Ag. Astronomer to the Hon'ble Company, he recommended Ramachandra Rao to the Superintendent of the Observatory as "his quickness and intelligence were his most dependable aids in the arrangement and preparation of details." He was attached to the Observatory up to Dec. 1843. In Jan. 1844 he joined the Military Fund Office as Accountant and writer with a view to better his prospects.

In Oct. 1847, he left this office to take service as Minute Writer under the Superintendent of Police on a salary of Rs. 21. His scholarship in Tamil, Telugu, Hindustani, Canarese and Marathi soon gained for him rapid promotions till in 1854 he was appointed Interpreter to the Chief Magistrate on a salary of Rs. 150. Mr. E. F. Elliot, Chief Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, certified him to be "an excellent Accountant and altogether a thorough man of business" and added that "to my knowledge he has never acted except as an honourable man".

Ramachandra Rao's application to the Supreme Court for the post of Canarese Translator was backed up by his superiors. John Bruce Norton, then clerk of the Crown, was much impressed with his ability in this capacity and described him as "an efficient public servant, well worthy of promotion and employment in a higher range of service".

During the time of Mr. Boulderson, Ramachandra Rao was made Deputy Commissioner of Police. In the year 1860 Sir Charles Trevelyan, Governor of Madras, complimented Mr. Boulderson on the able assistance of his deputies to reduce Military Guards by the substitution of Police, a measure of great practical importance. As a detective Officer, Ramachandra Rao's abilities came into prominence in connection with a case of burglary at Adyar, in the Dindigal Robbery case, and the Great Note Forgery case (1875). He won public appreciation in a serious case of fire which broke out in Washermenpet, as his personal exertions prevented extensive damage. The judgment and energy displayed by him also availed to prevent a mob rising and looting of the retail grain bazaars in Triplicane (1866).

But his chief work, apart from his strictly official duties related to the management of the Poor House known as the Monegar Choultry. There was a large scale embezzlement of funds in the institution and Ramachandra Rao was deputed to examine its affairs. After taking suitable action, he remained in charge of the Poor House for several years during the Famine period and by careful administration, the funds of the charity were economised.

In 1875 when King Edward VII visited India as Prince of Wales, some of the arrangements were entrusted to Ramachandra Rao. In appreciation

of his loyal services over a fairly long period, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales presented him with a gold Albert Chain as a Souvenir with his own hand. Mention of his services is made by Mr. W. H. Russel, the Official Recorder of the Prince of Wales tour. A passage occurring in this book is quoted below as it throws a side light on certain aspects of Ramachandra Rao's life about which little mention is made in other places :—

“Next there was a display of jugglery. The performers were directed by Ramachandra Rao, Commissioner of Police, one of the most clever and intelligent officials in the Service of the State, and at the same time one of the most thorough-going Brahmins in India. He gave us an exposition of Hindu doctrine one morning, remarkable for clearness and refinement, in which he grappled, if not boldly, at least most ingeniously and delicately with the abstrusest questions”

Ramachandra Rao's duties were so varied that he came into contact with a number of people with whom he moved on terms of warm and intimate friendship. His assistance was sought by persons in different stations of life, and in spite of his strict disciplinarian habits, he acquired great personal popularity.

Towards the end of 1878 his health began to fail. He was asked to avoid over-work and to take rest. About the middle of 1879 he passed away at the age of 54.

Ramachandra Rao had a special attachment to students. A large number of them were fed by him every day and among those who partook of his hospitality many have come up to good positions in later life—a remarkable testimony to the judicious manner in which Ramachandra Rao distributed charity and patronage.

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D. R. BALAJI RAO

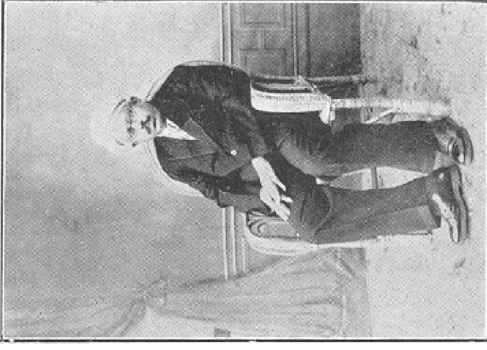
Doveton Balaji Rao was one of the very few Desasthas of South India who were attracted to a business career. His dominant personality was matched by his strength of character which assured for him the high place he eventually occupied in the administration of the Indian and Indo-Carnatic Banks.

Balaji Rao was born of wealthy parents on the 16th of April 1865. His father, Rama Rao, belonged to a family that had long ago settled in South India. Early in life, Balaji Rao discarded the luxuries attached to his station and took vigorous exercises. He attained proficiency in swimming, riding, and wrestling. His educational career was equally promising. He matriculated from the Christian College and was a favourite pupil of Dr. Miller. From the Presidency College he took his degree with a first class in Philosophy. Two years later he passed his B.L.

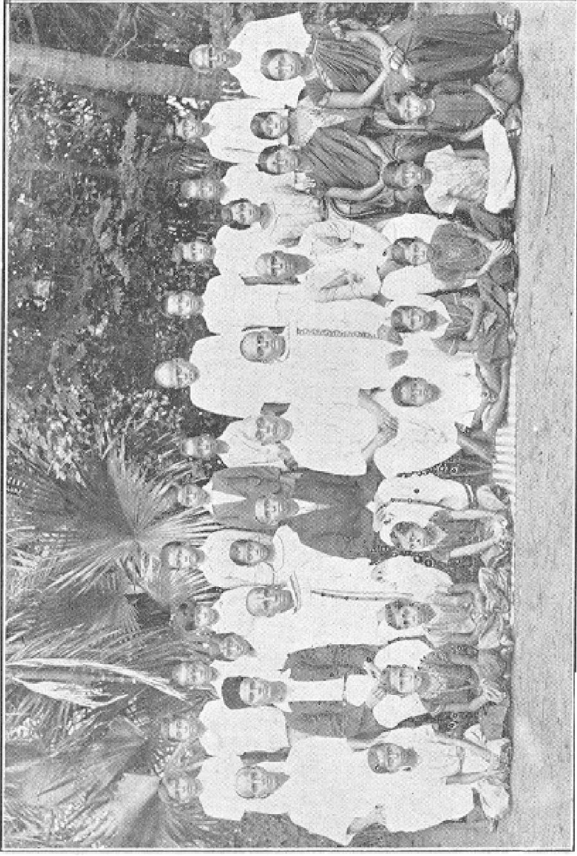
DIRECTORS, M. E. F.



E. RAJA RAMA RAO, M.A., B.L.,
Indian Audit and Accounts Service,
Asst. Collr. of Customs, Calcutta



N. KESHAVA RAO, B.A., B.C.E.,
Indian Service of Engineers,
Executive Engineer, Trichy



S. S. BAGHAVENDRA RAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TRIPLICANE, 1937

While yet in his teens, Balaji Rao lost his father. After this event, he had to face litigation which gave him an insight into legal work. Though for a time he practised as an Advocate, his great ambition was to become a professor of philosophy. These were years of great struggle for him; but fortunately, he came under the influence of Swami Vivekananda, and was one of those who arranged for his American Tour.

In 1906, the failure of the Arbuthnot Bank came to him as a great shock. He lost heavily but faced the crisis with fortitude. With the help of a few sympathetic friends he secured a position in the Indian Bank Ltd., which was just then started and in course of time became its Chief Accountant. His long association with the Indian Bank under Vidya Sagar Pandya, its Secretary, gave him unique opportunities to learn the intricacies of banking. He was extremely cautious, and his work soon won the appreciation of the Board of Directors. As a result, he became the Secretary of the Bank.

Balaji Rao was a man of varied interests and parts. He had always been a voracious reader. His diligence in study enabled him to attain a mastery over Astrology, Hydropathy, thought-reading and various other arts and sciences. He was simple in his habits and laid great stress on character. His sympathy for the poor was responsible for his connection with the M.E.F. as Life-member and Vice President for several years.

That he agreed to be Secretary of the newly started Indo-Carnatic Bank in his retirement is proof positive of his industry and dislike of a life of inactivity. He had, however, misjudged his strength. His constitution evidently broke down under the strain. He passed away peacefully on 31-5-35.

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Rao Bahadur Dharmaseela Khajana VENKOBA RAO

Khajana Venkoba Rao, the son of Khajana Ranga Rao was born at Madura in 1879. His forefathers had served under the Nawab of Arcot as Treasurer and Dewan and hence *Khajana* became the family name.

He had his education in the Native College (which is now known as the Madura College), Madura; but after his father's death in 1908, he had to take upon himself the management of the family estates.

He managed the estates so well that it was possible for him not only to continue the choultries (founded by his ancestors) at Rameswaram, Dhanuskodi and other places, but to increase their usefulness for pilgrims to those famous shrines. Conservative in his habits, he used to feed a large number of Brahmins, and several poor students in his house and to help them, with their School and College fees. Khajana Venkoba Rao had a sweet and lovable personality. He was so easily accessible that no stranger who came to him for help in case of need was ever sent away empty-handed.

He was universally recognised as one of the foremost citizens of Madurā. It was no wonder therefore he was made a First Class Bench Magistrate for several years continuously. He was also connected with the Madura College, the Madura Hindu Permanent Fund, the Madura District Board and the Rameswaram Devasthanam Committee, in all of which he did yeoman service.

In recognition of his philanthropic work, the title of 'Rao Bahadur' was conferred on him on the 1st January 1924. And His Holiness the Sankarāchāri Swamigal of Sringeri Mutt during his visit to Madura in 1926 awarded him the title of "Dharmaseela" in recognition of his very charitable disposition and the excellent way in which he was conducting the ancestral charities.

He died in December 1928 after a short period of illness.

Khajana Venkoba Rao was connected with the M.E. Fund in a variety of ways. He was a Life-Member of the Fund and one of its Vice-Presidents. Not only this; he was good enough to preside over one of our Annual Meetings and lend us his moral and material support.

His younger brother, Khajana Lakshmana Rao, we are glad to note, is closely following the footsteps of his brother and attaining a similar popularity.

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Gottu Vadya SAKHARAM RAO

Sakharam Rao was born at Madhyarjanam (Tiruvadamarudur) in the Tanjore District. He was the eldest son of Gottu Vadya Srinivasa Rao, a famous player of the preceding generation from whom he learnt the Art. He was a Madhva Desastha Brahmin and a Rigvedi. He belonged to the family of Gavai Khamas Madhava Rao, the famous Musician in the days of the last Sivaji Maharaj.

His father, Srinivasa Rao was one of the earliest who learnt to play on the Violin in South India and became an expert. Later in his life he made some improvements, determined how the instruments were to be handled and became famous as a player on both the instruments. After he became the Adhina Vidwan of Tiruvaduthurai Mutt in the time of Sri La Sri Subramania Desikar, he moved from Tanjore and settled down at Tiruvadamarudur. He died when his son Sakharam Rao was quite young and had some little training in Music.

At that time, Venkoba Rao and Rama Rao, sons of his paternal uncle lived at Tanjore. They had attained great proficiency in three musical instruments—the Violin, Jalatarang and Mridang. Sakharam Rao had a good training under the elder brother, Venkoba Rao and was bent on attaining immortal fame in the field of Music. Owing to the fruits of virtue in

his previous birth, the hereditary gift in music and his ceaseless efforts, he held an unique position as a Gottu Vadya Player. His earnestness and untiring practice were praiseworthy. Every day, he continued to play even at dead of night. When asleep, he would suddenly rise from bed and begin to put into practice some particular idea in Music that had struck him.

His great achievement was that he brought to perfection the sound production of the instrument. He played the same with a piece of cylindrical roller made of Tamarind wood in his left hand and with the finger nails of the right hand (much more difficult than playing with the *Nankhi* as most players do). He was a versatile genius, being equally perfect in playing the Raga Alapana, Kriti or Tahnam. Perhaps amongst the Ragas he played he was most delicious in Sankarabharana, Kedaragowla, Bhairavi, Bilahari, Todi, Sri and Kalyani. The melodic beauty of each Raga shone in its richest colours at his hands. He may be regarded as eternally dedicated to 'Nadopasana.' Unlike the mechanical musicians of the present age, he thoroughly enjoyed and was absorbed in his own music and his performances were outpourings of ecstasy. During the visit of Sir Edwin Montague to Madras in 1918, at an Evening Party given by the South Indian Zamindars in his honour, Sakharam Rao was invited to give his performance before the distinguished guest and the concert was very much appreciated.

Like his father, he had a good command of the Violin and he therefore trained his brother, Hari Rao, and made him attain a high degree of perfection. He, and Sakharam Rao's son, Srinivasa Rao, named after the grandfather, continued his art with undiminished zeal at their ancestral house in Tiruvadamarudur.

Sakharam Rao was strong and well-built and had a dignified and commanding personality. He had many good qualities. From a child onwards, any one could move with him freely. He was always desirous of helping others and doing social service. When he was approached with a request to play on Gottu Vadya, even in the midst of other work, he would at once play on the instrument in good spirits. He never regarded wealth as the main object in life. But at the same time he kept up the status and dignity of the profession. He would not move out of his house before his minimum fee was paid and he stipulated before-hand that there should be absolute silence at the concert and the least noise made him stop his playing on the instrument. As with Krishna Bhagavata, absolute accuracy of Sruti Suddha was patent in Sakharam Rao's concerts. He passed away in 1930 at the early age of 49.

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Mridangam NARAYANASWAMI APPA

One of the ancient Mahratta Kshatriya families was that of the *Appas*, who held high and responsible positions during the last Mahratta kings of Tanjore, as for example Kalai Rad Appa who was a Sirkheel of the State.

Mridangam Narayanaswami was a native of Tanjore and belonged to the Jadhav Family.

When young he was a Copyist. He learnt the A. B. C. of Mridangam from Sivaswami Appa, the Mridanga Vidwan of the day. He was a good singer of different songs and tunes in a great variety ; and his voice was rich and sonorous. He was gifted with a subtle, delicate but accurate *Sruthi* and *Swara Gnana*, the like of which is rare to be found. He had likewise, an inborn and special aptitude for playing on the Mridangam and his *Gnana* of *Sruthi* and *Swara* contributed greatly to his perfection in *Laya* and *Tala* and made him an original Mridangam Player.

His early training in the Art was at the Sri Maruthiswami Mutt at Mannargudi. Once, when he slept there, he dreamt that Maruthi appeared before him and directed that he should do Saturday Bhajana and invoke Maruthi and by so doing, he would realise himself. He followed the direction faithfully and received the Blessings of Lord Maruthi.

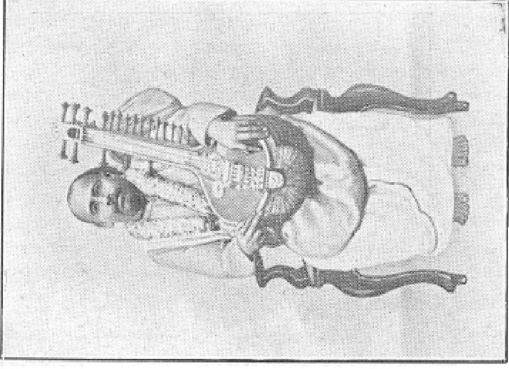
When Morgaumkar Ramachandra Bava, Kirtanacharya from Gwalior, and his son, Vishnu Bava, came to Tanjore and conducted Chathurmasya Kirtan, Mridangam Narayanaswami played and developed his art. Even in his teens, his Mridang was acclaimed as an appropriate and sweet accompaniment, so nice and clear without any harshness in the touch. His handling of the instrument was very gifted, the sounds produced were so melodious and he always played so much in conformity with the main artiste, that the resultant rhythm was in perfect consonance.

Though it is very difficult to accompany on the Mridang a player on the Veena or the Jalatarang, he played with equal facility and grace as a valued accompaniment, alike with Vocal Vidwans like Maha Vaidyanatha Iyer, Patnam Subramania Iyer, and Thodi Sundara Rao, the Flute Vidwan, Sarabha Sastri, the Bhagavatars like Morgaumkar Ramachandra Bava, Krishna Bhagavatar and others, and with the great Vainikas, Veena Seshanna, Veena Vaidyanatha Iyer, Veena Krishna Iyer, the great Jalatarangam player Venkoba Rao and lastly Saranda Naik, the gifted player on the delicate instrument—the Sarangi.

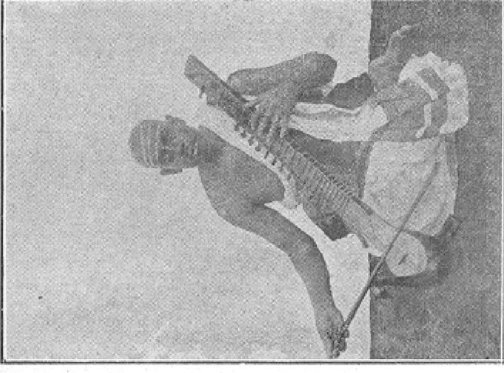
By deep study of details and close application to the Art, he combined in himself to the maximum degree the ability for *Suswara Gyan* and *Laya Tala Prasthar* which were his original and unique specialities. Mridanga Vidwans who were his contemporaries were wanting in the nicety of his play of fingers on the instrument.

He had organised a Bhajana of his own in his residence where all reputed Musicians, Vocal and instrumental, used to congregate and found what they failed to find elsewhere. His strength and courage of conviction acquired by industry and practice in playing on the Mridang made him bold and independent. He spoke chaste Marathi and read the *Dasa Bodha* of Samarth Sri Ramadas Swami, many times over. He was clean in his habits and a devout Bhakta of Sri Rama. He taught the art of playing on the Mridang

EMINENT MUSICIANS



GOTTU VADEYA SAKHARAMA RAO,
Tiruvadamardur



Esharaswathi JAGANNATHA BHUTGOSWAMI,
Bangalore

3

EMINENT MUSICIANS



FLUTE NAGARAJA RAO,
Kumbhakomam



MRIDANGAM NARAYANASWAMI APPA,
Tanjore

to so many ; but it is unfortunate that no one came up to his mark. It is noteworthy that he could both sing, and play on the Mridang at the same time, an accomplishment seldom found. He lived up to an advanced age and departed, leaving no descendants.

He always kept in readiness some 8 or 10 Mridangs accurately tuned to the several normal pitches usually met with in concerts. He felt that each Mridang was most resonant at one particular pitch and he tuned the several Mridangs to that pitch. He was unwilling to alter the pitch of a particular Mridang, lest it should lose its natural richness of tone. Nor did he ever tune the instrument at the commencement of a concert, because he was alive to the fact that a Mridang which was subjected to frequent strokes for the purpose of increasing or decreasing the *Struti* lost its fine tonal value or sensitive response. He was quite alive to the fact that even the finger tips have their own share in the production of tone quality. He never subjected his fingers to any strain—for instance it is to be noted that whenever he entered a railway carriage, he never caught hold of the door lintel with his hand.

He had an imposing personality and commanded respect and reverence from all around him. He was encouraged and patronised by the Rajah of Ramnad and his brother Pandithorai. He was so highly appreciated in Madras when he played to the accompaniment of Krishna Bhagavatar of Tanjore, that the late Justice Subramania Iyer rewarded him in recognition of his great merits. He was the *Stala Vidwan* of Sethu Bavaswami Mutt and performed Sri Rama Navami under the patronage of Raja Guru Sethu Bavaswami. His handling of the Mridang was superb and admitted to be so, by all the great Vidwans, and his superiority in the art was never challenged. Whatever variety of difficult strokes he played on the Mridang, the resultant was perfect resonance. The sounds produced by either hand were mostly like those of the fine *Takora* and reminiscent of the play on that instrument by the famous Nannu Miyan. His fixing of the flour on the left was such, that the sound produced was the exact *Mandhra* of the *Adhara Sruti* on the right, and the flour never fell off in bits, however long the concert lasted. He would play at the right time the appropriate phrases for the three *Kalas*, bring into clear perspective the short and long ones and end with a variety of *Moharas*. No one could detect any the least contortion on his face or in his limbs and at a distance one who looked at him would feel he was looking at a beautiful painting. The fingers of the hands alone moved with perfect grace and the rest of the limbs remained motionless. He was the first to raise the profession of a Mridang Player to a high pedestal of regard and made it worthy of emoluments. He always played Mridang to the accompaniment of two *Tamburas* in the hands of his two disciples, *Yoganath* and *Swaminath*.

He enjoyed the best in life. He was regular in his habits and took only choice viands. He lived a royal life, and died about 30 years ago.

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Balasaraswathi JAGANNATHA BHUTGOSWAMI

Jagannatha Bhutgoswami was the first to practise on this North Indian instrument (Taus (تار) is its Persian name) and show its great possibilities for playing Carnatic Music. He was remarkably gifted in the exposition of the Sankarabarana Raga on the Mayuri. The mellowed tone of the instrument added to the dexterous handling of the same by Jagannatha Bhutgoswami, made the instrument very attractive. Distinguished artistes of his time like Maha Vaidyanatha Iyer and others used to attend his concerts with great interest. Even as Sarabha Sastri elevated the Flute to the status of a pucca primary instrument for concert purposes ; and as Srinivasa Rao elevated the Gottu Vadya to a similar status ; so also, Jagannatha Bhutgoswami, by dint of his own talents, did the same for the Mayuri and made it unquestionably a pucca primary instrument for the concert.

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Badami KRISHNA RAO

Badami Krishna Rao was the second son of Rai Bahadur Lakshman Rao, who belonged to an ancient family of Mahratta Commanders, and had distinguished himself as Regimentdar in the Great Mutiny of 1857. Born in 1851, he had his education in the State of Mysore and entered service when Sir K. Seshadri Iyer was Dewan. After serving as Revenue Officer in various districts, he was made Assistant Commissioner in 1899. For some years he was Vice-Chairman of the Bangalore Municipality and rendered valuable work as Plague Officer in 1898-99. When he retired from Government Service in 1908, he had won high encomiums for his capacity and efficiency in Revenue administration.

For a long time, Badami Krishna Rao was Secretary to the local Agricultural Societies and the St. John's Ambulance Association. He was a keen gardener, very fond of flowers. During his retirement he was attracted to painting and also made sculpturing as his hobby. Krishna Rao was also a good Kannada Scholar. His Robinson Crusoe in that language is still regarded as a masterpiece in prose. Among his poetical works mention may be made of the Ramayana, Mahabharatha, and Bhagavatha, besides many dramatic pieces and short poems, specially meant for children.

Badami Krishna Rao lived a fairly long life and passed away in June 1937 at the ripe age of 86. He had the satisfaction of seeing all his sons settled in high positions and carrying on the rich and varied traditions of his family.

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Dewan Bahadur T. VENKASWAMI RAO

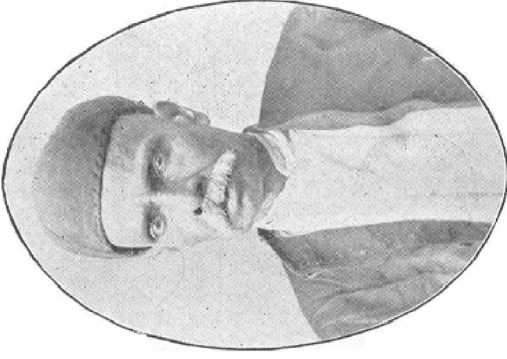
Venkaswami Rao was born in 1829, of a Desastha family in Tanjore. He was the fourth of five brothers, all of whom were talented ; the eldest, Ramachandra Rao was a Marathi scholar and poet of repute ; the next



Rao Saheb Udarasiromani
T. PADMANABHA RAO,
Trivandrum,
Patron, M. E. F.



Bojisabha Bhushana
KARPUR SHIVADAS RAO,
Chief Engineer, Mysore



Dewan Bahadur T. VENKATESWAMI RAO,
Dewan of Rammud

Krishna Rao belonged to the first batch of Deputy Collectors, contemporary with the late Dewan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao; the third was given in adoption to the Dabir family and was a fine musician and critic, and the last was Rao Bahadur T. Gopal Rao, an educationist of All-India fame.

The early education of Venkaswami Rao was under the famous "English" Devaji Rao of Tanjore to whom may be attributed his proficiency in English and the purity and simplicity of his style. He entered Government service at the early age of 18 in the Collectorate of Tanjore and rose to be the Head Sheristadar in the same District, which post he held for about 13 years.

His knowledge of District administration in all its branches, land revenue, salt, abkari etc., was intimate and dependable; in official correspondence his language was terse and restrained; and in official life, he was reserved yet courteous to juniors and free and frank to his seniors. As such he was promoted to the Revenue Secretariat as First Assistant, in which post he won the confidence of successive Governors of Madras.

During his active service, the Government of India appointed him as a Member of the Salt Commission of 1876. He there recorded a minute of dissent from the majority of the Commission which recommended that the existing monopoly be superseded by a system of excise. He clearly pointed out that the latter scarcely conceded the principle of free trade and afforded no proper guarantee for the supply of a wholesome necessity at a moderate price to the public. The soundness of his opinion has been proved by subsequent events and the monopoly has had to be established by the side of the excise system as a corrective.

The special work for which he was deputed next was the compilation of the Tanjore District Manual, which stands as a monument of his untiring industry and extensive research. Subsequently in 1885, he acted as Secretary to the Committee appointed by the Madras Government to revise the Rent Law of the Presidency. His memorandum reviewing Clarke's Resettlement of Tanjore was also a notable contribution. On the occasion of the Empress Durbar on 1st January 1877, he was given a medal, and just before his retirement in 1887, the title of Dewan Bahadur was conferred on him. By a special resolution, the Government recorded their appreciation of his ability, zeal and constant devotion to his duties displayed by him during his long period of service in the Revenue Department.

Though he lived for 21 years after his retirement, he could never be idle. He successively conducted as Dewan, the administration of two large Zamindaris, Kalahasti and Ramnad and in 1897 retired into private life owing to failing health.

Venkaswami Rao used to play on the Veena, his favourite Ragas being Bhairavi, Mukhari, Sankarabharana and Ananda Bhairavi. He had a sound knowledge of Music and retained Maharashtra Vidwans like Devagowami, Jagannatha Bhutgoswami, Venkatesayya and others as guests and apart from enjoying their play on Swaragath, Balasaraswathi and Veena, he

would suggest the adding of certain passages, some new tunes etc., which was greatly appreciated by them and adopted with benefit. He used to play on the Swaragath also and in his youth is said to have played on the Violin.

He was punctuality incarnate and his daily habits were so regular that one could say what he would be doing at any particular time of the day. He was very careful about his diet, and had a good knowledge of the effect of every kind of food on the constitution as also the medicines and treatment then prevalent owing to his long personal experience.

He was fond of and very kind to children but kept them in good discipline. He was both respected and loved by all who came in contact with him.

He was loyal to the Government, almost to a fault. He first made a Will at Tanjore and lest that act should deprive the Government of Probate Fees, he rewrote the Will at Madras and a fee of Rs. 1,500 was paid for taking out the Probate of his Will. His Will is a monument of his great care and foresight in preserving the property as best as may be under the circumstances.

He lived to the age of 78 and passed away in peace on 4th June 1908 at an auspicious time.

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Raja Sabha Bhushana Karpur SRINIVASA RAO

Karpur Srinivasa Rao was a descendant of an ancient and well-to-do Maharashtra family of Bangalore and was born in the sixties of the last century. One of his ancestors, a devotee of the Lord Srinivasa of Tirupati, lighted up big lumps of Camphor (Karpur) at every step from the bottom to the top of the hill, and hence "Karpur" became his family name.

After his College career, he qualified himself for the Engineering profession and entered service under the Bombay Government. In course of time he rose to be Superintending Engineer in Bombay; when Sir M. Visweswarayya was made Dewan, Karpur Srinivasa Rao was appointed Chief Engineer in Mysore. He rendered meritorious service to the State in constructing the Kannambadi Dam and in conducting important negotiations with the Madras Government.

In recognition of his work, the Mysore Maharajah bestowed on him the title of "Raja Sabha Bhushana". He retired in 1923 and spent his days in the study of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy.

Karpur Srinivasa Rao was of a deeply religious turn of mind. Being urged on to it by the illustrious Swami Vivekananda, whom he had the good fortune to meet prior to his departure to America in 1893, he had taken to Sanskrit learning with enthusiasm, and soon his knowledge won for him the

admiration of many a professed Pandit. As a Sanskritist of repute, he was given the title of 'Vidya Bhushana'.

In later life he delivered many religious lectures and his exposition of the different schools of philosophy was remarkably lucid and carried conviction to all his hearers.

To his close friends, Karpur Srinivasa Rao was an ideal to be followed with devotion ; and his conversation with them was highly instructive and inspiring.

During his last years, he took a keen interest in the affairs of the Sriman Madhwa Siddhanta Onnahini Sabha of which he was Vice-President for several years. He passed away in 1932, deeply mourned by a large circle of friends and admirers.

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K. RANGANATHA RAO

K. Ranganatha Rao was one of the richest and most cultured men of the Maharashtra Community. He was the son of Krishna Rao, who is remembered even now in Kumbakonam on account of the Agraharam which he had built and which is therefore named after him.

Ranganatha Rao graduated from the Government College, Kumbakonam in his twentieth year, but he did not care to enter service. He lived a very happy and contented life, devoting all his energies for the encouragement of learning, both eastern and western. He was very fond of Sanskrit and gave suitable presents to those who were proficient in the Vedas, Shastras and Puranas. He was quick to find out talent though lodged in obscure corners and many a poor student whom he had fed and clothed cherishes his memory with gratitude and reverence.

He was a good scholar in Sanskrit and Marathi, and was for several years Examiner to the Madras University (besides being a member of the Board of Studies) in those subjects.

He was a devout Bhakta, very fond of Bhajanas and Kirtans. Several Marathi Kirtans were given in his house by distinguished Kirtankars. He has also built a large and beautiful temple on the banks of the Cauvery, dedicated to Vitoba and Rakhumayee ; and endowed it with sufficient landed property for its permanent upkeep.

On account of his innate modesty, he never cared to come out in the limelight. Yet he was nominated Member of the Kumbakonam Municipality for more than one term. He was also a member of the Town High School Committee and worked as its Secretary for quite a long period.

Once when the River Cauvery was in floods, he prevented the water from overflowing into the town by putting up a high sand embankment and for this piece of public service he got the thanks of the District Collector.

He died suddenly of heart failure without a moment of suffering, in 1912, before he entered his sixtieth year.

His two sons, K. R. Raghunatha Rao (who is a Life Member of the M.E.F.) and K. R. Ramachandra Rao have been conducting the family charities on even a more extensive scale than before, and leading exemplary lives. Such people form the salt of the Earth.

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Rao Saheb Udarasiromani T. PADMANABHA RAO

Mr. T. Padmanabha Rao belongs to a distinguished family in Trivandrum. He is the son of Dewan T. Rama Rao and was born on the 13th September 1864. After undergoing education at Trivandrum and Kottayam, he entered Government Service in 1887. He served Government in several capacities, and while he was Anchal Superintendent introduced the Sirkar Savings Bank in the Anchal Offices and the Reciprocal Hundi System between Travancore and Cochin. From his retirement in 1919 he has been associated with various public activities. He was Vice-Chairman of the Devadhar Co-operative Enquiry Committee and has always taken a good deal of interest in co-operation. He is also well known for various benefactions such as the improvement of the Rama Rao Dispensary, the poor boys Free Tiffin rooms etc. In 1927, the title of Rao Saheb was conferred on him by the British Government. His munificent sacrifices in the cause of the poor have earned for him the title of Udarasiromani (Gem among the generous) by his own State Sovereign. His benefactions run to several thousands of rupees, among which special mention may be made of his handsome endowment to the newly started Travancore University. He is now a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London and a Patron of our Fund.

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Rao Saheb T. SAMBAMURTHI RAO

Mr. T. Sambamurthi Rao was the son of Deputy Collector T. Krisbna Rao, the famous educationalist. He was born in August 1869 in the Tanjore District. He took his B.A. degree in 1890 from the Government College, Kumbakonam and won the Beauchamp Gold medal for proficiency in English. After passing his B.L., he enrolled himself as Vakil and returned to Tanjore in 1898. Sambamurthi Rao was one of the promoters of the Tanjore Permanent Fund and was connected with it as Director since its inception. He became President of that institution in 1923. He has been the Secretary of the Tanjore Maharaja Sarfoji's Saraswathi Mahal Library and has rendered valuable services in this capacity. In appreciation of his work, the title of Rao Saheb was conferred on him in 1927. He was till recently at the head of various public movements and was Director of the M.E.F. for several years.