**Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council of the Governor of Madras assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act (5 & 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61, 6 & 7 Geo. V, Ch. 39, and 9 & 10 Geo. V, Ch. 101).**

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The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 10-30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 12th day of January 1921.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT and His Excellency the Governor of Madras and 120 members of the Council were present.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF MADRAS, in requesting His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to inaugurate the Madras Legislative Council, said :—

"May it please Your Royal Highness,—It is my privilege, on behalf of the Government and of the people of the Madras Presidency and their elected representatives assembled in this Council Chamber, to offer to Your Royal Highness a most cordial and respectful welcome to this the senior Province in India and to assure you that it is to us a matter of very special gratification that Your Royal Highness' landing on the shores of India on this memorable occasion should have taken place at our capital city. Fort St. George, under the ramparts of which this Council Chamber lies, marked the first establishment of the British Empire in India, and it is indeed appropriate that the same spot should now, nearly three hundred years later, witness an event no less momentous to the destiny of India and fraught, as we trust, with no less benefit to its peoples.

"We in Madras share with the rest of India in the disappointment caused by the postponement of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, whom, we trust, we may have the privilege of welcoming to this country before long, but we rejoice that his place as the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor on the occasion of the inauguration of our new constitution has been taken by Your Royal Highness of whose personal services to this country in the past we have a lively recollection, and whose acquaintance with the problems of Indian Government ensures on the part of Your Royal Highness a special measure of understanding and sympathy.

"Your Royal Highness' presence in this Chamber as the representative of His Imperial Majesty once more bears testimony to the deep affection and concern for the interests of India and its people which have always been evinced by His Majesty and indeed by all the members of the Royal family. We in the Madras Presidency, of whatever race and creed, desire humbly to reciprocate that affection and beg Your Royal Highness to convey to His Imperial Majesty an assurance of the deep loyalty and devotion which now as heretofore we bear to His Throne and Person.

"The new constitution which Your Royal Highness is about to inaugurate admits the elected representatives of the people of India for the first time to share in the Government of the country, and we recognize in it the foundation upon which will be raised in the years to come the completed edifice of our constitutional freedom, as a full partner in the fortunes of the British Empire. We pray that under God's providence the labours of this, the first popularly elected Assembly to be constituted in India, may, with the full co-operation of all classes and creeds of His Majesty's subjects, lead ever more and more to the prosperity and development of our Presidency, to the peace, contentment, and happiness of its people, and to the strengthening of the bonds which bind us to the British Empire."

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT then addressed the Council:—

"YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—By the command of His Majesty the King-Emperor, I have come to India to inaugurate on his behalf the new constitution of which in Madras this Council is an integral part, and to bring his affectionate greetings to his Indian people. My presence here to-day is a token of His Majesty's lively interest in this great movement of orderly progress towards constitutional liberty, and of his wishes for its success. Your welcome to me as the King-Emperor's delegate is a fitting response to his message of good-will. It will be my pleasing duty to convey it to His Majesty, and to lay before him your assurances of loyalty and devotion to His Throne and Person.

"Your Excellency and gentlemen,—I thank you for your welcome to me personally, and your reference to my previous association with India. Years have passed—years of rapid change—since I served in this country, but my memories of it are vivid and happy. I still have many friends among its people, and I deeply rejoice to visit it again.

"It is a source of special pleasure to me to meet here as your Governor my friend Lord Willingdon. To the zealous discharge of his office he has brought those remarkable gifts of charm and personality which have everywhere gained him respect and affection. In Lord Willingdon you have a man who represents the best that England has to give you, the finest type of an English gentleman.

"No place in India could more appropriately have been selected for entering upon the important duty with which His Majesty has entrusted me. It was here that the connexion between India and the British Empire was first definitely established. It was in Fort St. George that Clive began the career during which, aided largely by the courage and tenacity of Madras troops, he secured a footing for the British power. It was here, nearly a hundred years ago, that Sir Thomas Munro as Governor of this Province, first defined, in a despatch to the Court of Directors, the true policy and the only vindication of the British connexion—that the people of India should be taught, and guided, and fitted to govern themselves.

"At last that policy is ripening into fruition. In this historic Presidency it will be the task of Your Excellency and your officers, of you the Members of the Legislative Council, and of the Ministers who will be drawn from among you, to cherish its growth and to hand it on to your successors, a stage further towards perfect maturity. In that task I have come to wish you godspeed on behalf of your Sovereign and the sister nations of our Empire.

"In India, as elsewhere, political development is only a vehicle for human life and human progress. Its function is to provide a nation with means for increasing the happiness of the people. The form has an importance of its own; but the spirit is vital: for liberty, unless human brotherhood follows in its steps, may easily become a greater tyranny. With those, therefore, who would share in the building-up of your new constitution, the thought of the people's happiness must ever be paramount and I can imagine how, at this epoch in your history, your minds are turning towards that high ideal. The pursuit of it demands of you many qualities—patience, insight, sympathy and the like—but if I were to try to enumerate them, I should conclude in the well-known words that 'the greatest of these is charity'. I mean not only courtesy between political opponents and tolerance of antagonistic views, though those virtues will be needed to sweeten your labours. I am thinking rather of that wider toleration, which blunts the sharpness of conflicting interests. It is this form of charity which must surely be the underlying principle and the aim of your political growth. India has suffered

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much in the past from the clash of religions. She has suffered from hard distinctions between social orders. These mean disunion, and disunion is weakness. They mean constraint, and constraint is unhappiness. To mitigate these in the future will be your statesmanship.

"I cannot pretend to speak to you on the local topics which will immediately engage the attention of your Council and your Ministers. I am not sufficiently familiar with them. But as one who has for many years watched the unfolding of political freedom in other lands, and still more as a true friend of India, I may venture to offer to you, and to the other Councils which I shall meet elsewhere, a few words of general application to the great work which lies before you.

"Let the first of these be the plea which I have just put before you. It is a plea that you should sink differences and magnify points of concord. Thus united, use your new political machinery to raise the depressed and to lower the walls between creeds and castes and hostile interests. The task will be far from easy, but I am confident that you will not shrink from it.

"I now declare the new Legislative Council for the Madras Presidency established under the Government of India Act, 1919, to be duly open, and I join with Your Excellency and with all those who love India in a heartfelt prayer for the Almighty's guidance in your labours."

The PRESIDENT of the Council, in acknowledging His Royal Highness' address, said :—

"May it please Your Royal Highness,—On behalf of the Madras Legislative Council, I beg Your Royal Highness to convey to His Majesty, the Council's sentiment of profound loyalty and devotion to his august Throne and Person and also to tender its most respectful thanks for His Majesty's gracious message through the person of Your Royal Highness to-day. I beg Your Royal Highness to convey to His Gracious Majesty the assurance that this Council will do its utmost to justify the confidence reposed in it."

*New Members.*

After His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and His Excellency the Governor of Madras had left the Council Chamber, the following new members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown :—

Raja Sri RAMACHANDRA DEO, Raja of Jeypore.
Dr. GILBERT SLATER.
V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR SAHIB Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur T. DESIKA ACHARIYAR Avargal.

*Election of a Deputy President.*

The Council, under No. 3 of the Standing Orders of the Madras Legislative Council framed under section 72-D (7) of the Government of India Act, then proceeded to elect one of its members to be a Deputy President.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT then read out three nomination papers proposing the name of Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal for the office of Deputy President, the proposer and seconder in each case being as follows.

| | Proposer. | Seconder. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | M.R.Ry Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti Garu. | Mr. M. D. Devadoss. |
| 2 | M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu Garu. | Rao Sahib P. C. Yatirajulu Nayudu Garu. |
| 3. | Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu Garu. | Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. |

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As no other name was proposed, the Hon'ble the President declared the candidate duly elected as Deputy President, and announced that his name would be submitted to His Excellency the Governor for approval.

*Panel of Chairmen.*

The President then announced to the Council the panel of four Chairmen nominated by him under rule 3 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules framed by the Government of India:—

1. The Rev. E. M. MACPHAIL, C.B.E.
2. Khan Bahadur Sir MIRZA ABDUL HUSSAIN SAHIB Bahadur, *Kt.*
3. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU Garu.
4. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur T. DESIKA ACHARIYAR Avargal.

The President then declared the Council adjourned to Monday, the 14th February 1921, at 11 a.m.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS