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## Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar A Character Sketch

Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar, the non-Brahman Leader, the man who had the greatness to refuse a ministership and to nominate his followers for the position, and who, next to the Governor, is the most forceful personality in Madras, was not above suspicion from the police view point. He was, for one thing, a very daring and a very open fighter. He bragged about what he was going to do, in the hall or the verandah of the Cosmopoliton Cluby and knowing that every word uttered would be duly conveyed to his inveterate enemies. He considered himself invincible, and laughed loud and long when he was defeated, saying: "I am getting old, and the younger people are cleverer." He always gave not only advance notice but also proclaimed every secret—thus making himself the most hated man in Madras among the Brahmins.

But while Brahman hatred was only the flowers for which he was prepared and which he counted, European mercantile hatred was something to be cared for. Before he had become the head of the non-Brahman movement, he had started the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, invited the Industrial Conference to Madras of which he was the Chairman of the Reception Committee, and his public pronouncements were always characterised by that brutal frankness and almost unveiled malice which, without hurt-

ing, left a sharp smart behind. The President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce was, to the European merchants in Madras, a far more formidable personality than was the leader of the non-Brahman movement to the Brahmins and other advanced politicians.

I remember the very powerful efforts made to keep Sir. Theagaraya Chettiar from the Legislative Council to represent the Madras Corporation of which he was the leader, and not a single European vote could he get. But when he had brought into being the non-Brahman movement and placed himself at its head, the Europeans in a body voted for him. They forgot the sturdy champion of Indian interests on the commercial zone in the powerful advocate of bureaucracy that he was. To-day he is perhaps the greatest figure in the presidency, and of no Madrasi at any time in its history since British rule could it be said as of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar that he leads the people.

The prominent trait of the man is character. He is almost a child before scheming politicians and political intriguers, and very often it happened that he was in bad holes for trusting people he ought to have kept at arms length. His pride, however, never forsook him, and if once his word was given, even if he subsequently found him a scoundrel, his word was never withdrawn. Hence it was very frequent for his friends to warn

him from association with people with whom he was in full sail: "He is a scoundrel. Do not have anything to do with him." And yet one could see him dashing on with this very man in his car, and helping him with all his strength and all his resources.

To the people around his house and to the innumerable tenants that looked up to him as master, he was almost a superman. They loved him and respected him, feared him and followed him. He was, to them, even more powerful than the Governor himself. In their rustic simplicity they would often dare attack the policeman or the revenue official, confident that their master would protect them if they were right—and Sir. Theagaraya was willing to forego a garden party in Government House to go with the humble tenant in his car to get his business done.

Over what will be memorably remembered as the Tondiarpet sewage farm fight, he spent nearly two thousand rupees from his pocket to defend the Indian Patriot which had been dragged to court by Dr. Nair, then the inveterate foe of Sir. Chettiar. Dewan Bahadur Karunakara Menon, the editor, had written from a sense of public importance. It is even doubtful whether Sir. Theagaraya Chettiar was a subscriber to the paper whose cause he took up, because that paper had supported the campaign which he was vigorously advocating. Lord Pentland often cursed the day that he pitted himself against this uncrowned King of Madras,-but Lord Pentland lived long enough to shake hands with Sir. Theagaraya Chettiar, and it is very safe to say that if Lord Pentland was not

universally execrated in Madras, as he was all over India and by the Brahmin and political zone of Madras, it was due to the influence and position of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar as the leader of non-Brahmans and the leading figure in the social life of the Madras City.

'Let this be,' and if Sir. Chettiar had said it, it was so—whatever the opposition, however great and however organized, it was splintered into shivers by this Napolean of Madras. Although the non-Brahmin movement was very unpopular and its leaders were all hated, the leader Sir. Chettiar was honoured and respected, for the simple reason that he never hit below the belt. He hit the best, but it was a frank, open enemy that Mr. Kasturiranga lyengar or Sreenivasa lyengar felt themselves honoured to face and fight.

It is false to say, as has been often said of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar, that he was a because they were Brahmins, and he has more friends among Brahmins than among non-Brahmans. Rather would it be expressing oneself truly of a forceful personality like Sir. Chettiar's that he had more enemies among non-Brahmans than Brahmins. He hated everything that was not transparent and honest and above board as he was. He was for all, and the poorer, the more forward was he. But he was conservative, deeply conservative, and opposed social reform tooth and nail. He spoke of the 'broom stick' when Basu's Civil Marriage bill was discussed. He was almost a blind partisan of the

(From " Some Madras Leaders.")

## Touching Funerel Scenes

Never before in the annals of Madras had been witnessed such wonderous scenes of respect, loyalty, devotion and love to a departed soul than that witnessed at the funeral of the late Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiyar, the Creator and Leader of the non-Brahmin party and the foremost citizen of Madras, on 30th June 1925. The news of his death on Tuesday night spread like wild fire and his palatial building in Tondiarpet was made a place of pilgrimage-making by old and young, rich and poor, men and women of all castes and creeds, in short by thousands who were anxious to pay their last respects and to have a last look at the departed leader who lay in state the whole day. The funeral was fixed at 5-30 p.m., on Wednesday. Throughout the afternoon crowds were swarming towards his residence through the Thiruvattiyur High Road each whispering to his companion some thing good, the Good Old man had done, recollecting some incidents in his life, discussing his political activities, praising him for his philanthrophy and all the rest which are associated when once a great man dies. Thus streams of plodding visitors were visible from one end of the very long street to another. There were many people who had come from far and near as soon as they heard of

The body was kept seated in a profusely decorated *Vimanam* as is the custom among the Devanga Community, surrounded by men and women mostly of the middle and poor classes some weeping, some looking at his face intently with intense sorrow, while those who had already been there for a pretty long time were retiring.

Prominent among those who paid their last

respects were the Rajah of Panagal, Sir K. V. Reddi, Sir S. R. M. Annamalai Chettiyar, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Venkatasubba Rao, the Hon'ble Sir C.V. Kumaraswami Sastri, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Devadoss, Dewan Bahadurs G Narayanaswami Chetti, V. Thirumalai Pillai, T. Rangachariar, Salla Guruswami Chetty, W. Vijiaraghavalu Mudaliar, R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliar, C. V. Viswanatha Sastri, T. Vijiaraghavachariar, V. Masilamani Pillai, J. Venkatnarayana Naidu, the Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, the Zamindar of Chunampet, Vengal Zamindar, Rao Bahadurs O. Thanikachellam Chettiar, T. Varadarajulu Naidu, Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliar, B. Moppurappa, V. Alwar Chetti, S. Srinivasa Iyengar, S. Satyamurthi, T. V. Seshagiri Iyer, Vidya Sagar Pandya, Prof. M. Ratnaswami, T. Prakasam, A. Rangaswami Aiyangar, Lt. Col. Dewan Ganapath Rai and many others.

#### FUNERAL SCENES

Before the funeral procession started a huge concourse of people had gathered in the premises of the house and its precints. The Devanga Association, the Third Division Rate Prayers' Association, the Maruthuvakulla Association, the South Indian Liberal Federation, the All-India Non-brahmin Congress Committee, the Provincial Non-brahmin Congress Committee, the staff of the "Instice" office and the "Dravidan" garlanded the body of Sir Theagaraya with rose garlands. The Arunachelaswami Temple Trustees sent theertham earlier in the day.

The procession started a few minutes past 6 p.m. from the deceased's residence and passed through Sanjeevarayan Koil Street, Jandrapillayar Koil Street, Ramanuja Iyer Street and Mint Subbaroyalu Naidu Street, with a batch

of songsters of the Devanga Community singing Tevaram and Thiruvasagam Sir Theagaraya's pet songs and amidst cries of Theagaraya Chettiar-Ki-Jai. As the procession passed, the already huge concourse swelled by leaps and bounds in a short time so much so that the procession extended over a mile. People from the houses of streets through which the procession passed gathered in front of them in large numbers and with outstretched arms, they paid their respects. Traffic had to be stopped for a considerable time till the procession passed away. The procession reached the family vault in which the remains of his elder brother and others of his family were set at rest, at 8 p. m.

#### A MOVING SPECTACLE

It was a sight worth seeing and there will be no occasion to witness such a solemn spectacle for those who have not seen. The soft crecent moon-shining, the songs of songsters, the funeral music, the huge concourse, the wailing and weeping of thousands who had gathered in front of their houses stirred and appealed to the heart of even the stone-hearted among the crowd and made him realise the sorrowfulness of the occasion.

The Pall-Bearers were the Hon. the Rajah of Panagal, Sir K. V. Reddi, Mr. O. Thanickachellam Chettiar, Dr. C. Natesan, Mr. Moppurappa, Mr. T. Varadarajulu Naidu, Mr. P. V. Nataraja Mudaliar, Mr. K. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. T. Sundararao Naidu, and Mr. W. S. Krishnaswami Chettiar.

Having reached the family vault, glowing tributes were paid by the Hon'ble the Rajah of Panagal, Sir K. V. Reddi, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. D. Devadoss, Mr. O. Thanickachellam Chettiar, Dr. Natesan and others.

### The Hon. The RAJAH OF PANAGAL

"Friends and Brethren in sorrow,—I have been called upon to speak on this most sad occasion," began the Rajah of Panagal. "I wish at least I had the strength of mind to resist the grief, if not the required eloquence to give expression to anything like an adequate idea of the great Leader of Southern India.

Gentlemen, the Great soul which is finding its eternal rest, has been for a time a power for good in this corner province.

Sir Theagaraya is a great man-greater than any great man of our generation. I emphasise that he was a great man because he compares favourably with any other great man of modern India. I say that for more than one reason. In the first place, great as he has been, he was never conscious of his greatnessand never did he care to be thought a great, man. He has been working as an humble citizen. He never assumed airs. As I told you gentlemen. I am overcome with grief and I find it hard to express my feelings on this occasion. He has done yeoman service to the city of his birth during a career extending wellnigh half a century, he has done many good things for the City of Madras. The record of his civic service to this premier city Corporation has been historic and un-

During the course of more or less fifty years association with the Municipality of Madras, he has done great things and he has given effect to many an improvement. One improvement alone on which he set his heart, the deodorization of the Cooum still remains to be effected. Sir Theagaraya even in his retirement never ceased to agitate to get this improvement effected. The last interview which he had with H. E. the Governor covered mostly his pleadings for the improvement of the Cooum

To-day, I have got in my hand a message from His Excellency the Governor, asking me to express his deep sympathy with the bereaved family. I am sure if he had timely information, he would come down to Madras and himself expressed sympathy. A Governor with such friendly feelings towards the departed, will, I am sure, take this question of deodorization of the Cooum even as a mark of respect to the late Sir Theagaraya, and when the river is purified, he will allow it to be known as Theagaraya Nadi.

### THEAGARAYA NADI

In politics he was a utilitarian. His one object was never to allow the masses to be excluded. With this object in view, he led a great movement so well known in Southern India. As to the acheivements of that movement, this is not the occasion for me to dwell upon. Suffice it to say that as one who espoused the cause of the weak and the afflicted, he stands by the side of Lord Buddha, The result of his work in an intensive sense, if not in no extensive sense, is more marked than that which attended the preachings of any reformer, modern or ancient.

In private life, he was simple, unassuming and honest to the highest degree. To me he was more than a leader. I always took him as my Guru. About 43 years back, he introduced me to the last class in the Triplicane Hindu High School and four years later when I took a first class in Matriculation, he came to congratulate me. Then he advised me: "Young man, do not be carried away by pride, but remember that an honest man is the noblest creature of God." I remember this sound advice even to this day.

Gentlemen, there are very many speakers and I do not wish to take up your time. There is the body which bore that great soul. Let that soul rest in peace, and let it never cease to inspire us with a sense of duty.

## THE HON. MR. JUSTICE DEVADOSS

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. D. Devadoss was the second speaker. He said:

Friends and countrymen:—This is not the occasion, when I can make a long speech. Our hearts are full and it would be idle now to attempt to say much. I will confine my remarks to the simplicity of the life of the great man who has passed away. You know him always dressed in white, even in attending Government House functions, he never torsook that white dress. It showed his inward purity and the outward blameless life he led. If there was one man in public life who never sought anything for himself or his own men and his relations it was Sir P. Theagaraya Chetty. I know him intimately for some years.

I have known him for years as the leader of the Community. In none of his actions, can it at all be said that he did not have the welfare of the public at heart but that he tried to serve his own private ends. He led an ideal life and he purified the public life of this country by devoting himself only to the public cause. I do not think that even the worst of his enemies could say that he ever forsook public good for the sake of carrying out his private ends or for doing something for himself.

As has been observed by the Rajah of Panagal, he never coveted popularity. He never wanted things for himself. He was thoroughly honest, upright and simple. With all that he had a warm and loving heart. Not only friends but foes too could tell how he loved them all. No doubt, politics and other things divided him from others. But I do not think that he hated any man as a man. But I may say this much that a warm heart beat within his breast and that he was kind to his friends and foes alike. He has left a noble

example which it would be the duty of other people to imitate. I am not sure that anybody will come up to his standard. Our loss is great and I am sure, irrepirable. His soul, after leaving his body probably enjoys bliss now.

But those that are left there should not merely mourn but should imitate the great example set before us so that those who are in public life, whatever may be their calling, may do their duty irrespective of consequences or in spite of consequences without selfseeking, only having public good in view.

Sir K. V. Reddi Naidu, Hakim Zynalabuddin Saheb and Mr. O. Thanickachellam Chettiar spoke in appriciation of the departed leader.

Mr. P. T. Kumaraswami Chettiar on behalf of the members of the bereaved family thanked those who had paid tributes to the departed leader.

Then the mortal remains of Sir P. Theagarava were interred in the family yault.

## A Man of Transparent Honesty By H. E. Lord Goschen

The following is the speech of His Excellency, the Governor delivered on Monday the 13th July 1925 by him on the occassion of the Sheriff's meeting held at Victoria Public Hall over which he presided.

This meeting of the people of the Madras Presidency over which it is my privilege to do honour to the memory of a loyal citizen and a good patriot, of one who was for many years a familiar figure in this town, beloved and respected by all who knew him. Of Sir Theagaraya Chetty's work as the leader of a political party, I shall leave it to others to speak. There are many here to-day who are better qualified than I to deal with that aspect of his work. I will only say this that I believe him to have been a wise leader and a unifying and restraining force, one who by his personality and single-heartedness won the respect not only of all members of his party but of very many who did not follow his lead or accept his political creed. In word and deed he was loyal to his King and to the Empire and he worked always for orderly progress on constitutional lines towards the goal of self-government. It is a

fact known to all of you that on one occasion at least he suffered personally for his loyalty at the hands of those who were on the side of anarchy and disorder. But being the man he was when he knew the right he could not be terrorised into countenancing the wrong.

But it is of the citizen and the man that I would like to speak briefly to-day. Very many of us, and I am glad to think that I am of this number, will miss him as an unselfish and disinterested worker for the good of the people whose welfare was always his unfailing care. Sir Theagaraya Chetty had to his credit a service of some forty years on the Corporation of this city and I am confident that his counsel was always given with that sincerity of purpose which was characteristic of the man, in the best interests of those whom it was his object in life to serve. He was I believe a man of transparent honesty to whose nature intrigue and scheming were abhorrent, whose motto was sacri fice, and service. I say sacrifice, for I am told that Sir Theagaraya Chetty gave up much of what other men prize that he might devote himself whole-heartedly to the work to which he dedicated so much of his life. I believe too that there are many living in this city to-day who could bear witness to his generosity, to that unobtrusive giving which is the truest charity, and that many a

laine dog has found himself on the right side of the stile by the help of one who was happiest when making others happy.

I consider it a great privilege to have been allowed to preside over this meeting to perpetuate the memory of one whom I may claim as a personal friend, whose character I admire, whose society I enjoyed and whose memory I shall ever cherish.

## The Grand Old Man of Madras By Lord Willingdon

The following is the report of the speech delivered by Lord Willingdon when he was Governor of Madras on 23rd March 1923, on the occasion of unveiling the portrait of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar at Pachiappa's College Hall. Dewan Bahadur V. Thirumalai Pillai, President, Board of Trustees of the College gave an account of the several benefactors of the Institution. After which Lord Willingdon spoke.

His Excellency said he was sure that they had listened with great interest to the account which Mr. Thirumalai Pillai had given them about the various benefactors of the Pachaiyappa's College, as he went all round the picture gallery that they saw before them. It had been his privilege, and he considered it a very great privilege indeed, to have unveiled just two minutes ago the portrait of yet another benefactor who was still with them—he was glad to say—who, if they would look round was certainly the best looking of the lot (applause) and he was sure he would continue in good looks for a great many years.

Now it seemed to him that when he came there to say a word of what he felt and all he felt about Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar he was rather carrying coals to Newcastle, because he knew he was surrounded by Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar's many friends who knew a great deal more about him. But he was going to tell them exactly what he felt about Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar. Mr. Thirumalai Pillai had suggested to him that he was not of very much use to them at Pachaiyappa's College any longer because he belonged to Government. His Excellency said that he found Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar a terribly independent gentleman. And if only His Excellency could bring him under control, His Excellency's life in this Presidency would be very much happier. (laughter.) His thorough independence was one of the qualities with regard to Sir Theagaraya Chetty which His Excellency appreciated. Whenever he came to see him, His Excellency knew perfectly well that Sir Theagaraya Chetty was going to pin him down to what exactly he felt, whether His Excellency liked it or not. It was one of the greatest things in life to have a friend who spoke out exactly what he felt. And Sir Theagaraya Chetty whom His Excellency claimed as his friend was of that type.

Now then all he knew about Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar was that he was a person who was loved, esteemed, respected and held in high regard for the great public services he had done to his fellow-citizens in Madras, (applause.) to him he had always been (and he told him so before) the GRAND OLD MAN OF MADRAS, a great citizen, a valuable friend and held in high honour by the Governor and all other citizens of Madras, and he only trusted that Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar might be spared for many long years to continue his great public services for his people. Mr. Thirumalai Pillai had said that Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar in his youth was an extremely pretty and rather frivolous young man (laughter), but he had become mellowed now. He was bound to say from his experience of four years of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar that he did not see much of the mellowing. He saw a great deal of the spirit still (laughter.)

His Excellency said that it was a great pleasure to him to have been invited to do honour to their great citizen. He had been a really good friend to him. They had not always agreed, but he had always been of the greatest assistance to him whether he agreed or not which he would remember to the end of his life. (applause). And when his course of life would take him away from amongst them in a short time, he would always look back with the greatest satisfaction and with the greatest regard to one who had been in every sense a real help to him in carrying on the responsibilities of his high office and that was why he was particularly pleased to be there that evening and he (His Excellency) had always appreciated all his helpful assistance to him, and this help and assistance would never be forgotten by him as long as he lived.

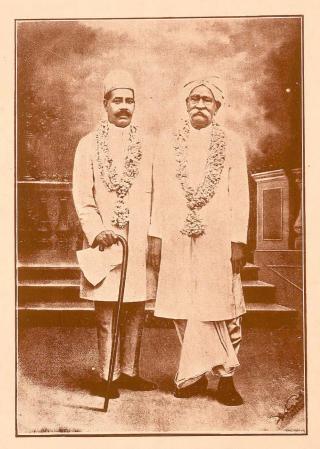
He was very glad that the President and the Trustees of Pachaiyappa's College had done the right thing in putting up this portrait to one who had done so much for the College itself and he hoped that all the young men who obtained education year by year in Pachaiyappa's College when they looked at that portrait, would try and follow the example set by one who had spent all his life in trying to work for the good of his people. (*Prolonged applause.*)

## Our Revered Leader By The Hon. The Rajah of Panagal

I have been asked to write a short note about the great leader who has passed away. It is difficult for me to write with any measure of success about the manifold qualities of the most respected, revered leader of Southern India, neither would such an attempt do any justice to the great personality of Sir Theagaraya. The death of Sir Theagaraya Chettiar has created a void in the public life of this Presidency which it will

be impossible to fill for generations. Leaders of his stamp, gifted with all the noble qulities of head and heart which the very gods love and admire, are born but once perhaps in a century and blessed is the country that produces such great souls.

India has produced several great sons, who are worthily held in high esteem by their grateful countrymen, but perhaps few will take a place in the front rank more



WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER



IN STATE

easily and with better grace than Sir Theagaraya. Fifty years of disinterested, unostentatious and earnest public work, a life of spotless purity, and a personality of inspiring nobility cannot but fail to leave its impress in the pages of history more lasting and more stable than that of any of the meteoric careers that flit across the political stage of the motherland.

Sir Theagaraya was born with a golden spoon in his mouth and it almost appears as if the gods vied with each other in their zeal to stand as guardian angels to the infant born almost seventy four years ago. Yet with all the priveleges and advantages of a born aristocrat he was a peoples man and to the great community to which he belonged, the Devanga community, he was more than a leader, he was their very guru.

Fifty years ago, higher education had not made such progress as it has in recent years and Sir Theagaraya was one of the earliest graduates of the University. Yet perhaps no body thought so little of his B.A., and no one cared less for it than Sir Theagaraya. Indeed it might almost be said that he had an aversion to the pedagogues who thought too much of their book knowledge and who had a contempt for the proletariat.

The greatness of Sir Theagaraya lies in the fact that he led a life of austere simplicity and never through his long life of public activity did one single act or spoke a single word of which he need be ashamed. Never during all this long period when he had ample opportunities of moving in terms of intimate friendship with the highest in the land did he

once even dream of asking for a favour for himself or any of the large circle of relations. He himself could have aspired for any position of power but he actually spurned them.

His passionate love for his country and his great sympathy for his countrymen were shown in diverse ways. He was himself the embodiment of truth and he hated all cant and hypocrisy. He would never speak an untruth even as a joke and those who led a life of duplicity, who professed in public what they did not practice in private were ever his pet aversion. The friend of the poor, the advocate of the down trodden, the supporter of the oppressed and the protector of the persecuted, Sir Theagaraya was often getting into serious collision with vested interests but he never flinched and never swerved from the path of rectitude.

A saintly personality has passed away. A great leader, the greatest that Southern India has brought forth during the last century has taken the final step. Blessed he and Blessed his memory! A nation's sorrow followed him to the grave and a nation's prayer is chanted in his sacred memory. Sir Theagaraya led us while alive and continues to lead us from beyond the grave. The dear, sweet angelic face, sublime in its simplicity, radiant in its purity, binignant in its charity and noble in its magnanimity is no more to be seen in the physical world, but the divinity of his soul is always with us and still continues to serve the people of this country from that region from whose confines no traveller returns again. May his divine inspiration be

## An Estimate and An Appriciation

By Sir K. V. Reddy Naidu, B.A., B.L.,

Member, Madras Legislative Council

It is not easy exactly to know what it is that the publisher of the In Memoriam wants me to write for him. If it is his desire that I should give an estimate of the worth and value of Sir Theagaraya Chettiar, I can only compare him with the two great men of the Modern World. Lenin of Russia and Gandhi of our country are the only two persons who can lay claims equal to those of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar. All the three are born leaders of men. No one known to modern history can be said to have controlled men and events with the same facility and ease with which these three leaders have been able to manage. The wonderful manner in which all the three were able to sway millions is undoutedly unparrellelled in modern times. All the three have fought for liberty each in accordence with his own conception of it. Sir Theagaraya belived that the liberty of his land can only be secured by the development of democracy, and when the birth of democracy took place by the passing of the Government of India Act of 1919 he lost no time in realising that the salvation of this country depended upon the successful working of that Act. He strove to work at it and if to-day Lord Birkenhead could recognise that of all provinces in India, Madras worked the reforms to some little satisfaction, that credit, that recognition, that satisfaction is entirely due to the sagacity and statesmanship of the great South Indian Leader.

If the editor of the *In Memoriam* expects me to give an appreciation of the great leader I must confess to a sense of inability to

attempt anything of the kind. Late Sir Theagaraya was far far above me, far above indeed many many millions in this land. But as one who sat at his feet and watched him in wondering admiration, I am perhaps in a position to give expression to one or two of the ideals which he set to himself and strove to achieve. Liberty and Equality are old words, that cost empires and formed the foundations of republics. They are achieved in past history by the blood of millions. It was the ambition of Sir Theagaraya to combine Loyalty and Liberty and to achieve the latter by first securing Equality. Gandhi's non-violence was certainly honest and sincere but not a few of his followers have often realised that the acheivement of all that Gandhi wanted was an impossibility as long as the principle of non-violence is strickly adhered to. Sir Theagarava's vision was more correct, if less ambitious in this direction. His great aim was the attainment of liberty for this land. It is to be acheived in two ways, firstly by building up a true nation and a democracy in India. This is to be obtained by securing the equality of all communities, equality in status, in power, in influnce, in knowledge, in civilisation and in culture. He beleived that an Indian Nation is an impossibility until equality is attained between man and man, between community and community and between caste and caste. Unity according to him, between two unequal units is an impossibility. It is to achive this equality, this unity and the consequent solidarity of the Nation, that he strove hard to obtain.

The second way in which Sir Theagaraya wanted to achive the liberty of this land was to obtain it through the goodwill of Great Britain. Force and violence never appealed to him. When H.R.H. the Prince of Wales visited this city in 1922, Sir Theagaraya was overtaken on the road by a band of budmashes and pursued until he reached his home in Tondiarpet. Everbody knew his house was well guarded, well armed and fully peopled. If only the word went out from him, his pursuers would have been killed to a man. And from a purely legal point of view Sir Theagaraya and his men would have been perfectly justified by right of self-defence alone. But his sense of nonviolence did not permit anything of the kind. His attackers who were the aggressors were entirely within his power but no, he did not allow them to be touched. He would not even prosecute them. This sense of nonviolence and peace was always carried by him into his politics. "India can never be won back by the sword" often was he heard to say "we can only get back our country by peaceful means." He hoped that by the working of the Reform Act England might yet be induced to grant further and wider reforms and the day may not be far off when India will be placed on a par with the self-governing dominions, beyond the seas.

Sir Theagaraya was an imperial asset. He had his own C. I. D., his own police for the Prince's protection when he visited Madras. Not that he considered police protection insufficient, but that he felt it was his duty to take his own preautions. I had occasion to meet him on the night when the Prince left our place, and it was a sight to see the relief in his face that nothing untoward had happened and that everything went off well.

Time and space do not admit my dilating upon the other and well known virtues of Sir P. T. But I am sure other writers will advert to them fully.

# To Thy Eternal Glory! By Rao Bahadur A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.

So much has been said about Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar's life and his activities as a politician that perhaps there is a possibility of overlooking his other noble qualities of head and heart which have endeared him to those who came in contact with him. I have neither the inclination nor the liberty to touch on his political work, but Sir Theagaraya was not a politician alone. He was one of the noblest and purest of Indians and needless to say, his life was an example and an inspiration to all who had the privelege of moving in his company. It is said

of Sir Theagaraya that even while he was a student and certainly as a freshly passed out graduate, he was a leader and had a following and an influence which many an older person might have well envied.

Two characteristics stand out prominently in the life of the great soul, his absolute honesty and straight-forwardness and his complete lack of any personal animosity to his most bitter opponents. To Sir Theagaraya, honesty was the first principle of life and whether in business or in private or in public avocation, his word was as good as

the most binding document that the cleverest lawyer can draw. Whatever the consequences and however adversely it may affect him personally, he never even contemplated the possibility of revoking or altering his promise. It is not surprising then, that one with such a sterling spirit of honesty should have been held in the highest esteem in the Industrial world of Southern India. It is said that the goods exported by his firm to London were accepted without a second thought and that "Pitty" marked goods were considered par excellence, the best that the South Indian market could produce.

A simple incident reveals a phase of character of the late Sir Theagaraya which shows completely what a high sense of duty and responsibility he always possessed. A minor of a certain family in Salem was left with a property of about 25 thousand rupees and Sir Theagaraya was requested to be the trustee. So carefully did he manage the estate and so scrupulously did he look after the interests of this young boy that when he attained his majority, Sir Theagaraya Chetty relinquished his trustee-ship handing over a sum of 3 lakhs to his ward, a noble and almost unparallelled instance of loyalty and duty indeed! And to-day that boy is a flourishing and well to do merchant with an honored place in the Legislative Council of his province!

Sir Theagaraya was indeed a prince in social circles. He was at his ease in whatever company he moved, whether it be with the select few at the Government House, or with the upper ten in some society function, or with the mixed gathering in a social club, he was always free and easy and what is more essential he made others feel easy. Not all his high reputation, nor his venerable age nor his high social standing stood in the

way of his moving with easy grace with everyone, with the titled plutocrat as well as with the impecunious democrat. To everyone he had a happy smile, a cheerful welcome, a ready repartee and a genial frank talk which bewitched the young and old alike. In the Cosmopolitan Club, whose President he was for several years almost till his death, no one was perhaps better known or better loved than the revered old gentleman, beaming in his simplicity and spotless in his purity.

Sir Theagaraya has set a high ideal indeed of civic life and civic responsibility. For over forty years he was content, nay he was happy and proud to be the representative of his people in the Corporation, to attend to their simple wants, to cheerfully shoulder their burdens, to protect them in times of trouble and to save them when subjected to ill treatment of any kind. It would be difficult to describe in detail the manifold directions in which he had helped to improve the civic comforts of his division, the historic fight he had with his late colleague over Tondiarpet sewage farm question. The many keen debates he initiated over the general system of Municipal administration are still remembered by the younger generation. He was the first elected President of the Corporation and the spontanious, unparallelled and enthusiastic reception he had from the citizens of Madras, was a striking testimony to the wonderful popularity and influence he weilded in the city of his birth.

Sir Theagaraya was a great and sincere admirer of the ancient culture and traditions of India. Nobody had a greater reverence or took a keener interest in the study of the sacred books of the east and with all the western culture he was a typical son of the East. He was an ardent champion of the ancient

systems of medicine and perhaps did more than any one else to improve the Ayurvedic system and found Auyurvedic schools. I remember the frank discussions we had over this thorny subject and whatever may be the difficulties that I may present, he would brush them aside and maintain with a firmness of conviction that was remarkable, that these systems of medicine were essential and ought to be given every encouragement possible. I may add however that I never questioned the policy underlying this proposal, but even the mere mention of any comment would provoke to a heated debate which effectively silenced his critics.

Sir Theagaraya was also an enthusiastic supporter of the system of training and employing the indigenous class of barber midwives and on this subject at least we agreed to differ. He had several plain and none too complimentary remarks to offer about the trained midwives, but inspite of all his robust optimism, it was impossible for me to agree to his view of things or accept his proposals in this connection. I am only quoting these two instances to show how in small as in big things he was a keen and enthusiastic supporter of the old ideals.

Of his domestic life and of the love and affection that was cherished by the large circle of his relatives, I do not propose to speak with any intimate knowledge. But those who had the privelege of a more intimate touch with him, bear testimony to the perfect and harmonious relationship that existed therein and to that wonderful spirit of fellowship and love that existed between Sir Theagaraya and his elder brother whose death a year ago, was a great shock to him. The brothers were like twins and while the elder took upon himself much of the domestic and business responsibilities, the younger

Sir Theagaraya devoted his whole life to the public cause and to make himself useful for poor and down trodden.

It is said that a Clergyman knows a man at his best, a Lawyer knows him at his worst but the Medical man knows him for what he is. I do not know if the reader will agree to this general proposition, but there is no doubt that if adversity tests a persons sincerity, the ailments of the flesh reveal a persons inner self more truly to the doctor than ever. To me, therefore, was given the melancholy privellege of watching the great leader in his closing days and what struck me most was the robust optimism, his serene confidence in the will and pleasure of a higher power and his absolute preparedness to face his creator when and if called on to do so. Curiously enough Sir Theagaraya was the prophet of his own destiny and to the anxious Medical attendants who were watching by his bedside with alternating fears and hopes, too patent at times to be concealed with ease, he frankly told them that if he survived on a particular day, he would recover, not otherwise. Alas the day came, and to the eternal regret of everybody, the prophesy was not falsified.

Sir Theagaraya has passed away! The thousands that congregated at his residence and at the place of his last rest, the women and children who flocked together on the route, the tears that were shed profusely as the funeral procession passed, and the emotional speeches that were delivered on that fateful day, were all in fitness with the sorrow of a nation that lamented over the passing of a great leader.

Sir Theagaraya Chettiar with his kaleidioscopic activities may appeal to diverse people in diverse ways. To some he may be a great politician, to others a great industrialist, to others again a staunch patriot of India's ancient glory and to others yet again, a sturdy and valiant fighter for the poor and the down-trodden, but the character in which he will shine with beautific splendour is the character in which he shined all through his life—as a great and good man of unquestion—

able honesty and untrammelled regulation—a noble son of India indeed who by example and precept gave us the highest ideal of a pure and simple life. His equals there may be some others, but his superiors there could be none. Blessed is the land that produces such great souls! Amen!

## Some Reminiscences of the Leader

By K. V. Menon

Editor, " Justice"

I consider it a privilege to be allowed this opportunity of paying a humble tribute to the memory of the great founder and leader of the Non-Brahmin Movement, the late Sir P.Theagaraya Chettiar. To me Sir Theagaraya was not merely the leader of the Party to which I had (and still have) the honour to belong; he was far more than that—he was a visible embodiment, in fact, of all the high and noble qualities and virtues which characterise the non-brahmins as a community and which distinguish them so much from among their kind. As Editor of "Justice"—the one and only organ of the Party in the press conducted in English-I have had several opportunities of coming into close contact with the late leader. I have had various discussions with him on topics of not only current political interest but also on numerous questions of social and economic importance. I may unhesitatingly say that, on all these occasions, I used to part from him with the irresistible conviction that our discussions were in the nature of a liberal education to me. Several points of view, which would not generally strike the ordinary mind as worthy of consideration. would invariably be pressed, and several

unexpected and original arguments would be advanced with ease and conviction, that, whatever one's prepossessions and prejudices might have been, one had often to come away from him with one's views and sentiments steadied or altered as the case might be by quite a wealth of new facts and arguments.

Apart from this, the late Sir Theagaraya had a personal charm all his own, which could safely be depended upon to exercise a disarming influence even on his worst critics and opponents. He was, as the whole world knows, a blunt and straightforward man, who never cared to practise the arts of camouflage and quibbling; he spoke what he felt in his mind, and he never selt anything which he would not dare to speak out openly and unreservedly. I remember a particular occasion when I ventured to remind him of the sinister way in which his reference to political prisoners and their treatment in the Legislative Council was being exploited to the disadvantage and discredit of our Party by our political opponents. The moment I did so, I was greeted with the following words: "O, you young man, don't you bother about it. I have simply expressed my own view in the matter; it is not binding on the

party, if you people don't approve of it. As for my critics, they are, most of them ha' penny tuppenny fellows who will speak any amount of rot. If it is not this speech of mine, some other will equally be turned against me by them. I am not in the least concerned, therefore, with what they say"! Saying this, the great man passed on to another table in the dining room of the Cosmopolitan Club in the most unruffled manner. That was an incident which convinced me of the absolute imperturbability and coolness of temper which was such an outstanding characteristic of the great leader.

On another occasion, when the non-cooperation movement was in full swing, I asked him as to what he thought of the prodigious success which attended Mahatma Gandhi's efforts at collecting a crore of rupees for the Tilak Swarajya Fund. Without any hesitation whatever he turned round and replied with a winsome laugh: "Well, that shows Mr. Gandhi is a popular man, and the merchant princes of Bombay and Calcutta have great confidence in him. But it is not the collection of money that would prove his real greatness but the way he spends it. If he utilises it for feeding briefless vakils and unemployed and unemployable youngsters willing to shout 'Jais' to him, he would be doing not a service to India but the very opposite of it. Let him, if he is sensible, spend the money in starting a number of weaving and spinning mills or in creating a network of elementary schools all over the country, and he will certainly have the satisfaction of seeing the country take a long step towards Swaraj. The charkha will not improve matters, nor will the new craze about 'national education' which, in practice, means merely an education to pervert the minds of the innocent youths of the country."

Incidentally, he narrated to me the story of his own weaving business at Tondiarpet, how it fought against heavy odds in the early days, and how, by the wise use of capital and enterprise, he was able eventually to show to the world at large that the spirit of Swadeshism need not necessarily be cultivated at any great pecuniary sacrifice to oneself.

Though I have heard many people say that the late SirTheagaraya was an orthodox Hindu who never had any great interest in questions of social reform, such as the removal of untouchability, the breaking down of the barriers of caste and custom, and so on, I know it from experience that at heart he was a pucca cosmopolitan with broad and enlightened views on social questions. His heart ached for the hard lot of the suffering masses, and he was at all times ready to do anything that he could persuade himself or be persuaded to believe would tend to mitigate and minimise their sufferings. He was no doubt a firm believer in constitutional agitation and propaganda for the redress of social and political wrongs, but nonetheless he felt acutely enough such wrongs and was ever prepared to do anything, consistently with the maintenance of public tranquillity and order, for the removal of such wrongs. "I don't believe in direct action," said he once to me. "It only provokes bad blood by stiffening the backs of those opposed to the reformers. And that, you know, will upset social harmony and precipitate chaos in public life."

I do not think that it is necessary for me on the present occasion to usurp the function of the historian and fix the late leader's place in the history of the public life of our province and country. That he has played a very prominent part in the public activities of this province for a period of aboul half a century

is well known to all. His intimate connection with the municipal life of the city, his ceaseless fights in and persistent advocacy of the cause of masses, his unrivalled capacity to make himself felt in all spheres which he interested himself in-all these are too well known to his countrymen to need any particular reference here. The non-Brahmin of this province especially will never forget the great services he has rendered to their community. He it was who found them a voice in the administration of the province, and it was he alone who gave them the hope of a future in which they could as a community play a part worthy of their past and traditions. If to-day there is a general concensus of opinion that even the unworkable diarchy has been worked with the best of goodwill and to maximum profit by the province of Madras, the credit thereof is to no small extent, due to the great political foresight, prudence and

statesmanship of the late Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar. The Reforms, it is true, represented but four annas in the rupee, as the late Bal Gangadhar Tilak pithily observed a few months prior to his death, but Sir Theagaraya, with the shrewdness and wisdom so characteristic of him, realised from the very beginning that a nation hungering for a full rupee cannot prudently afford to throw away even the petty sum of four annas. It was in this spirit that our late leader advised us to work the Reforms, and the world knows by now how his satesmanly advice has more than justified itself.

These rambling reflections must now come to an end, and I close with the hope that, though we are deprived of the physical presence and guidance of our late leader, his spirit will continue to animate us all, to the great glory of our community and to the lasting advantage of our country.

## White Robed Personality By Sir M. C. T. Muthia Chetty

Speaking at the Annual meeting of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce Sir M. C. T. Muthia Chetty, its President, said:

Death has snatched away from our midst the "Grand Old Man" of Madras, our veteran Ex-President, Sir P. Theagaraya Chetty, whose services and advice to this Chamber from its very formation up to its growth into the adolescence of manhood and vigour, were invaluable. Though Sir Theagaraya has died, full of years and honors, at a ripe old age, yet Madras bemoans the genial white-robed personality who in his private life was most unassuming and had many good friends among all communities and parties in Madras. The present is neither the place nor the oc-

casion for me to enter into a detailed estimate of his achievements as the leader of the political party now in power. I would only like to mention that he was one of the pioneers of industrial development in this Presidency and by his manliness and practical commonsense he guided the activities of this Chamber from the very beginning for a long series of years. He was not one of those businessmen to whom this mundane world of affairs was an empty dream or a wasteful thing. By his death, India his last one of her worthy sons and this Chamber, a friend, philosopher and guide.

AT THE CORPORATION.



## A Friends Tribute By Sir. T. Sadasiva Iyer, Kt.

The following is a speech delivered at the Sheriffs Meeting in proposing a resolution to form a Committee to collect subscriptions for the Memorial.

When my dear and energetic friend Dewan Bahadur Bhavanandam Pillai made a requisition to me a few days ago to make a speech on this solemn occasion. I felt some hesitation at first. I am by temperament unfitted to take more than an academic interest in the discussion and solution of the political and communal problems in which Sir P. T. Chettiar's great talents and fiery energies were engaged during the latter years (during which alone I knew him well) of his full and successful life.

I have not attached myself to any of the existing numerous political divisions in the country and as regards communal divisions, my Hindu religion has taught me that after one masses the 50th year of his life, one should not wish to belong to any particular community, but should strive to belong to all communities impartially. If however, a new community is formed called "the non-communal community," I shall be glad to belong to it and persuade as many as I can to join it.

The consideration which overcame my preliminary hesitation to speak at this meeting was that I wanted to satisfy the natural longing I felt, to contribute my meed of praise to the memory of a gentleman, who was one of my esteemed friends and whose great virtues very much outshone the few weaknesses; he as a human mortal did possess.

One prominent characteristic of Sir P. T. Chettiar was his perfectly straightforward talk and mentality. This high virtue was (as might be expected) accom-

panied occasionally by one of the failings of that virtue, namely too much brusqueness in talk. Even some European friends of mine, of both sexes, have complained to me about the excessive candour of some of his remarks. His heart was, however very kind and when he gave offence, he usually did it quite unintentionally. So he seems to have been sometimes misunderstood. when he did not set forth in detail the qualifications which were in the back of his mind, when he give vent to such expressions as "Never trust a political Brahmin" and so forth. He was of course capable of securing the friendship of staunch and devoted partisans and he also as naturally created staunch enemies, who took a too uncharitable view of his words and actions. He had numerous friends among all communities, including friends who were born in the Brahmin caste. He loved and admired the late Dr. S. Subramania Iver, whom he even called his Guru in some matters. He took a prominent part as one of the speakers in the meeting convened by our Sheriff in Pachayappa's Hall to perpetuate Dr. S. S. Iyer's memory. I have no doubt that if my brother Justice Sir C. V. Kumaraswamy Sastriar, who was the neighbour of Sir P. T. Chettiar and his life-long friend, is persuaded to talk about Sir P. T. Chettiar, he would be able to give numerous anecdotes showing that Sir P. T. Chettiar had absolutely nothing in the nature of universal or steady ill-will (Suskka Vairam) towards the members of any community as is wrongly supposed by some persons. Sir P. T. Chettiar was against, what I believe to be, his own natural inclination. compelled by a sense of duty to become the leader of a political and communal party. Politicians have to make speeches and do acts based on grounds of temporary expediency and such speeches ought not to be taken too seriously or literally. Such speeches and actions are not meant to be and ought not to be taken as guides when circumstances and the aspects of events undergo changes. I need not say that such changes are taking place in these stirring times, in a very bewildering manner. Politics, at best, as Lord Morley said, is a game of compromises and inevitably a pursuit of the second-best and that is why I believe that by temperament, Sir P. T. Chettiar could not have been in his natural element at the game.

Sir P. T. Chettiar's patriotism was, however, unbounded and perfectly disinterested. That he never even dreamt of personal or pecuniary benefit to himself or any member of his family, cast or clan when he was chosen and when he consented to lead what is known as the "non-Brahmin movement," (a phrase, which, in my humble opinion, is rather an unhappy one) is well known to everybody and acknowledged even by his political opponents. His sense of civic duty was unsurpassed, as conclusively shown by his sleepless activities as a Municipal Councillor and as the thriceas a member of which he did civic service for a period of more than forty years. His simplicity (utterly opposed to duplicity), his old-world conservatism in dress, manner and social customs (I myself strongly differed from him in some of his conservative views on social and temperance problems), his sincere religiousness and his ability to forget personal wrongs when the advancement

public interests required it are well known to everybody.

His example of unwearying public service, straight forwardness, sincerity, spirit of self-sacrifice and patriotic fervour deserves, therefore, to be publicly appreciated and permanently commemorated and it is but fitting that this meeting of all sections and communities is being held under the distinguished presidency of His Excellency for that purpose.

We have been since December 1934 losing by death in rapid succession many of our earnest patriots like Dr. Subramania Iyer, Sir P. T. Chettiar, and C. R. Das. All of them were staunch patriots but they differed greatly among themselves as to their respective methods for the unlift of India.

Our duty is to admire and try to follow the virtues common to all these great patriots who have recently passed away, namely their sincerity and simplicity, their readiness to help others and to sacrifice their personal ease and personal gains, in patriotic service, their passionate love of our Mother India, their essentially good and loving hearts and their ever wakeful strenuous activity in all actions which they considered to be for the public good and, above all, their spirit of self-sacrifice, which is the true test of the greatness worthy of real public recognition. The Holy Prophet Mahomed said that their is no religious gain secured by anybody in making distinctions between the various and numerous Prophets whom God has sent and sends from time to time to teach forgotten fundamental religious truths to mankind as suited to various times and places and the contemporaneous mass psychology. This same truth might be applied in the lesser plane of patriotism and national service.

Love of one's own country should not

mean "consuming hatered of everything foreign" as it some times does in the mind of rash and unthinking youths. Such unreasoning and monomaniacal hatred of Britishers among some Indians is unhappily produced by the "colour" arrogance of a few thoughtless Britishers, proud of their so-called "nordic" ancestry, just as a like hatered of Birth-Brahmins is caused and aggravated in some members of other castes by the similar raise arrogance of a few persons belonging to the Birth-Brahmin caste.

Among the recently departed numerous patriots whom our Mother India mourns, Sir P. T. Chettiar is not the least eminent or the least wise and far-seeing and his services in the country's cause, (a large and the most important part of such services having been directly for the benefit of this City of Madras in the domain of civics) are certainly not the least meritorious. And vet, one might have entertained a resonable doubt whether owing to the present violent unrest and bitter communal controversies, Sir P. T. Chettiar would be at once recognised so soon after his death as belonging to the nation as a whole and not merely to a political party, though a very influential one.

Mr. Lloyd George with his Celtic forsight said recently: "Restlessness takes away the sense of proportion. It unbalances the judgment. Those possessed by unrest cannot view things sanely and calmly ". It is undoubted that all countries are now passing through a storm of unrest in all fields of human thought, emotion and activity; and yet, it is a great encouragement to those who wish to see India emerge from the world-unrest without giving up her vision of the omnipresent immanent one life and the soliderity of man and her tolerant altruistic nature which the late Dr. William Miller admired so much; it is a great encouragement to us to find that not only the Justice Party of which Sir P. T. Chettiar was the acknowledged, almost autocratic head, but also that influential persons belonging to all political parties and communities have assembled at this meeting to honour Sir P. T. Chettiar's memory. The reason is, that Indians reserve their genuine appreciation (exemplified in its completeness by Bhagavan Buddha) for the quality of Tyaga that is, the renunciation of selfish happiness for the sake of higher ideals. Even the masses intutively understand a person like Gandhiji who possesses that supreme virtue and are not deceived by mere appearances or by tall talk. Sir Theagaraya Chettiar being universally recognised as having shown in a high degree this virtue of Tyaya it is not surprising that this meeting has been attended by influential persons belonging to all parties and to no particular party.

## Press Opinions

## "Hindu"

Death, if a merciless leveller, is also a great helper in reconciliation. Who, despite the acerbities of day-to-day politics, can look back upon the career of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar whose death, last night, after a short illness, we have to announce with profound regret, but as a highly useful and distinguished one, marked by activities and

achievements which, if they have displeased some, have enthused many? The public of this Province have to-day to mourn the loss of an earnest citizen, a zealous worker, an uncompromising flighter who, for more than forty years, ably served the City and his country according to the light vouchsafed to him. His natural bent lay in the industrial field, and for a good many years he

was managing a hand-loom weaving concern which was a pioneer of the industry. Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar was the President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and he utilised this position to give courageous expression to Indian public opinion in matters related to banking, currency, commerce, trade and industry. He was connected with numerous educational and philanthropic institutions in the city, and was the President of the Board of Trustees of the Pachaiyappa Charities for a good many years. His long and strenuous service to the Madras Corporation is a household word in the City and he took special pride in representing his ward at an age at which people would expect him to retire. Sir. P. Theagarava Chettiar was appropriately elected as its first President under the new constitution and he held the office till his failing health compelled him to give up his active work for civic progress. He represented the Corporation in the Legislative Council in the pre-Montford period and the City under the new Constitution, and on matters relating to Local Self-Government his views carried great weight. The Indian National Congress in its early days knew him as a quiet but ardent member, though in other days and under other influences, he expressed his dislike of it in a rather vigorous fashion. But Sir P.Theagaraya Chettiar was a man of strong views and strong convictions and he never believed in hiding his opinions in a cloud of sweet words and soft sentiments. He was known to be an orthodox Hindu for a long time, but when the non-Brahmin movement was started in the days of Lord Pentland, he threw himself with characteristic energy into the work of what was called the release of the non-Brahmin from Brahmin autocracy. Novel situations bring about strange bed-fellows, and the rise of the "democratic" wave, found him and Dr. Nair, between

whom there was little in common till then, on the same platform with results which, whatever their ultimate value, are too close to the public not to be felt. This is not the occasion when one should be tempted into a discussion of the undoubtedly important movement which these two Indians led, and which, after Dr. Nair's premature and lamanted death in 1919, fell to Mr. Chettiar's lot to direct. It would be unjust to other aspects of his career to single out the political one for passing judgment, though the freshness and immediacy of controversial politics might tempt people to consider that he will stand or fall by the success or otherwise of the movement of which he was the respected and revered head till yesterday, and by the contribution it makes to the consolidation of national forces. The time for a final estimate of that movement is not yet come but one cannot attribute to sheer wrong-headedness an upheaval which commanded adherence even among seasoned political veterans, who were trained in the Congress school of politics. When time has cooled our strong but transient feelings, when a truer prospective is opened out. when the march of events has all but buried the bitterness and ill-feeling engendered by fierce quarrel, it may perhaps be found that if separatism was elevated to a principle of political action, it was done because the accumulated grievances of centuries had rendered it inevitable. If one notices signs of reaction after the crisis, one may well infer that the desired awakening has left its mark on the body politic, and thus served its purpose. For no movement can thrive on hatred alone and the political orientation of the new party has tended steadily to live down its earlier erudities and to establish its place among the factors of national regeneration In all this tremendous revolution in this Province Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar played a most

AT THE NON-BRAHMIN CONFERENCE



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prominent part and he gave no quarter to his opponents. Latterly his conservative views led him to be regarded more and more as a brake than as the motive power of the movement, he originated. Still, in him the non-Brahmin movement has lost an authoritative and a most autocratic leader, whose place it will be difficult to fill: the public a sincere and an honest citizen whose work, if it has not been spectacular, has yet been of solid worth. Seventythree is a ripe old age, according to Indian standards, but few expected so sudden an end to a life so fully lived. We offer our sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

### "Madras Mail"

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death, at his ancestral home in Tondiarpet last night of Dewan Bahadur Sir P. Theagarava Chetty, the leader of the non-Brahmin movement. The deceased who was in the best of health until a week ago, and took a prominent part in the recent All-India Devanga Conference of which Community he was a distinguished member, was suddenly taken ill with carbuncle. His illness took a serious turn on Monday last and shortly before 10 p.m., on Tuesday, he passed away at the age of 73. After the death of his distinguished friend Dr. T. M. Nair, with whom he was intimately associated in the starting of the non-Brahmin movement in South India, the leader-ship and responsibility of carrying on the political work of that movement fell almost entirely on the shoulders of Sir Theagaraya Chetty and his wisdom and statesmanship in carrying on that task was reflected in the remarkable success which the non-Brahmins achieved in the first elections under the Reformed Constitution. In Madras City Sir Theagaraya Chetty was himself returned at the head of the poll and when he was called upon by Lord Wellingdon as the leader of the Party in power to form a Ministry, Sir Theagaraya Chetty proved beyond all doubt that his was not the role of office-seeker by recommending members of his party who, for the most part were younger men, for appointment as Ministers under the new Government. This did not mean that Sir Theagaraya Chetty intended to retire from public life, since before long he was unanimously elected the first President of the Madras Corporation under its new constitution. In undertaking this honorary office, Sir Theagaraya Chetty evidently preferred to work in a sphere of activity with which he had been connected for fully forty years. His intimate knowledge of Municipal matters, his robust criticism and helpful advice and his loyal Championship of the needs of Madras when he represented the Corporation in the Legislative Council, marked him out as being eminently fitted for the Presidentship. And it was while holding that post that he received a Knighthood in 1920. He retired from the Presidentship in 1923, owing to advancing years, but never ceased to take an interest in civic affairs or in political movements.

In private life, the late Sir Theagaraya Chetty was known for his charitable disposition. He was kind and genial. His candour on public questions often brought him into conflict with his political opponents, and at times with the members of his own Party, but even his bitterest opponents would acknowledge that Sir Thegaraya Chetty's bluntness of expression had no malice behind it. His death will be a great loss to South India in general and to the non-Brahmin Party in particular and his place as the accredited leader of that Party will not be easy to fill.

#### "Daily Express"

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Sir Pitti Theagaraya

Chettiar at his residence in Tondiarpet last night at 9-45 p.m., at the age of 73. He had been suffering from a carbuncle for the past few days, but only yesterday, it was suspected that his condition was serious, and the news of his passing away, following so close will come with a great shock not only upon Madras, which he loved and laboured for unceasingly, but upon the whole country.

For Sir Theagaraya was a "right upstanding" man and one of the most distinguished Indians of recent times. Born on the 27th April, 1852, of a respectable family, he made his mark early in life and became one of the leaders of enterprise in his industrious community, by virtue of his manliness, practical enthusiasm and doughty commonsense. But he was not one of those businessmen to whom the world of men and affairs is a wasteful, irrelevant thing. From his early youth he was animated by the zeal to serve his country in all ways for which his native aptitude fitted him. He was irresistibly drawn into politics and, from the first, was distinguished as much for his simple eloquence and downrightness of speech as for his practical sagacity and invaluable knack of getting things done. It was characteristic of his bent of mind that he was drawn more towards the solid, if less showy, work of local self-government than towards national politics with its alternation of exaltation and depression. For nearly half a century he laboured with a singular devotion in the cause of his native city and it is hardly an exaggeration to say that the Madras that we know is largely what he made it not only by his own work as a Councillor but by the example of his infectious zeal. It was a fitting recognition of his services to the City that he was unanimously elected as the first un-official President of the Corporation.

During the last fifteen years of his life Sir Theagaraya was one of the most noted figures in the political life of the country. Along with his interpid and brilliant friend, the late Dr. T. M. Nair, he organised the Justice Party and he will probably go down to history as the father of the non-Brahmin movement. However opinions may differ on its later developments, it must be recognised (as it was at the time) that the movement was essentially democractic in its origin and ideals. The plight of a great community, with a culture and a civilisation fully as ancient as of the victorious Aryans, but fallen upon evil days and plunged in the stertorous unquiet slumber of ignorance, economic distress and political helplessness-it moved him strangely and appealed irresistibly to his patriotism and chivalrous pity, for Pitti. Theagaraya Chetti was always something of a Sir Galahad. In organising his Party, discovering young talent, and straining every nerve to serve the cause he had espoused, he showed an energy and a tireless enthusias in equalled only by that of his indomitable colleague. And when Dr. Nair was snatched away in his prime by the hand of Death, the whole burden fell on Mr. Chettiar but it found him undismayed. And, with the advent of the Reforms Sir Theagaraya's ambition was in a measure fulfilled, for at last political power was in the hands of his party.

But it had not been roses, roses all the way. The strongly marked communal lines on which the democratic non-Brahmin movement developed under his guidance, and the tendency often manifested to subordinate national interests to narrow party gains, alienated many sections of the public which had in the beginning been wholly sympathetic. The Justice, Party became consequently involved in innumerable frays, in all of which Sir Theagaraya

was always to be found in the fore-front giving as shrewd blows as he got. It is too soon to judge of the final value to the country of the movement associated with his name and this is not the occasion to appraise the achievement of his Party in office. But few will deny that Sir Theagaraya was fired by praiseworthy ambition in founding it and it must have been a rare joy to him that he had lived to see his ambition fulfilled.

In private life Sir Theagaraya was genial and unassuming and he had many good friends among all parties; for, though his masterful personality and asperity in debate very often let to misunderstandings, these unfriendly impressions were quickly dispelled by his absolute lack of malice and his generous readiness to make amends. By his death India loses one of her most worthy sons. May his soul rest in peace!

"New India."

The news of the death of Sir Pitti Theagaraya Chetty last night, at the age of 73, will be received with surprised regret by our readers, as it was only in yesterday's papers that the first announcement of his illness was made. He enjoyed the unique distinction of having been connected with the Madras Corporation for over forty years, and was its first Elected President for three successive years after the power was given to the Corporation to elect a non-official President. He took a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of the City, and the Executive Officers of the Corporation always looked to him for advice and guidance in the administration of its several branches. He took a great interest in the weaving industry, and won prizes at several exhibitions of textile products produced by fly-shuttle looms, some of which had been designed by him. There was hardly a Committee appointed by the Government to devise schemes of industrial development in this Presidency of which Sir P. Theagaraya Chetty, was not a member. After the establishment of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, he was for several years its President. Somewhat conservative in social matters, vet by force of circumstances he was presuaded to give his support to Dr. Gour's Civil Marriage Bill. With regard to the promotion of the study and practice of indigenous systems of medicine, the present progressive reforms undertaken by the Madras Government culminating in the founding of a Government School of Indian Medicine, were due in a considerable measure, we believe, to the silent influence exerted by him on the Government and the Chief Minister. His connection with non-Brahmin movement is current history and this is not the occasion for referring to the varying fortunes; of that movement. He was connected with the Pachavappa's Charities for a very long time, both as a member and as President of the Board of Trustees. He was the founder of the North Madras Hindu High School in Washermanpet, and the last public function that he attended was in connection with the All-India Devanga Conference held recently in the compound of that School. He was elected to the first and second Reformed Legislative Councils by the Madras City, In recognition of a long record of public work to his credit, the tittle of Dewan Bahadur was conferred on him in 1919 and he was Knighted in the following year. Such was his position in the non-Brahmin Party, that Lord Wellingdon followed his advice in the appointment of his Ministers, and although his position has been challenged since, it is true to say that the party was held together by his great influence.

"Swarajya."

The death of Sir Pitty Theagaraya Chettiar, which sad event took place last night, removes one of the most stalwart personalities from our public life. We have no doubt that the loss will be deeply mourned by all classes and communities in the Presidency. We for our part have never wavered in our belief that the politics of the Justice party, which he helped to found and build up, are a menace to the healthy growth of Indian Nationalism. But that does not prevent us from paying our respectful homage to the memory of a man for whose courage, sincerity and earnestness we have nothing but unstinted admiration and for whose public work, except for this aberration the Presidency is deeply indebted. As a man and as a friend he was kind, sympathetic and unassuming, and rightly earned the affection and esteem of all who had the privilege to know him. His long connection with the Madras Corporation, of which he was the first elected President, and his services to the Indian Merchant Community of the South form a record of which any man may well be proud. Regarding his latter day politics we can only set it down as a tragic misfortune that he should have chosen to close a remarkable career of public usefulness, wellnigh extending to half a century with the espousal of the ambitions of a small reactionary political group. His own life is the best answer to the tenets of this party which believes in offices and jobs in Government service as the only meassure of a community's, well-being. Sir Pitty, though he was one of the earliest in his community to take a University degree, never sought Government service or Government favour, but devoted himself to business and to public work. Even when a Ministership was offered to him he declined it, which, if any evidence were needed at all shows his utter selflessness and sincerity. In his early days there was no more vehement critic of Govern-

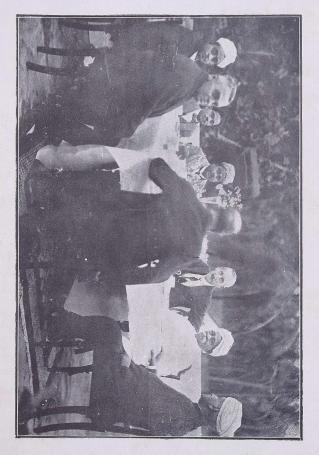
ment policy than Sir Pitty himself. Unfortunately the starting of the, Justice movement, warped his entire political outlook. Having not the vision to see that country is above community and that he should place a higher ideal before his community than to hanker after jobs and offices by subservience to Government he identified himself with the bureaucracy and became an opponent of Nationalism. Had he served the larger interests of the nation and ranged himself with those who are fighting for Swarai, he would have been a great asset to the Nationalist movement in the country. He is a man who by worth, character and training, would be an ornaonly regret is that during the closing years of his life he should have given to party and friends what should have rightly gone to country and community.

#### "The Forward"

The death of Sir P. Theagarava Chettiar has removed a striking personality from the political arena of Madras. He was the accredited leader, friend, philosopher and guide of the non-Brahmin party in Madras. Even those who did not subscribe to his political views and could not appreciate his communal spirit did not fail to be impressed with the immense earnestness and dogged pertinacity of the man whose great power of organisation welded the non-Bramins of Madras into a homogenous body. His marvellous energy and indomitable will and sagacity always enabled him to tide over difficulties and he shepherded the Justice Party with consummate skill and ability. We did not worship in the same political temple with him, but that is no reason why we should fail to mingle our tribute for sorrow and respect with those of our countrymen in Madras who are lamenting to-day the demise of this remarkable man who possessed a great soul which beat in sym-



AT VETAPALEM



AN EVENING PARTY AT HIS RESIDENCE.

pathy for the poor and the distressed and spurred him to seek to ameliorate the condition of humanity. We beg to offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar.

### "Indian Social Reformer"

When a man dies at the age of seventyfive, having lived a life which is recognised by his countrymen to have been one devoted to the public good, there is little room for real regret apart from convention. We bow in reverence over the bier which bears his mortal remains to the funeral pyre and return to our daily tasks with the hope that it may be our own lot at the proper time to quit the world with as much good will from the circle of our sprvivors. Sir Pitti Theagarava Chettiar's death which took place last Wednesday does, however, evoke a feeling of real regret. Whether we agree with his politics or not, the non-Brahmin party in Madras has, it must be acknowledged, been led with consummate ability by Sir Theagaraya. No man was less qualified by his personal views or his social outlook to be the leader of that party. Sir Theagaraya was himself intensely conservative by temperament and he was the last man to lead a crusade against the established social order. How he came to be the colleague of the late Dr. Nair, with whom he had very little in common, in the leadership of the non-Brahmin movement, is a mystery. But there can be no doubt that by undertaking the leadership of the party, he secured for it the support of the large body of non-Brahmins in the Presidency, which Dr Naircould not have done. The non-Brahmins are, in many respects, more conservative than Brahmins and are far less imbued with a love of politics than the latter. They are no more anxious to give up caste or the customary religion of their fathers than Brahmins. Sir Theagaraya's leadership was a guarantee

that the non-Brahmin party will be guided by a wise conservatism in dealing with fundamental things. Nobody knew better than Sir Theagaraya's Brahmin friends that when he indulged in tirades against them. he was speaking only in a political sense. The sense of stability which Sir Theagaraya's presence imparted to the conglomeration of castes and sub-castes known as the non-Brahmin party, already somewhat disturbed will be seriously impaired by his death. There is none in the party at present who commands the same amount or quality of confidence from all sections of non-Brahmins -and to tell the truth, of many Brahmins also-as he did. It would have been well for the non-Brahmin party and for the country if Sir Theagaraya had been spared some years longer to leave upon it firmly the impress of his wise and circumspect leadership. His death at the present juncture is a great loss to Indian public life. In his devotion to Madras Municipal affairs, he may be likened to Sir Pherozesha Mehta who would not miss a meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation for any consideration. Sir Theagarava was a lifelong adherent of Swadeshi and did much to popularise the handloom industry. He publicly declared not long ago that he never used any western medicine. He was indeed. a man of fixed convictions which he carried out in his own life. Such men are rare in every country, and especially in politics, but they are the salt of the earth and they always leave it the poorer when they die.

#### "The Leader."

We regret the death of Sir P. Theagaraya Chetty, the leader of the Justice party of Madras non-Brahmins, at the age of 73. Sir Theagaraya Chetty had a remarkable career. He was a prominent member of the Madras Corporation far longer than we can remember and his distinguished civic life was fittingly crowned with the

Presidentship of the Corporation. For several years after the Swadeshi movement was brought into prominence by the Bengal anti-partition agitation and the Indian Industrial Conference, Sir Theagaraya Chetty did valuable practical work in the furtherance of the handloon weaving industry. He was a member of the Madras Legislative Council for several years. But Sir Theagaraya Chetty will be remembered most as the parent jointly with the late brilliant but erratic Dr T.M. Nair of thenon-Brahmin movement with the encouragement and support if not the connivance of Sir Alexander Cardew and the late Mr. Gillman of the Madras Government. It is fortunate that the antibrahmanism of the non-Brahmin movement has grown less virulent with the progress of years, and it is something to be thankful, for its protagonists no longer seek to block progress and reform, but it brought about that communal representation as between one section of Hindus and another which we deplore as being thoroughly bad and it is still informed by a certain degree of antibrahmin bias, in defence of which we can say nothing. As the unquestioned head of the Justice non-Brahmin party, Sir Theagaraya Chetty was almost an uncrowned king for about five years the power behind the throne-the unofficial government. Latterly, the unity of the party could not be maintained and with growing division in the ranks, due chiefly to unsatisfied personal ambitions, Sir Theagaraya Chetty's influence also began to decrease. On the whole, it is doubtful at the best whether history will record that the deceased leader of the Madras non-Brahmins helped or hindered the cause of Indian political progress and national unity. But for his civic services we have nothing but praise to offer. One thing is beyond the region of discussion. Every

one will admit that the distinguished deceased was a remarkable man and an impressive leader. We offer our condolences to the bereaved family.

### "Hindustan Times"

By the death of Sir Pitty Theagaraya Chetty the ranks of Madras non-Brahmins is considerably weakened. The Grand Old Man of the Party was a remarkable publicist and despite the latter day changes in his vision when, in collusion with the late Dr. T. M. Nair, he launched a campaign of vigorous sectionalism which has spelt so much difference in his province, few will be disposed to grudge him tribute for his single-minded devotion to a cause which he thought was right. Advancing years did not rob him of that youthful robustness which is so necessary to strengtherany endeavour. In private life he was wel beloved even of his political opponents. The gladiator of the political arena softene into a warm-hearted and generous may outside it. In spite of the rot that had se into the non-Brahmin movement by reason of its inherent weakness, his personality was able to delay the utter ruin and decay of the Party. It is hard to withhold from him the meed of praise for his capacity and devotion to the cause in which he had enlisted himself. His labours were intensi vely directed towards vindicating what in his judgement was the right position of . section of a province and thus his attention were occupied to the exclusion of the large politics of the country. We convey to the family of the late Sir Pitty our heartfel condolences in its bereavement.

### "Rangoon Daily News"

The late Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar wa a very popular figure among the non-Brah mins of Madras Presidency. He was gradua ted early in life and started his career as Dubash in Messrs. Walker and Co., Madras. His motives in throwing his lot with Dr. T. M. Nair, the father of the non-Brahmin movement were perfectly sincere. The late Sir P. T. Chettiar took a very keen interest in Municipal problems having been a Councillor of the Madras Corporation for a period of nearly 40 years continuously.

In fact, he was considered as an authority on Municipal problems. In recognition of his valuable services rendered to the Corporation, he had the honour of being the first elected President of the Coporation consecutively for two terms and the Government rightly conferred on him a knighthood in appreciation of his meritorious services to the city's welfare. As the first non-official President of the Corporation, he had the honour of welcoming His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales during his recent visit to India.

His activities in matters educational are well-known throughout the Madras Presidency. He was a trustee till his death of the Pachaivappa Charities, which have under their management a first grade Collage in Madras and two High Schools, one at Chidambaram and the other at Conjeevaram.

In his death Madras has lost an indefatigable worker and India a staunch patriot. The non-Brahmin movement has suffered an irreparable loss. We offer our hearfelt conditiones to the bereaved.

#### "Swadesamitran"

With deep regret we record the death of Sir Pitti Theagaraya (!hettiar on the 28th April last. His death leaves a void in the public life of the city and province of Madras which will be greatly felt. He died full of years and honours, loved by a wide circle of friends and followers. Though he belonged to a generation which valued a University degree mostly for the key it provides for entry into Government service, he never cast his eyes that way. He associated himself with the Congress in its

early years, but more recently he formed the socio-political, Justice party outside the Congress. As leader of his party he displayed remarkable powers of sustained energy, vigorous propaganda and skilful organisation, qualities which we, belonging to an opposite political persuasion, fully acknowledge. Though Sir Chettiar came to take a leading part in the political life of Madras during the last decade or so, his main life work belongs to the civic sphere. For about half a century he served for the city's civic interests and in appreciation of the services the Commissioners of the Madras Corporation elected him as the first elected President of the Corporation. Sir Chettiar was not known to be seriously had in health and the end came somewhat suddenly after a short illness. We tender to the members of his family our heartfelt condolences.

#### " The Radical "

It is our most melancholy duty to record the death of one of India's greatest sons. Sir Pitty Theagaraya Chettiar. Sir P. Theagarava had been sick for a week and little did any one dream that the illness which confined him to his house, would prove so serious and would end fatally. In fact till Monday last, although it was realised that the disease might at any time turn serious, hopes were held out that his robust consitution and cheerful optimism would be able to overcome the illness and Sir Theagaraya would once more be among his friends and admirers to cheer them and sustain them and inspire them with his personality. But fate willed it otherwise and at 9-45 P. M. vesterday, he was called to his eternal rest mourned by his countrymen throughout the length and breadth of Southern India.

Born on the 27th April 1852, Sir P. Theagaraya had just entered on his seventyfourth birthday, but he was almost to the last taking a very active part, in the social, political, industrial and economic life of this Presidency, organising, inspiring, directing, controlling and helping many a movement calculated to ameliorate the condition of his countrymen in general and of the masses in particular. It was only a few weeks ago that he opened the Devanga Conference and the Industrial Exhibition which revealed to the public, the extent of his beneficial influence over his community and the rare foresight with which he encouraged the industrial instincts of his kith and kin. Only on Saturday last did he resign the Presidentship of the Premier Indian Social Club of the Presidency, the Cosmopolitan Club with which he was so honorably associated and in which he was so potent a power for good for over half a century. With the political life of this Presidency he was too intimately attached and till the last hours of his life, he was thinking of but one thing, how best to promote the welfare of his countrymen and how best to promote the interests of the party of which he was the founder and life leader.

It would be difficult for any one to appreciate to the full or to asses at its true worth. the noble work he did in inaugurating what may be called the renaissance movement of modern India, a truly national movement which has brought about an upheavel in society and an awakening of the masses pregnant with possibilities of a great future. When in the cold weather of 1916, Sir Theagaraya and Dr. Nair issued the famous manifesto which burst like a bomb in the rather congenial Christmas gathering of the year, there was a storm of opposition and the keen resentment that was felt by a certain section of the public knew no bounds. For some time practically every organ of the press, and particularly the press of South India, criticised the new policy with vehemence and took the authors severely to task. Some of the non-Brahmins themselves were fierce in their opposition and openly ranged themselves against the new movement. It was confidently foretold that the movement would die a natural death even before it was fully born and prophets were not wanting who predicted a miserable fate to those who countenanced it. It would serve no useful purpose new to go into the vicissitudes through which the movement had to pass, the many ups and downs, the anxious days and the great misgivings which the band of stalwarts had to bear in those dark days when the movement was still groping in the dark.

It has often been told that the movement was a movement of hatred and that the venerable knight did a distinct disservice by launching it at a psychological moment in the history of the nation. Those that knew Sir Theagaraya, those that had the privilege of intimately moving with him know perfectly well that, that magnanimous heart could bear no ill-will to anyone and to think of hatred with him were an impossibility. He was of such a sweet disposition, his nature was so kindly, his selflessness so transparent that it were a bitter travesty of truth to say that Sir Theagaraya was imbued with any sprit of hatred. If he hated anything at all, it was cant and hypocrisy, it was the servile sprit of the times, it was the sprit of equivocation and it was the tendency of preaching one thing and practising another. Himself, the embodiment of all purity, how could he countenance those who were a contradiction in terms? He made no secret of his views and never minced matters. Even when it affected him most adversely, he stuck to his principles and firmly refused to play to the gallery, whatever be the temptation and whatever be the consequences.

But the real impetus for the movement

that he started was the love he evinced towards the masses. He sympathised with them, he entered into their very spirit and he so thoroughly identified himself with their position, that gifted as he was with an abundance of the good things of the world, he could not think of the miserable plight of his countrymen. He had no personal ambitions of his own. For fifty years, he was a prominent figure in the public life of this presidency and during all these years, his voice was potent in the inner Councils of the Government, yet there was not one occasion when he tried to use that influence either for his own benefit or for that of his relatives. Too often, alas, prominent men in public life have translated themselves into comfortable berths in the Government services, either as High Court Judges or Executive Councillors, but Sir Theagaraya when he had every right even according to the highest traditions of public morality to accept office, declined the honor respectfully but with determination. When in 1920, as a result of the general elections Sir Theagaraya was returned to the Council with a thumping majority, everyone anticipated that he would lead the Ministry, but to the surpise of friends and the chagrin of foes, Sir Theagaroya declined the honor but insisted on three of his party men being chosen as Ministers. That was an act of high souled patriotism, the like of which it would be difficult to find anywhere else in the history of modern India. It was not a question of age or infirmity, for Sir Theagaraya continued to be the President of the Corporation of Madras for the next three years, where he did work of a very meritorious character.

It would be difficult to dwell on the multifarious activities of Sir Theagaraya's public life in any one article. He was connected with every large activity, political, social, economic or industrial. Long before the present day craze for Swadeshi or hand spinning evinced itself, he had started several thousands of hand looms and it is to his impetus, the Devanga community was able to have such a successful industrial exhibition. He has presided at innumerable non-Brahmin Political Conferences. His valuable services to the cause of Local Self-Government were recognised by his being requested to preside at the Southern Districts Group Conference of Municipalities and District Boards. He was representing the Corporation in the Local Council and since the new reforms, he has been returned to the Legislative Council for two terms. He has given valuable evidence before the Royal Commission and his historic address delivered at Hubli will still be

Sir Theagaraya is gone but his memory will be cherished by us and his noble example wil be a beacon light for humbler mortals to follow. He was a prince among men and a man among princes. To think of that white robed saint, the very embodiment of all virtues, the essence of purity and selflessness, is to think of a great soul, born too rarely in this world. He was really God's good man, a saint that is born perhaps once in a century. May his illustrious life serve to help our countrymen to follow in his footsteps, copy his noble example and strive to fulfill the noble expectations he cherished. May his immortal soul be with us and protect and guide our faltering steps amid the encircling gloom !

## Messages of Sympathy

The following are a few of the several Messages of sympathy received from all over the Country.

Mr. A. J. Happell on behalf of His Excellency the Governor of Madras expressed his condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

The Hon'ble Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Law Member of the Govt. of Madras writes as follows:—

Please accept sincere condolences at the death of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar.

Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, M.L.C. wires from London as follows:—

Am desolated by news. Accept sincere condolences.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mahommed Usman Sahib, Home Member of the Government of Madras, wires:—

Profound sorrow at Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar's death,

The Hon'ble Sir A. P. Patro, Minister for Education wires:—

Deeply shocked! Mournful news! Grand Old man! Irreparable loss to country and community. Great personality passed away. Difficult to replace. Gods mercy alone availeth.

The Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur T N. Sivagnanam Pillai, Minister for Development wires:

Deeply sorry. Irreparable loss. Grand old man. God help you in bereavement.

Lewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, Deputy President of the Modras Legislative Council wires from Ooty:—

The great and good Sir Theagaraya

though dead lives as ever to inspire and lead to nobler and freer life.

Maharajah of Kolhapur, wires :-

Greatly grieved to learn of the sad demise of Sir P. T. Chetty. It is an irreparable loss. His selfless work cannot be too highly appreciated. Kindly convey to the bereaved family sincere condolences.

Mr. Jadhav, Minister for Education, Bombay wires from Mahabelshwar:—

Heard with profound sorrow, about demise of Sir Theagaraya Chetty. His death is a national loss. In memory of his deeds let all non-Brahmins unite and fight for their sacred cause.

Rajah of Chellapalli wires from Masulipatam:—

Extremely sorrowful for Sir Theagaraya Chettiar's most lamentable demise. The loss is irreparable to the non-Brahmin community. May God give peace to the great departed soul.

Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nair writes from Palghat under date 30-4-25:—

His death is a great loss to Southern India. He was one of the greatest men that our Fresidency produced. His name will live in history, May his soul rest in peace.

Rajah of Ramnad wires from Kodaikanal is follows:—

Deeply regret your father's death. Great irreparable loss to self and non-Brahmin movement. Accept heart felt condolences.

Zamindar, Uttukul wires from Springfield Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

Hon'ble Ramabhadra Naidu wires from Peria Malam:—

I express my great sorrow for the demise of our leader Sir Theagaraya Chettiar.

C. Vijiaragavachaiar wires from Kodaikanal Observatory:—

Sudden death extremely distressing. Sharing your grief. Warm sympathy.

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Maharaj of Pithapuram writes from "Denmore House" Teynampet:—

I am very sorry to learn that that great and good gentlemen Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar has passed away. It is a loss to the Presidency. Please accept my sincere condolences.

C. Ramalinga Reddy M. L. C., wrote from Chittoor under date 30-4-25:—

I am really grieved to hear of Sir Theagaraya Chettiar's sad demise. It is a big loss to the public life of our Presidency. Please accept my sincere condolences.

S. Y. G. Campbell writes from "Stone House Hill," Nilgiris under the date 29-4-25:

I am very much distressed to hear of the death of your uncle Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar. I had known him for many years and had a high regard for his character and abilities. It is a great loss to Madras and I feel that I have personally lost an old and valued friend. May I offer you and through you his family, my very sincere condolences on your bereavement.

H. M. Ebrahim Sait writes from Madras under date 29-4-25:—

I am extremely sorry to know of the sad demise last night of your dear father and my valued friend. His has been a life of remarkable greatness and the only consolation for those whom he has left behind can be that he expired resplendent in all his glory. In him I have lost a sincere friend and well wisher and to the country at large. I need hardly say what the loss means. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy.

T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M.L. C., writes from Coimbatore under date 30-4-25:—

The news of the death of your universally beloved uncle in the papers to hand to-day came to me as a great surprise. It was only yesterday we learnt from the papers that his illness was causing some anxiety. He was easily the foremost man in the politics of this Presidency in recent times and his death will have a void which it will be very difficult, if not impossible to fill. May he rest in peace after his arduous labours here below and may God bless those who are dear to him is all one who admired and respected him can pray.

Dewan Bahadur M. Venkatarama Iyer writes from Cuddalore, N. T. under date 30-4-25:—

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I have just read with the greatest regret and sorrow the news of the death of Sir P. Theagarava Chetty, the first and greatest gentleman of Madras. Death is no respector of persons, but unfortunately it often happens that it takes away persons whose loss is a national calamity and whose place is difficult to fill. I have known him for several years and he was always the simple straight, sincere, selfless and kind hearted gentleman. People have some times spoken ill of him most undeservedly but no one has ever accused him of unkindness or selfishness. It was my proud privilege to have agreed with him in most matters but whether one agreed with him or not, he was the same genial, truthful and kind-hearted friend to all. His death is a national loss. Human sympathy in affliction is a great consolation but it cannot take away all the pain and all the suffering one feels for one's dearest. God alone can assuage the sorrow all of you in particular and all his friends in general feel for his death. May He comfort you all and us.

Mr. S. T. Kambli, M. L. C., L. L. B., Hon. President, non-Brahmin League, Dharwar District, writes as follows:—

It was with feelings of profound sorrow that I read the sad news of the demise of Sir P. Theagaraya Chettiar, that born leader of men, that sage of the white robes of Southern India, that selfless, self sacrificing genius of Madras, that friend of the oppressed and the depressed who always stood for right and for uplift of the masses. Sir, to describe in detail the manifold qualities of the head and heart of this great leader of the non-Brahmin movement is not possible at the present time when my sorrow-stricken pen really falters. Sorrow prevents me from dilating on the qualities of our departed venerable leader. Our tears really and literally have followed him to his grave.

The great leader has departed. But he lived to see his life work accomplished. The great democratic movement Incia has ever witnessed and which he called into existence against heavy odds finally succeeded and succeeded in a manner well worthy of the efforts of the great leader. His was a noble mission in this world. His was the most righteous cause surrounded by caluminators on every side, the reformer -the genius-nay the very prophet of Southern India emerged triumphant and victorious in what Col. Wedgood was phrased to call, "The great life and death struggle between Brahmins and non-Brahmins in Southern India." Any nation, any race of human beings can be proud of having produced such a spotless, courageous and prophetic leader and genius. No wonder then that the non-Brahmin communities for whom he fought so much and so valiantly and so unceasingly with no personal advantage to himself feel so profoundly, so immensely the loss created by the death of this great hero. May his soul rest in peace. Let us all follow his example.

## A Man of Talismanic Charm By Sir R. Venkataratnam Naidu

The following is the speech delivered by Sir R. Venkatarathnam Naidn in seconding the condolence resolution at a meeting held at Victoria Public Hall, Madras on 25th May 1925,

Esteemed president, and brother members of a catholic and widespread community.— I am reminded of a very touching and inspiring sentiment, namely that every great man is like the Westminster Abbey, within whose confines are brought together stripped of all animosity, denuded of all differences, the notables and the worthies of the country, into one place

of rest. Similarly, it has been said that the talismanic charm of a great man, the one vital influence exercised by every true great man is illustrated in this, that around his name, in obedience to his spirit, animosities are forgotten, differences are set aside, and all admirers come together to pay their tribute of obesiance and gratitude. I believe we are all this day inspired

by that sentiment, namely as admirers and followers of Sir P. T. Chettiar, we are united by indissoluble bonds. I believe those who knew him intimetly and judged him indispassionately are bound to recognise the fact that, if he was anything, he was a peace-maker. When I say that I hope I also indicate the distinguishing feature of the non-brahmin movement. (applause) The hostilities of ages

are to be ended, the monapolies of centuries are to be overthrown, the forgetten privileges of generations are to be revived, and restored. As one sky spreads over all, as one earth sustains all, so one sense of justice prevails. (cheers) Sir P. T. Chettiar was preeminently a peace-maker. Peace be unto all that are here met, peace shall prevail ever to the end of time. (cheers)

## Sir P. Theagaroya Chettiar: A Memoir By A. Ramaswamy Mudalier, B.A., B.L., M.L.C.

Honorary Editor, "Radical."

to sit calmly and write of one with whom I in all public matters. It would not be proper in this short memoir to the memory of my departed leader, to obtrude the personal element. For nearly two generations Sir Theagaroya has been the uncrowned prince of this Presidency. Whenever the cause of justice and of liberty had to be fought, whenever the Principles of equity had to be vindicated, Sir Theagarova was in the forefront of the fray and strenuous life of public activity he was associated with men of various political and social opinions; but all of them, whether they were his colleagues or adversaries will be ready to admit, to acknowledge and admire the perfect integrity of his conduct. He was animated throughout his public by no petty or personal ambitions but by an earnest and conscientious desire to promote what he in his conscience believed to be for the best interests of the country. He had no personal objects

Long before Sir Pitty came to the limelight of acute controversial party politics he was known as the protagonist of a hundred fights, the victor of scores of battles. His service in the cause of local self-government, his zeal for civic welfare, his quiet and unostentatious work for the amelioration of his fellow-citizens, his champion, ship of the Indian cause at a time when the slightest criticism was considered rank heresy by the bureaueracy and when the olive-crowned heroes of Congress platforms fell easy victims to the siren voice of pomp and power and accepted service under the crown; above all the severe simplicity of his life-will long be remembered by all who knew him.

I knew him best as the leader of a party; and every one of my colleagues will bear me out when I state that he was one of the most considerate of masters and loyal of chiefs. He gave his confidence without reserve and once given it was not lightly withdrawn. The man who enjoyed it was sure to have his support in the teeth of any challenge; there was no one more cordial in the acknowledgement of service.

Sir Theagaroya will, I am certain continue to hold the very highest place in national esteem because he embodied in an eminent degree characteristics which in the opinion of the public most entitle a public man to the admiration of his fellow-citizens: uprightness of character, fearlessness of temperament and that strong common sense and caution which so peculiarly distinguised him. It is this very

uprightness that was sometimes embarrassing to some of his followers. An amiable adjustability of views, a pliant disposition, a weak-kneed surrender of convictions—these were foreign to his temperament and nature. If after the greatest deliberation and thought he arrived at a conclusion which he believed to be right, be adhered to it against all odds and in all circumstances. It is men of that kind that form the glory of our country.

The death of Sir Theagaroya has come at a time when we could ill spare men who are courageos, disinterested and sincere; wise in council-and strong and independent in action. It is not unnatural that in a moment of despondency a humble follower should recall the lines of that immortal bard Scott.

"Hadst thou but lived,—
By thee, as by the beacon light,
Our pilots had Kept course aright,
As some proud column, though alone,
Thy strength had propped the tottering
throne

Now is the stately column broke,

The beacon light is quenched in smoke".

But there is surely consolation in the thought that force, energy and character is never lost, but is transferred to new forms or modes of operation and that which vanished in Caesar may be reincarnated in Saul.

