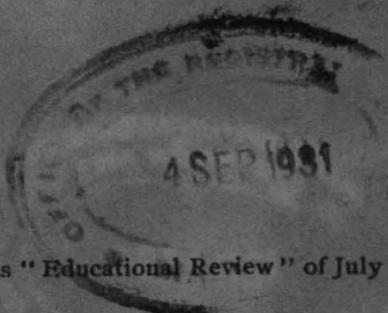


A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
OF THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF  
MR. K. S. AIYAR, B.A., L.T., F.S.A.A.  
INCORPORATED ACCOUNTANT

BY HIS NEPHEW

P. BALASUNDARAM, F. B. I.,  
*Director of the Central School of Commerce,  
Kumbakonam,  
and Accountant, the Kumbakonam Bank, Ltd.*

(Reprinted from the Madras "Educational Review" of July 1931).

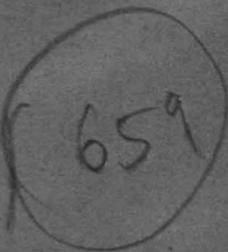
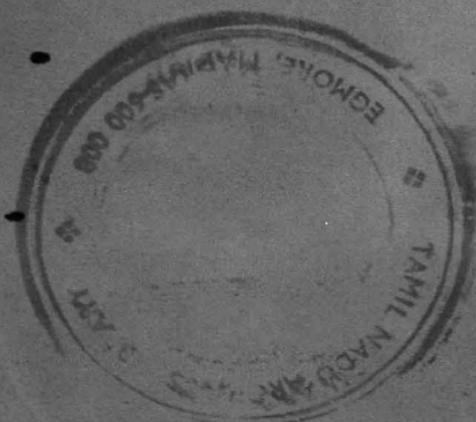


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HE DID NOT BLUNDER INTO REKNOWN - NOR WERE HIS ACHIEVEMENTS  
MERE ACCIDENTS

K. SUBRAMANI AIYAR, B.A., L.T., F.S.A.A.  
1919.

## PREFACE.

A PREFACE in the strict sense of the word is really not necessary for a book of this kind. But it must have been a matter of some surprise to the public that the PIONEER OF COMMERCIAL EDUCATION IN INDIA should not have, till now, found a biographer in any one of his numerous students, friends and admirers whose regard for his single-minded work has nevertheless been quite sincere and great as the following pages will amply show.

Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar is one of those rare Indians who have taken the trouble of keeping a record of their private life and public activities. It was the good fortune of the author, while staying with his uncle at Bangalore during the summer of 1928, to obtain his permission to go through his diaries, and the carefully assorted files of correspondence, newspaper cuttings and public notifications on the progress of Commercial Education, maintained by him, in the hope that the hero of the family would have proved his worth as an ideal worker in the field of Commercial Education and that his shining example would be a source of inspiration to the younger generation. The fond hope was fully realised; and important materials were collected from that valuable quarry—‘the private diaries and files kept by Mr. K. S. Aiyar.’ The plan, however, of a complete life-sketch took definite shape only in October 1930, after I opened the Central School of Commerce at Kumbakonam.

My thanks are due to Mr. S. Mahalinga Ayyar, B.A., B.L., and to several personal friends of Mr. K. S. Aiyar for their valuable suggestions in the treatment of the subject; and also to Messrs. Srinivasa Varadachari & Co., for their neat and prompt execution of the work.

"Bala Villas," }  
Kumbakonam, }  
*4th August 1931.*

P. BALASUNDARAM.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF  
**MR. K. S. AIYAR, B.A., L.T., F.S.A.A.**  
INCORPORATED ACCOUNTANT  
THE PIONEER OF COMMERCIAL EDUCATION  
IN INDIA.

*"He did not blunder into renown—nor were his achievements mere accidents."*

This is exceptionally true of Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar, B.A., L.T., F.S.A.A., better known as Mr. K. S. Aiyar, Senior Partner of Messrs. K. S. Aiyar & Co., a leading firm of Accountants and Auditors, Bombay. Anybody who has come in personal contact with him cannot but have found in him a remarkable singleness of purpose, an indomitable character, a determination to better the lot of the younger generation and a resourcefulness to overcome obstacles. When he was only twenty-five years old, he began to realize the importance of diverting some of our young men from literary to mercantile pursuits and opening out new careers for them. He, therefore, started preaching that industry cannot thrive without commerce and that by a suitable system of commercial education, the youths of this country could be well-equipped for business careers. This has been his guiding principle in life; for he has all along been devoting his entire energies to the development of commercial education in India and he has luckily been spared to see the fruition of his labours.

"Bombay Aiyar," as he is well-known among his friends and relatives, comes of a respectable South Indian Brahmin family and was born on 6th June 1859 at Thepperumanallur, a village near Kumbakonam (Tanjore district), the centre of Brahminical culture, situated on the banks of the Cauvery, a river held sacred by the Hindus. His father, Mr. K. Kalyanaramier, was then a clerk in the Collector's Office, Tinnevelly, and later became a Sub-Magistrate in the Tanjore district where he got his son educated. He was an efficient officer and commanded the confidence of his employers as well as of the public. His mother, a woman of an amiable and loveable disposition, showered all her affections on this, her first son, "Mani."

Mani, as he was then called, was duly initiated in the Three R's and was admitted in the Town High School, Kumbakonam, and was later transferred to St. Joseph's College, Negapatam, where his father was then a Sub-Magistrate. At that time, University examinations were held in December every year, and Mani matriculated in 1873, then only a boy of fourteen years. He then joined the Government College at Kumbakonam, then known as the 'Cambridge of Southern India.' I have often heard it said that it was really a pleasing sight to see him going to college, a small boy among many grown-up ones—with long plaited hair on his head. He received his College education under such distinguished educationists as Mr. Porter, in whose name the public have erected a Town Hall, and Rao Bahadur T. Gopala Rao, in whose name there is a Free Library for the Kumbakonam public. In December 1875, he passed his F. A. (now Intermediate) and B. A. in February 1878.

*"The spirit of a youth  
That means to be of note, begins betimes."*

With the growth of his family and frequent transfers to various parts of the Tanjore district, his father found it desirable to permanently fix up a residence; and a house was purchased in Kumbakonam in 1875, where Mani lived during his college course. It is interesting and instructive to note that Mani, though only sixteen years old then, was entrusted by his father to conduct the negotiations for the purchase, get the sale-deed executed and registered, and complete the transfer of ownership from the vendor to the purchaser. This evidence of an early development of the business instinct in his young son led the father to gradually transfer the management of the family to young Mani, in which his wife joined him in 1877.

Mani's wife, Sankaram, proved a very helpful and inspiring companion to her resourceful husband. Gentle in bearing and exceptionally affectionate to her husband and his relatives, she was much liked by one and all, and especially by her mother-in-law. She helped her husband a great deal in shouldering the responsibilities which were slowly thrust on him; and but for her very careful and economic management of the house, Mani could not have diverted his attention to his one aim in life, the betterment of the earning powers of our youths, and could not have succeeded in achieving his cherished object in life.

Family expenses were increasing and Mr. Aiyar, as we shall call him hereafter, found it essential to become a help to his father in all possible ways; and he therefore accepted the appointment as Second Master on Rs. 50 in the Pachaiyappa's High School at Chidambaram on 6th August 1878 when he was exactly nineteen years and two months

old. Although he had not passed his teens, he had gained the experience of an adult and was liked and admired by one and all for his abilities in the profession chosen. His salary was raised to Rs. 60 in July 1882, and he was transferred to Pachaiyappa's College, Madras, in April 1883, as a Lecturer on Rs. 70. During the five years, 1878—1883, that he was in Chidambaram, he took a leading part in the public activities of that station. He organised meetings in support of Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government Resolution, arranged for the public reception of, and the presentation of an Address to, His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore and was instrumental in getting the Vice-Presidency of the Municipal Council thrown open for election. One could then occasionally see glimpses of his bright future; and, even at that early stage of his life, (before he was 25 years old), there were scintillations of ever increasing brilliance.

*"In the long run, men hit only what they aim at."*

Lord Ripon's Education Commission of 1882 having recommended a bifurcation of studies in High Schools and the diversion of some of the students from literary to non-literary pursuits, Mr. John Adam, the then Principal of Pachaiyappa's College, Madras, prevailed on the Trustees of Pachaiyappa's Charities to start a Commercial School on 3rd February 1886 and entrust the organisation and working of that School to Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar. He was then placed on a salary of Rs. 90 per mensem, then considered a handsome remuneration for an Indian School Master. His salary was raised in March 1888 to Rs. 100 and his grade was fixed at Rs. 100-5-125.

*The Third Day of February 1886 is thus a landmark in the history of Indian Commercial Education and*

Mr. K. S. Aiyar's of career, as this was the first Commercial School started in India and as Mr. K. S. Aiyar was the first Head Master of that institution.

Leading European firms, like Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Binny & Co., and Gordon Woodroffe & Co., allowed him to work in different departments of their offices in the afternoons in order that he might become better able to train clerks and book-keepers suitable for employment under them. During the years 1886, 1887 and 1888 he went on lecturing tours in the Tamil districts to popularise commercial education among the students and teachers of High Schools, and was instrumental in getting commercial classes started in the National High School, Trichinopoly.

Meanwhile he also began to practise as a Public Accountant and Auditor in Madras and secured the patronage of several Indian Merchants and Trading Firms. This enabled him to acquire a more practical knowledge of mercantile accounts and incidentally added to his financial resources. At Mr. Aiyar's instance, the Madras Government instituted Elementary Examinations in Commerce in 1885, Intermediate Examinations in 1888 and Advanced Examinations in 1893.

His father was getting older ; and Mr. K. S. Aiyar had to get his sisters married, his younger brothers and brothers-in-law educated and thus relieve his father of a portion of his financial and family responsibilities. The sisters who had been married had to be sent to their husbands' homes and his own family was growing. He had therefore to find sources of additional income. Even before he was 25 years old, he began to publish a series of School Books for the benefit of High School Students. He treated every obstacle as a test of his powers of endurance and

resourcefulness without allowing himself to be crushed down. Obstacles and difficulties only made him work harder and supplement his meagre salary by audit fees, examiner's fees and income from school publications.

*"The self you choose to-day and not the self you chose yesterday is the fate of to-morrow."*

This is perfectly true of Mr. Aiyar. While he was serving as Head Master of the Pachaiyappa's Commercial School (1886—1889) he conducted a vigorous agitation in the Madras Daily Papers to get commercial subjects prescribed as optional subjects at the Matriculation Examination. Failing in his endeavours to prevail on the University of Madras to do so, he helped in the institution of a Government Upper Secondary Examination and the inclusion of commercial subjects as optionals at that examination, corresponding to the present Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination, to qualify candidates for employment in Government and Mercantile Offices. During this period, he worked as Joint Secretary to the Madras Graduates' Association and submitted representations on behalf of that Association for the bifurcation of studies in High Schools and the introduction of Commerce in the High School Curriculum.

The Hon'ble Sir H. E. Stokes, Member of the Executive Council, Madras Government, speaking at the Prize Distribution of Pachaiyappa's Schools on 29th March 1889, remarked :

"While commissions have been sitting, theorists have been talking about education which is not purely literary, about bifurcation of studies, and so forth, Messrs. Adam and Subramani Aiyar have, with the hearty support of the Trustees of Pachaiyappa's Charities, established that *most admirable*

*Commercial School*, which is the forerunner, and which will be the pioneer of all institutions of the kind. It shows what can be done by men who have their hearts in their work."

The Madras Government, having found Mr. Aiyar's Commercial School a splendid success, were anxious to get men trained in the Teachers' College at Saidapet to teach Commercial Subjects; and Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar was prevailed upon to accept the Lecturership in Commerce in that College in September 1889, when he was thirty years old, on practically the same salary that he was drawing as Head Master of the Pachaiyappa's Commercial School. After two or three batches of commercial teachers had been successfully trained by him, the Government abolished the commercial section of the Teachers' College; and Mr. Aiyar began to agitate for a Government School of Commerce to be started and his being sent out as Head Master of such a School. Here was the beginning of his brilliant career.

In July 1890 he was elected an Associate of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors of London and in that year he brought out his standard text-book on Book-Keeping, which has enabled so many of our young men to easily master the principles and practice of Book-Keeping and which has been prescribed as a text-book for the Madras, Mysore and Bombay Government Examinations in Book-Keeping.

Just at the time when things were shaping in the right direction and when Mr. Aiyar had begun to be recognised as the Pioneer of Commercial Education in India, his father died. This was in October 1894 and proved a severe blow to him; and from that time he had to shoulder the entire family burden, as he now became its

only support.. He was, however, not unnerved and did not in the least shirk the heavy responsibility.

*"The heights of glory by great men reached and kept,  
Were not attained by sudden flight ;  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upward in the night."*

Mr. Aiyar's untiring zeal, however, for the cause of commercial education resulted in the starting of the Government School of Commerce at Calicut (West Coast, Southern India) over which he was made to preside for a period of five years from February 1895 on a salary of Rs. 140 per mensem. Mr. H. B. Grigg, M.A., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras, writing to him on 20th February 1895 says : "I believe there is no one in the Presidency better fitted than yourself to prove that the School meets a public need." When in charge of this school, he went on lecturing tours on the West Coast to enlist the sympathy and support of merchants, bankers and officials in the cause of commercial education. Mr. M. J. Murphy, I.C.S., Malabar, presiding at one of such lectures on 20th July 1895, remarked : "I think the great point is Mr. Subramani Aiyar's ardent and eager personality in going about preaching all over Malabar—that is his great charm." He started Malayalam Commercial Classes in that School for the benefit of Mapilla Boys who had completed their primary education. Students of the Calicut School of Commerce are now found earning fat salaries all over India and Burma in Government, Private and Commercial Offices. This was the first School of Commerce started by Government in India, and Mr. Aiyar was the first Head Master of that school,

His services in the cause of commercial education were so highly appreciated by the public that in 1898 he was elected a Fellow of the University of Madras by the votes of his fellow-graduates. Soon after he became a member of the Senate of that University, he submitted proposals for making commerce an optional subject for the B.A. Degree Examination of the University. Though the Syndicate in general approved his proposals, they turned down the scheme as impracticable under the circumstances then existing.

*"There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."*

During the years when Mr. Aiyar's activities were confined to the Madras Presidency, the Trustees of the Byramjee Jeejheebhoy Parsee Charitable Institution, Bombay, had been in correspondence with him in connection with the starting of commercial classes in that institution; and he was requested to go over to Bombay and accept the Principalship of that institution. Mr. Aiyar's attempts to prevail upon the Madras University to introduce the subject of commerce into their Degree Courses having proved a failure, he resolved to transfer his activities to Bombay in the full hope that he stood a better chance for getting recognition for higher commercial studies in that Commercial Capital of India. In February 1900 he resigned Government Service in Madras and became the Principal of the Byramjee Jeejheebhoy Parsee Charitable Institution, Bombay, on a salary of Rs. 350-25-400. He was thirty-five years old when he went to Calicut and forty years old when he resigned Government Service and went to Bombay. His activities in Bombay far outshone those in Madras; and what were flashes till

now attained a better shape and hue and shot forth in increased brilliance.

In March 1900, he converted the Institution into a College of Commerce and prepared the Parsee students of that College for the London Chamber of Commerce Examinations. He also started in June 1900 a Night School of Commerce for non-Parsee students. This Night School proved so popular that it attracted students from Baroda, Bhavnagar, Kathiawad and Poona and earned for Mr. Aiyar an annual income of Rupees 5,000 to Rs. 7,500 ; Mr. M. K. Dandekar, till lately Principal of the Madras Government Institute of Commerce, belonged to the first batch of students that joined this Night School of Commerce.

Presiding at one of Mr. Aiyar's Public Lectures in Bombay on 22nd June 1900, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. G. Ranade, M. A., LL.B., C.I.E., Judge, High Court, Bombay, remarked :

"Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar hardly requires any introduction as HE HAS ALREADY MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN THIS CITY..... Two years ago, if I had been told that proud Bombay was going to send for a teacher from Madras, I should have declared it to be a very unlikely thing to happen. But that unlikely event has now happened; and we may well congratulate the Trustees of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Institution on their having secured the services of SUCH AN EXPERT AND PRACTICAL ENTHUSIAST."

He was made a Fellow of the Bombay University in February 1901 and worked as an active member of the Senate of that University for about thirty years. When on a visit to the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy College of Commerce on 7th February 1901 H. E. Lord Northcote, G.C.I.E., C. B., Governor of Bombay, remarked :

"I congratulate those who conduct this Institution on their good fortune in securing the services of such an expert in commercial education as Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar."

He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1902 and an Honorary Presidency Magistrate in 1904, in which latter capacity he worked for nearly twenty years. He then got the Bombay University to introduce commerce as an optional subject for the University School Final Examination and started his agitation for the institution of a University Degree in Commerce.

In 1900, Mr. K. S. Aiyar submitted to H. E. Lord Northcote, Chancellor of the University of Bombay, a scheme of studies for a Degree in Commerce and in his Convocation speech of February 1901, His Excellency pleaded for University recognition of the scientific study of commerce. The further consideration of this question was postponed in view of the appointment of Lord Curzon's Universities Commission of 1902. That Commission, while recognising that the study of commercial subjects should be fostered by the Universities and the Government, recommended that the consideration of this subject be taken up after the other urgent reforms had been carried out. After the Indian Universities Act of 1904 had come into force, Mr. K. S. Aiyar submitted to the University of Bombay, once in 1905 and again in 1910, definite proposals for the institution of a Degree in Commerce. Meanwhile representations were received by the University from various mercantile associations supporting the scheme for the institution of a Degree in Commerce and the establishment of a College of Commerce. Mr. Aiyar's persistent efforts, backed by the merchant princes and industrial magnates of Bombay, resulted in the institution of a Degree in Commerce

(B. Com. Degree) by the University of Bombay on 27th January 1912, the first of its kind in India.

Sir Narayan G. Chandavarkar, Acting Chief Justice, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay, presiding at a meeting on 10th July 1912 when a congratulatory address was presented to Mr. K. S. Aiyar by the students of his commercial classes, remarked :

"Mr. Subramani Aiyar's advent in Bombay is a land-mark in the history of this City. He came at a time when there was a very strong prejudice against the introduction of a commerce curriculum in the University courses. He came and worked for the cause he has so much at heart, and with his characteristic energy, vivacity, perseverance and confidence prevailed upon the University to recognise the study of commerce. He came, he saw, he waited, and at last he has conquered. I know and Mr. Aiyar knows how he used to come and tell me that he was bent upon getting the commerce curriculum recognised by the University and I know how at times he was a little disappointed at the slow progress of his cause. But I knew my man; I knew that he was not a man to give up what it was his mission to accomplish. With his indomitable energy, he was not to be cowed down by disappointments."

"I have in my own feeble way endeavoured to picture to you the hidden personality that is in this slim figure. Mr. Aiyar is a thin man, but a very volatile man; his volatility has worked wonders. He is a missionary and has achieved his mission. Mr. Subramani Aiyar is a Brahmin and a Brahmin's business is to go and beg. Mr. Subramani Aiyar has begged—begged not for himself but for a Commerce Degree and a Commercial College."

Mr. K. S. Aiyar went on lecturing tours in Northern India and Southern India in 1911 and 1912 to popularise Higher Commercial Education and point out the advantages of a University course in Commerce. During the course of 1912 and 1913, the Government of Bombay began to make the necessary preliminary arrangements for starting a

College of Commerce in Bombay—the first of its kind in India. Early in October 1913, the Bombay Government resolved to start the College on 22nd October 1913 and entrust the working of the College to Mr. K. S. Aiyar as its Honorary Principal. In the short period of a fortnight, Mr. Aiyar completed all the arrangements for starting work at the College and the confidence that the public had in his capacity to make the College a success was evidenced by the fact that over two hundred applications for admission were received by Mr. Aiyar from fully qualified students and that he had to refuse admission to one hundred applicants for want of accommodation. The Government of Bombay issued a Press Note on 10th October 1913 announcing that

" His Excellency the Governor-in-Council desired to acknowledge that the early introduction of the temporary arrangements therein announced has been rendered possible only through the energy, zeal and resourcefulness of Mr. K. S. Aiyar, who had consented, pending the arrival in India of the permanent Principal of the College, to give his services in an honorary capacity to the College and that the Bombay Government were glad that this institution, which so largely owed its inception to Mr. Aiyar's labours in the cause of commercial education, should first commence operations under his Principalship."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. A. Hill, I.C.S., C.S.I., C.I.E., Education Member of the Government of Bombay, in announcing at the Legislative Council meeting of the 13th March 1914,

" That the College of Commerce was opened in October last and has made an exceedingly favourable start, wished to take that opportunity of expressing the obligations of Government to Mr. K. S. Aiyar, who gratuitously undertook the office of Principal pending the arrival of the permanent Principal from England."

As remarked by Mr. M. L. Tannan, M. Com., Principal of the College, at the College Day Celebration in 1926,

"It is the opinion of some that if the College had not been started in October 1913, the Great War of 1914—1918 might have delayed its establishment for several years."

A life-size portrait of his has been put up in that College by his colleagues and students to mark their appreciation of his successful efforts in the cause of higher commercial education in this country. On retirement from the Principalship, he was appointed an expert member of the Advisory Board of that College, which position he still holds. His portrait was unveiled at the College on 22nd December 1914 by the Rev. Dr. D. Mackichan, M.A., D.D., LL D., Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University, who remarked:

"He was glad that Bombay had through this institution added one to many others on which they rested their claim of being "Urbs Prima in Indis," notwithstanding that they owed it to a member of another Presidency. However Mr. Aiyar now belonged to Bombay and he had become one of their distinguished citizens. Had it not been for Mr. Aiyar, this College would not have come into existence, and no Institution was more distinctly connected with the personality of an individual than this College was with that of Mr. Aiyar. Mr. Aiyar had set before them an example of patient, persevering, devoted and unselfish work, and what better example could they like to have than the life of the founder of this College."

After having trained a sufficient number of Parsee commercial teachers to efficiently carry on the working of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy College of Commerce, Mr. Aiyar resigned the Principalship of that College in 1908 and started a Swadeshi Life Insurance Company, called the Bombay Life Insurance Company, Limited, and worked as its

**Manager from 1908 to 1916.** This he was able to do even while continuing all his other activities, as a practising Auditor and an active member of the Senate of the Bombay University.

*"Where there is a will there is a way"* is fully exemplified by Mr. Aiyar's work in Bombay. Soon after he reached Bombay in 1900, he re-started public practice as an Auditor and founded the firm of K. S. Aiyar & Co., now a leading firm of Indian Auditors in Bombay. No Indian at that time could become an Incorporated Accountant unless he served an apprenticeship of three to five years in London. Mr. Aiyar, therefore, strenuously pressed upon the London Council of that Society the inequity of such a regulation and secured their permission in 1905 for Indians to serve their apprenticeship in India under practising Incorporated Accountants. Thus he paved the way for Indian youths entering the Accountancy profession in ever-increasing numbers. The first of such apprenticeships in India was served under Mr. K. S. Aiyar by Mr. Sorab S. Engineer, B.A. (1905—1908); Mr. S. S. Engineer, as soon as he became an Incorporated Accountant, was admitted as a partner of Messrs. K. S. Aiyar & Co., in which capacity he worked for a period of five years (1909—1914). Mr. Aiyar then got him appointed a Part-time Professor of Accountancy in the Government College of Commerce, Bombay, whereupon Mr. Engineer started independent practice as an Auditor.

*The year 1905, therefore, was a land-mark in the progress of the Accountancy profession in India; and in 1915 a further impetus was given to it.* At the instance of Mr. K. S. Aiyar, the Government of Bombay, under instructions from the Government of India, constituted an

Accountancy Diploma Board for organising and conducting All-India Examinations in Accountancy and Auditing and awarding a Diploma (Government Diploma in Accountancy, *viz.*, G.D.A.), enabling the Diplomates to practise as Auditors in India. Of such a Board, Mr. K. S. Aiyar was chosen as an expert member and Secretary. The Hon'ble Mr. C. H. A. Hill, C.S.I., Education Member of the Government of Bombay, announced in his Budget Speech at the Legislative Council meeting of 15th March 1915 that "*Mr. K. S. Aiyar, who had done so much for the College of Commerce, has been asked to draw up a scheme for the institution of an examination for the Diploma in Accountancy.*" Mr. K. S.

• Aiyar worked as Secretary to the Accountancy Diploma Board from 1915 to 1923, and was succeeded by Mr. M. L. Tannan, M. Com., Principal of the College. This Board is now to be replaced by an All-India Accountancy Board directly under the Government of India, and will, in future, have control over all classes of Auditors in India, including Chartered Accountants, Incorporated Accountants, G.D.A.'s and Certified Auditors. Mr. Aiyar's long-cherished ambition, therefore, to create and develop an Accountancy profession in India for Indians, for which he had been striving hard for nearly half a century, has now become an accomplished fact, even during his life-time.

From the day on which Mr. K. S. Aiyar settled in Bombay, he was endeavouring to induce young Indian Mathematics graduates to qualify as Actuaries and become practising Actuaries. From 1902 forwards he tried to enlist the active co-operation of Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, Senior Wrangler and Principal of the Fergusson College, Poona, in the matter of getting Indian Actuaries trained. In 1909 he induced Mr. Mahadev R. Tambe, a Mathematics graduate

and a Licenciate in Civil Engineering of the University of Bombay, to become an apprentice of Messrs. K. S. Aiyar & Co., with a view to his qualifying both as an Incorporated Accountant and as an Actuary. Mr. Tambe proceeded to London on the completion of his apprenticeship in Bombay and passed the Incorporated Accountant's Examinations. On Mr. K. S. Aiyar's recommendation, Mr. George King, a well-known Consulting Actuary, admitted Mr. Tambe into his office in London and gave him practical training; and Mr. Tambe passed Parts I and II of the London Institute of Actuaries Examinations and became an Associate of that Institute. He was, on his return to India, admitted as a partner of Messrs. K. S. Aiyar and Co. and practised both as an Auditor and as an Actuary (1914—1919). Mr. Aiyar got him appointed in 1919 as an Accountant in the Bombay Municipal Office, where he is now Chief Accountant.

Mr. K. S. Aiyar had made Actuarial Science one of the optional subjects for the B. Com. Degree, instituted by the University of Bombay in January 1912. Attempts were made by a few members of the Senate in 1914 to get Actuarial Science dropped from the list of optional subjects for the B. Com. Degree on the ground that qualified Professors were not available in India. But Mr. K. S. Aiyar managed to defeat such attempts with the help of Sir Lalubhai Samaldas, Mr. R. P. Paranjpye and a large number of other members of the Senate. Though Actuarial Science thus continued to be an optional subject for the B. Com. Degree, no arrangements were made for instruction in that subject. Mr. Aiyar tried to get Mr. Tambe appointed as a part-time Professor of Actuarial Science in that College. Mr. Aiyar's recommendation was however not accepted on the ground that Mr. Tambe had not passed parts III and IV of the Actuaries' Examinations.

and was only an Associate and not a Fellow. Meanwhile Mr. R. P. Paranjpye who had for a long time been a strong supporter of Mr. Aiyar in this matter became Education Minister in Bombay. A scheme was then drawn up by the Hon'ble Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, in consultation with Mr. K. S. Aiyar in 1921, for sending an Indian Associate of the Institute of Actuaries to London with a Government Scholarship for two years for getting the scholar to qualify as a Fellow of the Institute, and appointing him on his return from London, a part-time Professor of Actuarial Science in the Bombay College of Commerce.

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, M.A., then a Lecturer in Mathematics at the Baroda College, happened to be one of those few Indian graduates, who, on Mr. K.S. Aiyar's advice, had become Associates of the London Institute of Actuaries by passing Parts I and II of the Examinations of that Institute held in Bombay. Mr. Aiyar prevailed on Mr. Vaidyanathan to resign his appointment in the Baroda College and go to London for two years' practical training there; and the Hon'ble Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, Education Minister, an enthusiast in this matter, was good enough to get the sanction of the Legislative Council for the award of a scholarship for a period of two years. Difficulties were then created in the Secretariat about the possibility of Mr. Vaidyanathan being admitted into an Actuary's office for practical training. Mr. K. S. Aiyar then placed himself in correspondence with his old friend, Mr. George King, a practising Actuary in London, and secured his consent to Mr. Vaidyanathan working in his office. These difficulties delayed matters and it was only in 1923 that Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan was able to sail for London with a Government scholarship for two years. He returned to in Bombay 1925 and is now Part-time Professor of Actua-

rial Science at the Bombay Government College of Commerce, known as the Sydenham College of Commerce. He is at present the only Indian Fellow of the London Institute of Actuaries. The Directors of the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company, Bombay, have engaged his services as an Assistant Actuary of their Company. One of his students, a Bachelor of Commerce in Actuarial Science, who was first appointed an Actuary of a Punjab Life Assurance Company, has now become an Assistant Actuary in the Government of India Secretariat. Mr. K. S. Aiyar's labours in the creation and development of an Actuarial profession for Indian youths in India has thus become an accomplished fact even in his life-time.

Mr. K. S. Aiyar was for several years President of the South Indian Club and an active member of the South Indian Co-operative Credit Society, Ltd., Bombay.\* He was in 1917 Vice-President of the Society of Professional Accountants, Bombay, and in 1930 the President of the Incorporated Accountants' Association, Bombay. He was Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Bombay Session of the Indian Economic Conference, 1924; and His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, P.G., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., Governor of Bombay, in declaring that Conference open, on 22nd January 1924, remarked

" We are fortunate in Bombay in the possession of the Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics and I am particularly fortunate to-day in hearing a very eloquent welcoming address from Mr. K. Subramani Aiyar, its first Principal, whose services not only to the College but to economic education in general have been so remarkable and to whom we look in future for a continuance of his great assistance."

In June 1914, he was a State guest of the Mysore Government for three weeks, when he endeavoured to

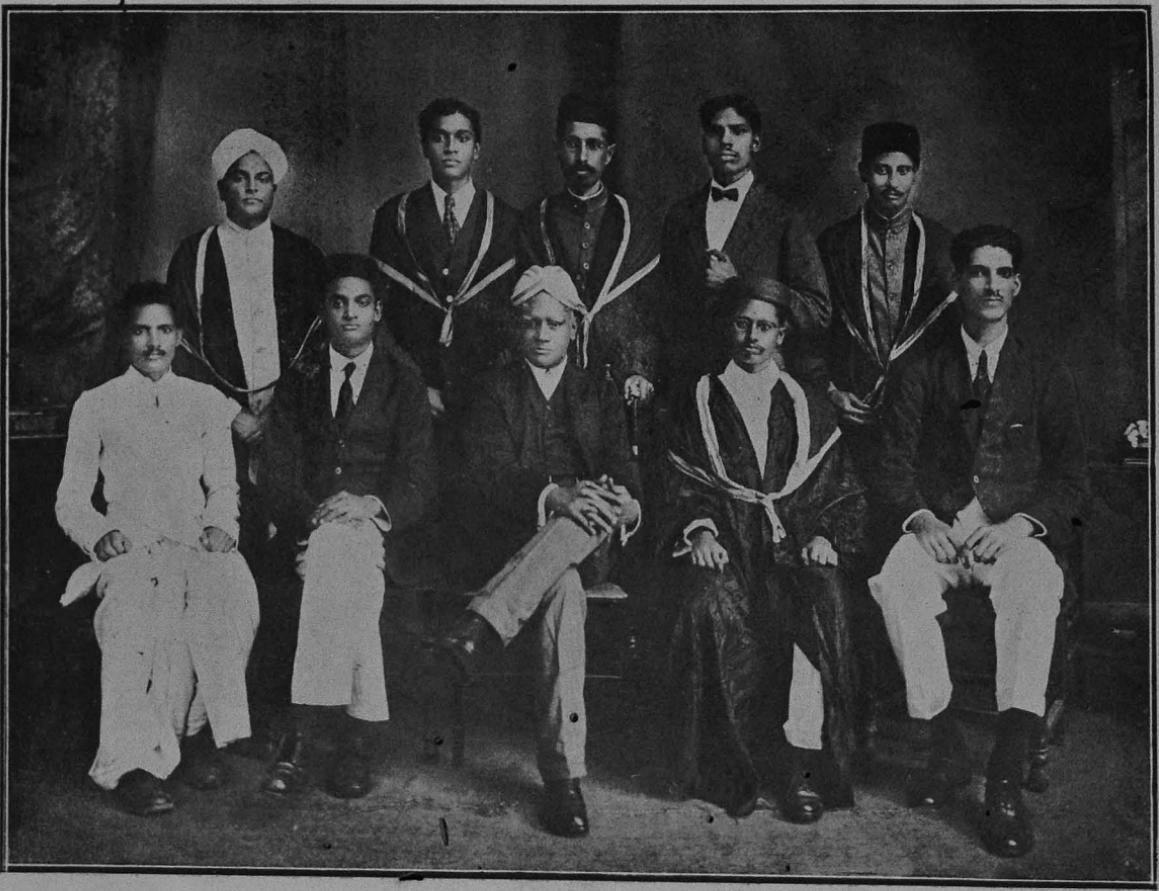
popularize Higher Commercial Education in Mysore and offered special advice on the development of commercial education in the State. He was invited by the Benares University in February 1916 to advise on the institution of a Faculty of Commerce at that University.

In the midst of his manifold activities in Bombay, Mr. Aiyar did not forget the interests of his native province, Madras. He prevailed on the Government of that Presidency to start an institution in Madras for the purpose of training the youths of that province for the Auditor's profession. The scheme materialised and in 1918 the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras, was started for training young men for the Madras Government Examinations in Commerce and for the Bombay Government Diploma in Accountancy. But difficulties arose in securing a qualified Principal for that Institute ; and Mr. Aiyar prevailed on one of his old Bombay students, Mr. M. K. Dandekar, B. A., Incorporated Accountant, to accept the Principalship with liberty to practise as an Auditor. In commemoration of Mr. Aiyar's sixtieth birth-day, a life-size portrait of his was unveiled by the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University in the Library of that Institute.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao, C.S.I., Education Secretary to the Government of Madras, and later Collector of Madras, speaking at the unveiling ceremony, remarked :—

"Mr. K. S. Aiyar was one of the few Madrasis who brought honour to the Presidency by his work in other provinces. Madras must be grateful to him for several reasons. In the first place, he had given Mr. M. K. Dandekar, an energetic worker, in the cause of commercial education ; secondly, by his indomitable energy and persistent pressure upon the Madras Government, he was instrumental in getting this Institute of Commerce started in Madras."

K. S. AIYAR & CO.



PARTNERS AND APPRENTICES—1922.

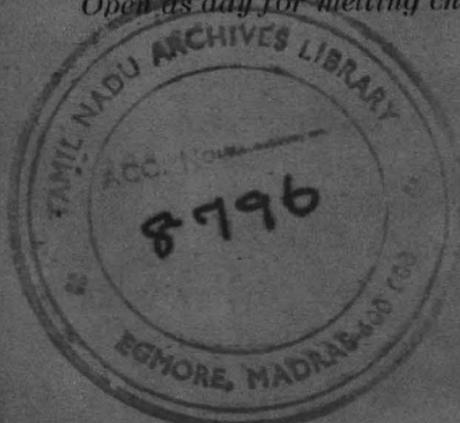
Not satisfied with the result of his efforts during a greater portion of his life in British India, Mr. Aiyar has in the past few years turned his attention to the State of Mysore. In 1920 he acquired house property in Bangalore known as "Bombay Home" in Shankar Mutt Road, Bangalore City. His wife having died in Bangalore on 9th June 1923 in her sixty-first year, he has built a ward in her memory in the Government Maternity Hospital of Bangalore City. He has recently begun to reside in Bangalore, a health resort, during the hotter months, spending the remaining portion of the year with his two sons, who are both partners of his firm in Bombay, Mr. Bharata K. S. Aiyar and Mr. Arjun K. S. Aiyar, B. Com., G.D.A., Incorporated Accountant. Even in his comparative retirement and when he has passed the limit of "three score and ten" he has been taking an active part in the economic activities of Bangalore, as a member of the Committee of the Mysore Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Standing Committee of the Mysore Economic Conference and a member of the Mysore Government Commercial Education Board. He has in his 72nd year prevailed upon the Government of Mysore to develop their commercial school into an Institute of Commerce, equipped to prepare Mysore youths for the Bombay Government Diploma in Accountancy. He has been taking an active part in the organisation of the G. D. A. classes started in Bangalore in July 1930, and is endeavouring to get Diploma classes started for Life Insurance, Salesmanship, &c.

The Golden Jubilee of Indian Commercial Education falls on 3rd February 1936 and may we hope that Mr. K. S. Aiyar will be spared to take part in the Jubilee Celebrations of February 1936, which will incidentally

express our appreciation of his half a century's labours in the cause of Indian Commercial Education.

Mr. Aiyar, although in the declining years of his life is still to be seen sauntering along the wide and beautiful avenues of Bangalore with a stick in hand and with all the vigour of youth, in company with a number of retired officials and non-officials, each with a distinguished record of service in his own walk of life. This company may be seen every evening seated on the garden seats opposite the Glass House in the Lal Bagh, pleasantly chatting away their evening hours and discussing problems of various kinds. One could chat with Mr. Aiyar on new careers for young men for hours together and yet not find him tired. His beaming face has not in the least been marred by long years of toil and incessant work. Long may he be spared to us !

*"He is gracious if he be observed ;  
He hath a tear for pity and a hand  
Open as day for melting charity."*



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