

V211M
N70
79232

V211M

N70





Tamil Arasu

FOURTHLY OF
GOVERNMENT OF
TAMIL NADU
NO. 5, 1970-1971



KHADI *and* VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

PROVIDE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO FARMERS

THE TAMILNADU KHADI
AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES
BOARD'S PRODUCTS
INCLUDE

PATRONISE KVIB PRODUCTS
FOR WELFARE OF FOOD
PRODUCING PEASANTRY

KHADI AND KHADI SILKS
SOAPS, BRASSWARES MUD
& CERAMIC UTENSILS
MOULDS & LEATHER
HANDICRAFTS, PURE HONEY &
EDIBLE OILS AND A HOST OF
OTHER DELICATE HANDICRAFT
ITEMS.

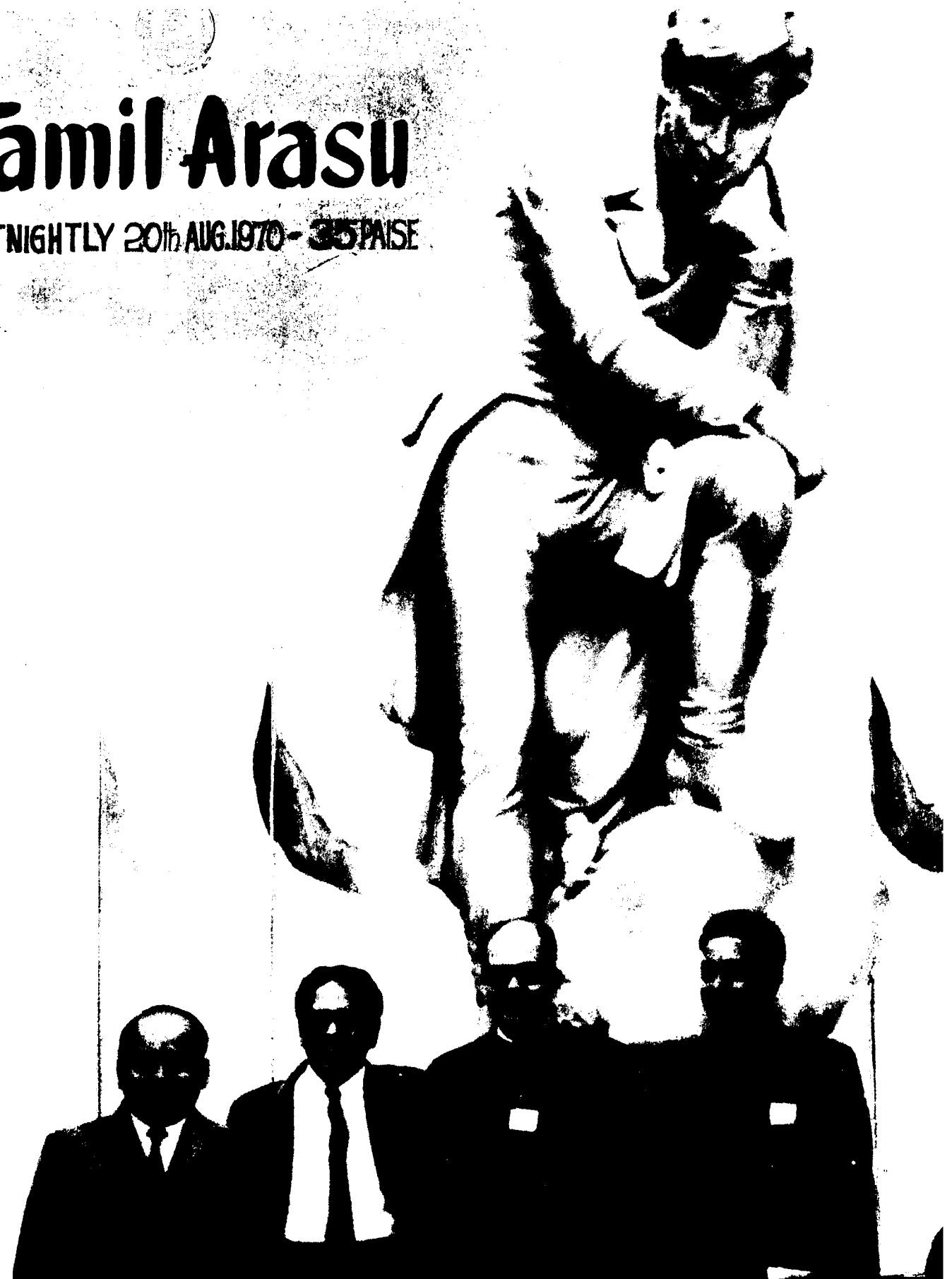
AVAILABLE AT
ALL
KHADI & VILLAGE
INDUSTRIES SALES
Emporia

Issued by:

KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES Dept.
2, SIR DESIKACHARI ROAD MADRAS - 4.

Tamil Arasu

FORTNIGHTLY 20th AUG. 1970 - 35 PAISE



KHADI *and* VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

PROVIDE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO FARMERS

THE TAMILNADU KHADI
AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES
BOARD'S PRODUCTS
INCLUDE

PATRONISE KVIB PRODUCTS
FOR WELFARE OF FOOD
PRODUCING PEASANTRY

KHADI AND KHADI SILKS
SOAPS, BRASSWARES MUD
& CERAMIC UTENSILS

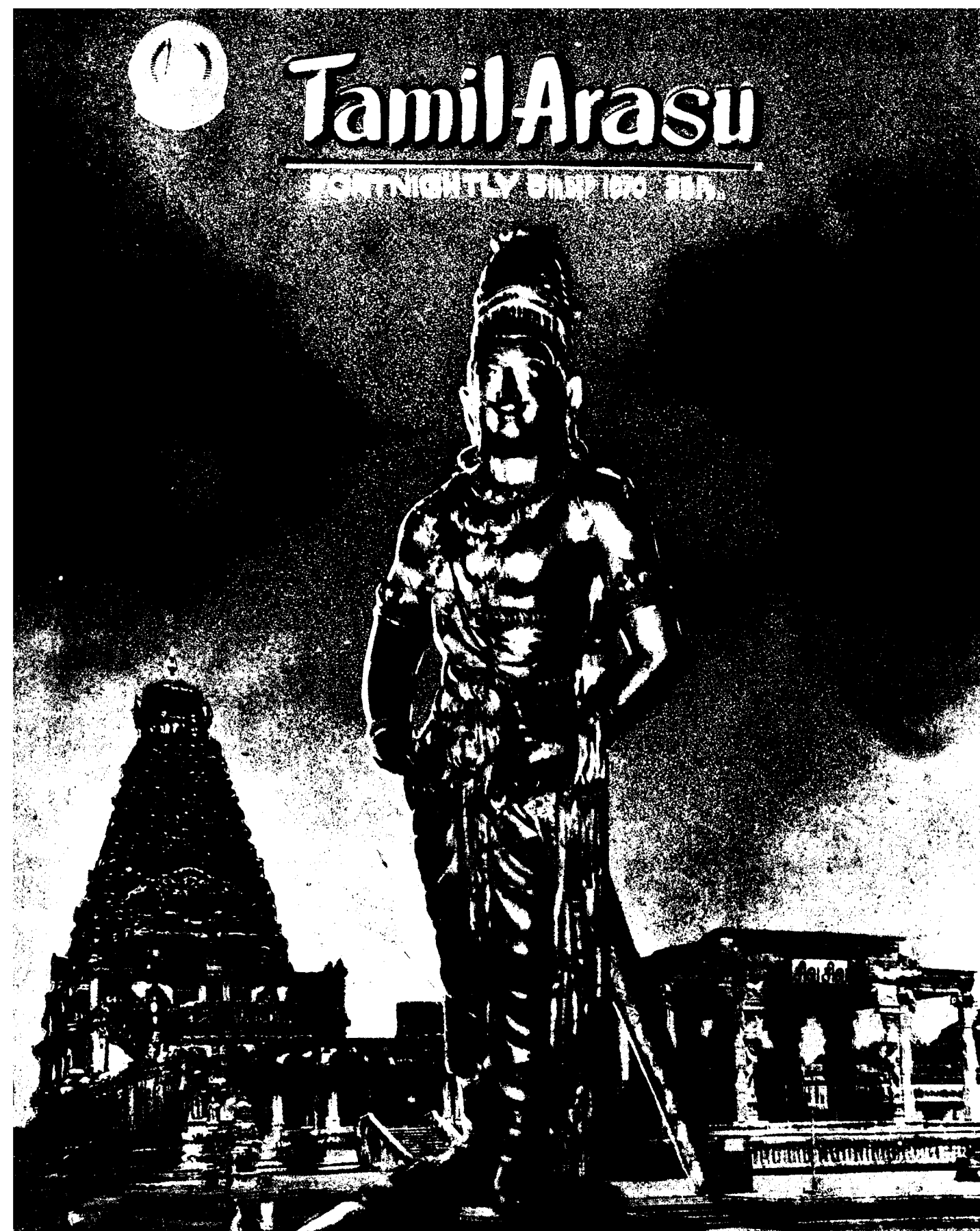
MOULDS & LEATHER
HANDICRAFTS, PURE HONEY &
EDIBLE OILS AND A HOST OF
OTHER DELICATE HANDICRAFT
ITEMS.

AVAILABLE AT
ALL
KHADI & VILLAGE
INDUSTRIES SALES
Emporia

Issued by:

KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES Dept.

2, SIR DESIKACHARI ROAD MADRAS - 4.



KHADI *and* VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

PROVIDE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO FARMERS

THE TAMILNADU KHADI
AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES
BOARD'S PRODUCTS
INCLUDE

PATRONISE KVIB PRODUCTS
FOR WELFARE OF FOOD
PRODUCING PEASANTRY

KHADI AND KHADI SILKS
SOAPS, BRASSWARES MUD
& CERAMIC UTENSILS
MOULDS & LEATHER
HANDICRAFTS, PURE HONEY &
EDIBLE OILS AND A HOST OF
OTHER DELICATE HANDICRAFT
ITEMS.

AVAILABLE AT
ALL
KHADI & VILLAGE
INDUSTRIES SALES
Emporia

Issued by:

KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES DEPT.
2, SIK DESIKACHARI ROAD MADRAS - 4.

THE HISTORIC FORT SAINT GEORGE

ITS HUMBLE ORIGIN

Madras, with which Fort Saint George is associated, has always been in the limelight of Indian politics and history but both had an obscure beginning. Of all the fortified centres of Trade and Commerce no fort other than Fort Saint George, named after Saint George, the Patron Saint of England, has gained a world-wide fame. To all the nations of Europe, Asia and the Far East, Fort Saint George is a familiar name. To the British, it was the chief commercial centre between Mauritius in the Middle East and Bantam in the Far East Asia. It is a romance in history how a narrow strip of land, six miles along the marina, which Francis Day selected for his commercial activity developed into the modern Fort Saint George.

Francis Day who was commissioned by the Court of Directors from Masulipatam in 1639 was given a warm welcome at Santhome. But he avoided the choice of the erstwhile Portuguese settlement at Santhome, in spite of the support

BY
Thiru S. SINGARAJAN,
M.A., M.LITT.,
Director of Archives

of the Portuguese and local merchants for the choice of that settlement. On the other hand, with their help he secured for rent a piece of land directly north of Santhome. It looks

paradoxical that the new site had neither beauty, nor a harbour except a shallow lagoon-like river, running parallel to the sea for a short distance. In fact the Cooum emitted an unpleasant and unhealthy effluvia from the rotting seaweed lying in its loathsome black ooze. Neither the stink of the river nor the acres of sandy waste discouraged the persevering servant of the East India Company, and Day concluded his negotiations with the Rajah of Chandragiri satisfactorily on the 1st of March, 1639.

When Fort Saint George was erected, local merchants, weavers' local manufacturers, painters and others were encouraged to settle in the neighbourhood at a place thence forward popularly called

Chennapatnam and Madras-pattinam by the Indians, and Madras by the English. A *cowle* for building the fort was obtained, through the mediation of the Naik of Chingleput, from the Raja of Chandragiri, a descendant of the Hindu Royal family of Vijayanagar. It is interesting to note that it was the Raja of Chandragiri who delivered the deed of possession to Francis Day. After all, the Raja was an obscure representative of a magnificent Indian Empire of the past; Francis Day was an obscure representative of a magnificent Indian empire that was yet to be; and the document that the Raja handed to Francis Day was in reality a patent of an empire, transferred from Vijayanagar to Great Britain. It was at Chandragiri that the British Empire in India was begotten; it was at Madras that the British Empire was born. And by his transaction, his employers in England obtained their first territorial rights in India.

The Raja of Chandragiri, who received the cash paid down as rent for the ground, must have laughed up his sleeve at the folly of the English in parting with gold for that dreary waste of sand and mud. He could not foresee that the apparently worthless spot might hold a Clive and a Munro, and that it might send forth mandates for the deposition of princes stronger than himself; that it might shelter and despatch a Job Charnock to found Calcutta in the name of his masters, and to stretch a powerful arm over the length and breadth

of the country to protect the weak from the tyranny of the strong. Francis Day's task was only half finished when he obtained possession of the land. There were no buildings upon it but half a dozen mud huts belonging to the muk-kvas or fishermen; he had to set

about raising a warehouse for the Company's goods, and a house for the offices, wherein the Company's affairs might be transacted. Dwellings were also needed for the Company's servants and it was necessary to attract the country-born Portuguese merchants, who



St. Mary's Church in Fort St. George built in 1680

were the link between the exporter and the producer.

The Fort House stood at the present Secretariat buildings just in front of the sea gate. It contained offices, reception rooms, a dining hall, a room set apart as a Chapel, and accommodation for the few merchants, factors and writers who were numbered on the staff. By 1680, during the Governorship of Mr. Streyensham Master, St. Mary's Church was built in the Fort to meet the long felt need of the Protestant citizens for a separate place of worship. The original house had not been built with the solidity which marks the fine houses raised some fifteen years later under more experienced architects. In fact Sir William who visited Madras then found it rapidly falling into ruin. In the initial stages, the garrison at the fort gave the Directors enough trouble over their love affairs.

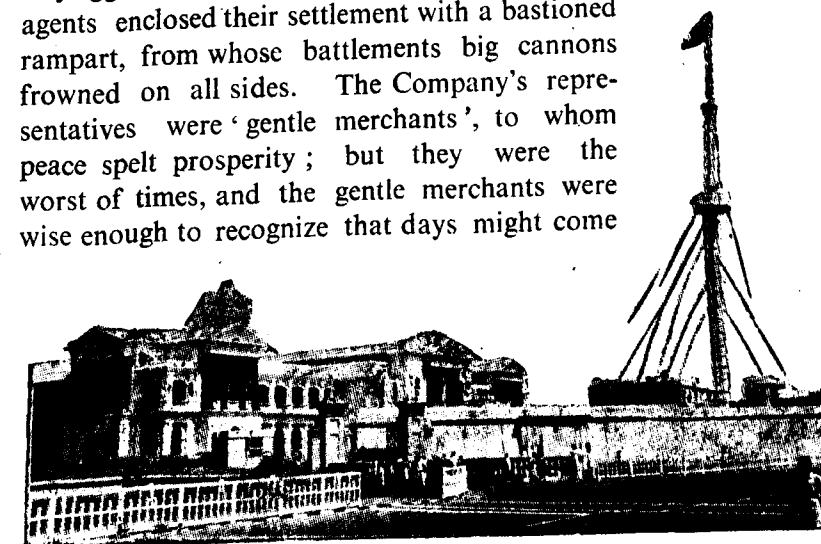
Since 1690 communications in the form of general letters, were sent for the first time by the Agency at Fort Saint George to the Court of Directors. In the beginning the settlement was placed under the Presidency of Bantum in the island of Java; and was intended to supply goods from the Coromandel Coast to meet a demand which existed in Java.

It should always be remembered that the East India Company was established purely as a commercial association, with its head office in London, and its employees in India were men with business

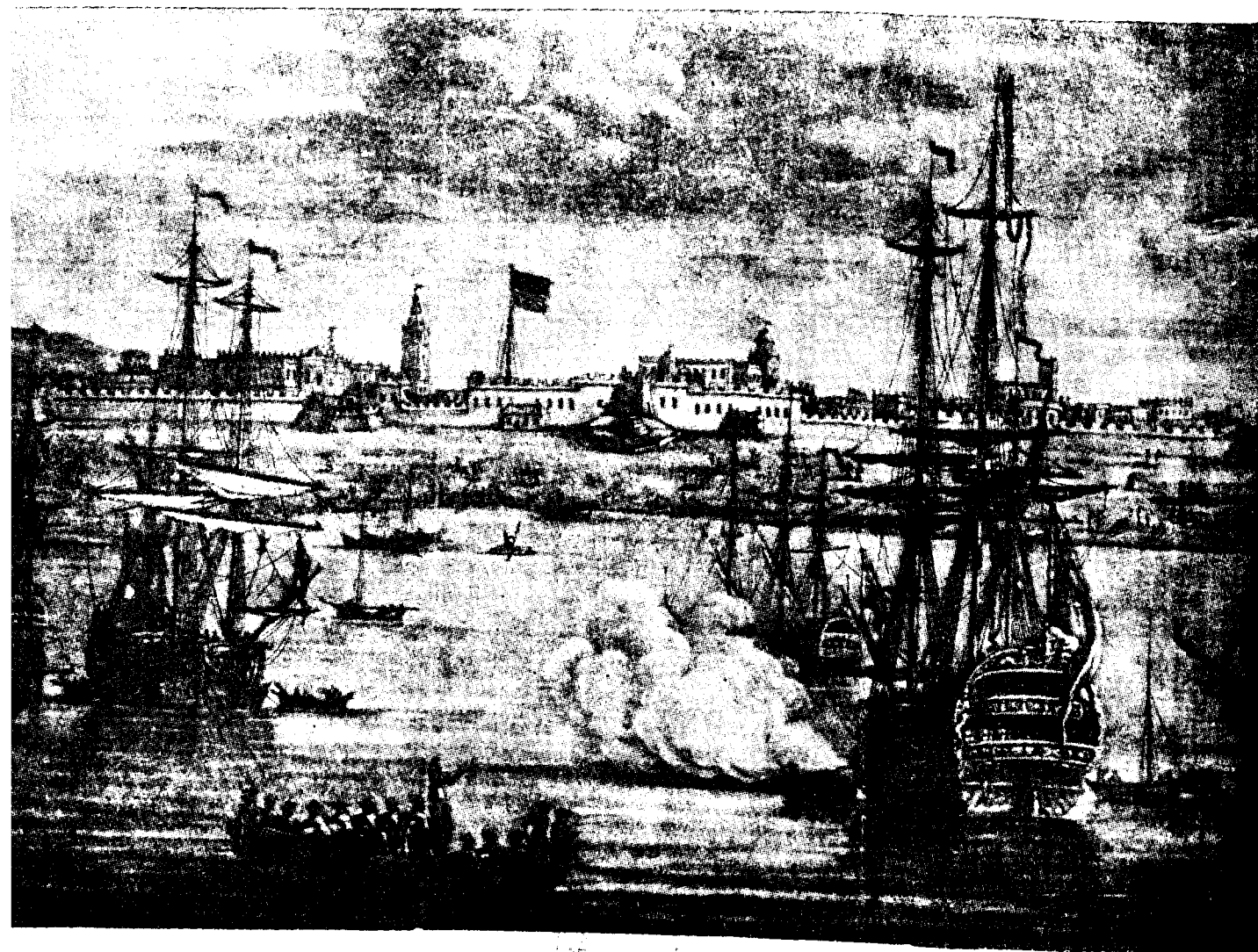
qualifications, appointed to carry on the Company's trade. The prime concern even of an Agent or a Governor was the making of good bargains on the Company's behalf and sometimes on his own getting the best prices for European broadcloths and brocades and buying as cheaply as possible Indian muslins and calicoes and other natural products, for exportation to London, where they were sold at a huge profit. Any fighting in which the Company's servants engaged was merely incidental to the pursuit of business in a land in which the ruling sovereigns, as well as the many small chiefs, were constantly at war. It is a maxim that 'Trade follows the Flag'; but in the case of India the Flag has followed trade.

From the very beginning the settlement was called Fort St. George, but it was several years before the buildings were surrounded by a high and fortified wall. It was in no spirit of military aggression that the Company's agents enclosed their settlement with a bastioned rampart, from whose battlements big cannons frowned on all sides. The Company's representatives were 'gentle merchants', to whom peace spelt prosperity; but they were the worst of times, and the gentle merchants were wise enough to recognize that days might come

when it would be necessary to defend themselves and their merchandise and the town of Madras as well, from the 'roving robber or the princely raider or the revengeful trade-rival', and that military preparedness was a dictate of prudence. In fact there were such dangers to the Fort. On such occasions the excitement in the Fort Saint George had been really great. We can imagine the anxiety with which, when the sentry gave the alarm, the merchants climbed upon the walls and looked out at the horsemen who were appearing at a distance, and enquired to one another disconsolately whether it was in peace or in war that they came. Even fifty years after the Fort had been founded, a party of soldiers under the Commander-in-Chief of the Mohammedan King of Golconda pursued some of the King's enemies who entered Madras, "burning and robbing of houses, and taking the company's cloth and goods", whereupon the Governor of the Fort sent word to them that "he would



employ all means to force them out of the town; upon which they retreated out of shot of the Fort." They returned, however, with additional strength, and for eight months they besieged the stronghold, but without success; and finally, they wearied of their hopeless endeavour, marched away. Madras changed hands on many occasions both among Europeans and Indians but the British always had the sagacity to buy off the Victor. The fascinating fact about their deal is that they always gained an additional territory or concession when treaties were concluded. The acquisition of Chennapattinam, Madraspattinam, Mylapore, Eelu-yoor or Elumboor and Thiruvottiyoor would testify to these facts. The annexation of the territories of the Nawab of the Carnatic, the scandals that attended the Carnatic debt, the annexation of Tanjore the conquest of Mysore and Maharatta territories, and the transformation of the Poligars into Zamindars are chapters which testify to the diplomacy and tact which made Fort St. George a mighty territorial power. It was the treaties, sannads and deeds which became the primary weapons rather than the armaments on which the Empire depended. (To be continued.)



View of the Fort Saint George in the time of Governor Pitt 1698-1709.

THE HISTORIC FORT SAINT GEORGE

BY
Thiru S. SINGARAJAN,
M.A. M.LITT.,
Director of Archives

Part II—The Beginning of Taxation

(This is the second part of the article. The first part appeared in the August 5, 1970 issue of Tamil Arasu.)

Greenhill administered the settlement until the 1st September 1652, when Fort Saint George replaced Bantum as the Company's Eastern centre of Government, and President Aaron Baker arrived from Java and assumed charge. Greenhill remained at Madraspatanam, retaining the title of Agent throughout the period of Baker's rule.

The first Governor

In 1653, Fort Saint George was raised to the rank of a separate Presidency, independent of Bantum, and Mr. Aaron Baker who was the resident Agent became the first Governor. The first direct communication between Madras and England occurred in 1642-43, in which the Agent and Council impressed upon the Court of Directors the absolute necessity of giving due equipment to the fort. In 1644 the money expended on the fortifications amounted to Rs. 22,940 and it was computed that Rs. 20,000 more would be required with a garrison of one

hundred soldiers, to render the station impregnable to the Indian Princes. In 1645 a renewed grant for the settlement was obtained from Golcondah. In 1651, orders having been received from England not to add to the strength of the fort, the Agent stated that unless the fort was strengthened trade could not be extended. Similar representations were made in 1652 on receipt of the news that a war between England and Holland was imminent. In 1654, however, the Directors ordered that the civil establishment should be reduced to two factors, and that the guard should consist of only ten soldiers. The English Trade on the Coromandel coast then declined, as a consequence of the inland wars and the superior force of the Dutch by land and sea.

The St. George's Standard

It is interesting to note that even in 1673 when Bombay flew the Union Jack, Madras displayed St. George's Standard; and Fryer's drawing of the White Town shows the cross of St. George floating from the Fort flag staff. In 1687 the Company expressed surprise that "you had worn any other than his Majesty's Union flag these last two years,

which is of absolute necessity for you to do, and our positive order that you shall always wear His Majesty's Flag." On the 12th June 1688, the Union Jack was accordingly hoisted on the 'English Bastion' of the Inner Fort in the presence of the Civil servants, the three companies of the Garrison, the Training Bands, and the Principal inhabitants—Europeans and Indians, to be brought down finally only on 15th August 1947, after 259 years.

East India Company

In 1698, Bengal was made independent of Fort Saint George. In the same year Thomas Pitt, grand-father of the celebrated Earl of Chatham, succeeded Higginson as Governor of Madras. Disputes now arose between the old or London Company and the newly formed English Company. The old company was the Scotch East India Company originally embodied by King James I in 1617. This led to the depression of trade, and the circumstances finally brought about an amalgamation of all traders to India, under the appellation of the 'United East India Company' established under Queen Anne's Charter in 1702.



The Tax

In October 1680, there were difficulties of internal administration at Madras. A strike took place regarding taxes amongst the inhabitants who dyed local calicoes and were known by the name of painters and the whole body left the Company's Jurisdiction and went away to Santhome threatening to assassinate such local servants of the Company who refused to join them. These men also prevented provisions and goods from entering the town. The Governor in Council thereupon entertained a hundred Portuguese to keep watch over the calico-washers, that they might not follow the same example. The wives and children of the mutineers were taken out of their houses in Black Town and driven into the pagoda; and it was proclaimed by beat of drum that unless the mutineers delivered themselves up within ten days, all their houses, goods and cattle within the jurisdiction of the Company would be confiscated. After eight days the ring leaders were arrested at Santhome and brought within the Company's territories. These were committed to prison; and on the same evening the rest came into the town and surrendered.

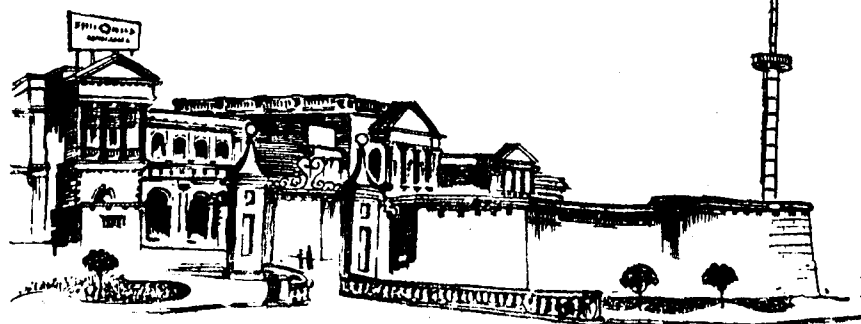
The Directors had been for a long time anxious to raise a quit rent from all the householders in Madras, local and European. They hoped, by so doing, to defray the yearly charge for repairs and fortifications. Mr. Steynsham Master, the Governor had succeeded in raising some such tax; utilising it, however, not for repairs or fortifications but for promoting the sanitation of the "Black Town." On his departure the local population of Black Town petitioned against the tax, and the new Governor Mr. William Gyfford abolished it.

Again Mr. Gyfford was compelled to levy a small monthly tax on all the inhabitants. The heads of the Castes were sent for, and they were told that if they were not willing to pay this tax they must sell their houses and move elsewhere. They agreed to pay annually "nine fanams for every big house, six fanams for every small house and three fanams for every little round-house." The matter nevertheless was kept in abeyance till January 1686, when in consequence of peremptory orders from England Mr. Littleton was appointed to collect the tax. A tumult ensued and all shops were closed. To suppress the

sedition, an armed force was called out. Proclamation was made that if the heads of the castes did not submit themselves before sunset, their several houses would be pulled down, the ground would be sold, and themselves and their families would be banished from the town for ever; and that if the bazaar-people did not open their shops and carry on business as usual, their shops would be confiscated and a fine would be imposed. The next morning the heads of the castes appeared before the Council, and stated that they would not obey orders, but on preceiving that the latter were determined, they submitted.

Use of slaves

The use of slaves for domestic purposes in Madras was then recognized, and sales and purchases were invariably registered at the Choultry. The iniquitous practice of stealing children for export was, of course, illegal, and John Leigh's severe condemnation in 1653, will doubtless be remembered. Thirty years later fresh complaints resulted in an absolute prohibition against the exportation of slaves of any age.



In 1687, however, the trade was recognized under regulation, a duty of one pagoda being exacted for each slave sent from Madras by sea. The accounts of the sea Customer for September 1687, show that no fewer than 665 slaves were exported during that month. Slaves were also purchased for the service of the Company.

First Police Force

Sir Thomas Chambers, Governor, gave a cowle to the Pedda Naik who undertook to guard the town of Chinnapatnam (Madraspatnam). Twenty peons were at this period a sufficient police. They were paid in small duties and customs and some paddy fields. To Thomas Chambers, Agent of Fort Saint George

belongs the credit of organising the first police force, for the protection of property in Madras. From the earliest times a kind of Watchman duty had been performed by a native called the Pedda Naik. This man entered into a contract to provide twenty men for a certain sum to keep watch over the property of the inhabitants. But both the Fort and Black Town were growing in size, and the Pedda Naik's duties increased. He complained that the sum of money was insufficient to supply the requisite number of watchmen. His petition for a larger subsidy was entertained and he was assigned certain paddy fields together with some small customs on common articles of consumption. For this he provided fifty

watchmen, who were to be responsible for the orderliness of Blacktown, and for the good conduct of all the local inhabitants of the Fort. These arrangements, made by Chambers, served very well for the next quarter of a century, when they had to be reorganised on account of the bribery and corruption that went on.

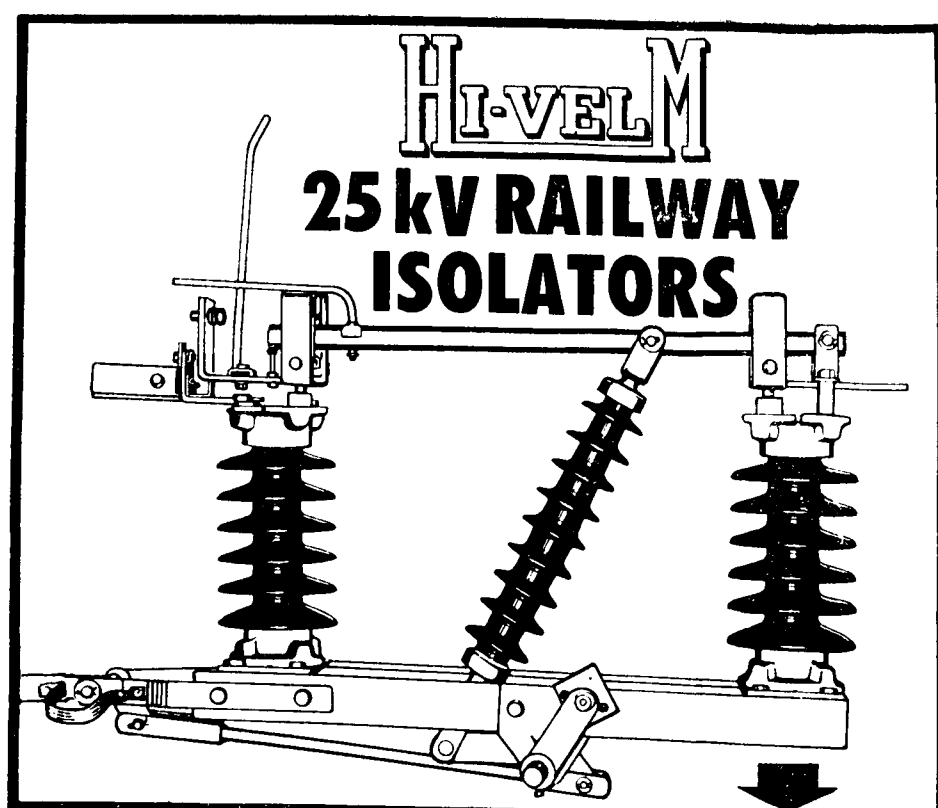
Municipal Service

Streymsam Master, one of the early Governors of Madras, did a great deal in organising the town for Municipal purposes. He resolved to impose a house tax and to appoint a servant with power to collect this tax and to hire coolies to remove the dirt and filth of the Town.

(To be continued.)



Situated probably in the most idyllic place at the Nilgiris the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, a Government of India enterprise manufactures Cine Positive and Cine Sound (Black and White), Bromide Paper, Medical X-ray Film, Roll Films and Cassettes. With an anticipated turnover of Rs. 15 crores a year the HPF's role in photographic and allied industry will be of growing importance. Manufactured in technical collaboration with primarily Messrs Baughet of France the products undergo rigorous quality control.



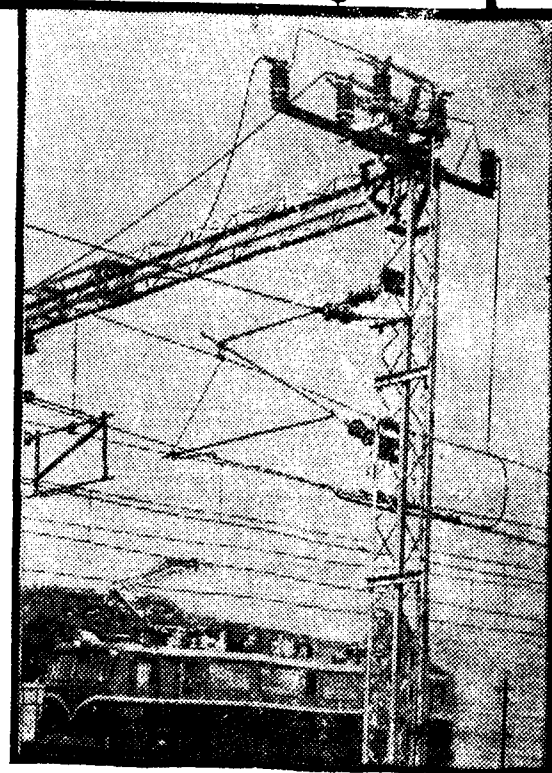
Hivelm are happy to announce their special 25 kV Single Pole and Double Pole Isolators for the Railways. Having successfully satisfied all rigid railway specifications and standards, these isolators are now being manufactured for the Railway Electrification Schemes like Kanpur-Tundla Electrification, etc. Several hundreds of isolators of entirely indigenous design will be shortly supplied to the Railway Electrification authorities.

The following are some of the salient features:

- * Sturdy in design
- * Carries two sturdy Hivelm patented contacts on the end posts
- * Liberally rated blade to operate with the rocking insulator
- * Avoids flexible connections to give high short-circuit withstand level.
- * Easy operation.

HIVELM INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LTD.

Madras-41.



THE HISTORIC FORT SAINT GEORGE

DIFFICULTIES OF
EARLY GOVERNORS

BY

THIRU S. SINGARAJAN, M.A., M. LITT.,

Director of Archives.

(This is the third and concluding part of the article. The first and the second parts appeared in the August 5th and 20th 1970 issues of Tamil Arasu.)

PART III

Of the early Merchant Governors Elihu Yale has earned the rare distinction of having a University named after him for a small gift. Yale had amassed considerable wealth in India, and he spent it liberally in England. At the request of Cotton Mather in 1718, he assisted the then struggling collegiate school of Connecticut with a gift of books and pictures which realized £560. However, in the final years of his Governorship, Yale was virtually a prisoner in the Fort as he had acquired enormous wealth by lucrative trade. But his small gift to the Connecticut Collegiate School has earned for him a name better than the Egyptian Pyramid. In recognition of his munificence, the College and subsequently the University which grew out of it, were called after his name.

Governors imprisoned

A unique distinction in the history of Fort Saint George is that twice the head of the administration was deposed and imprisoned by their Councils. Sir Edward Winter the Governor from 1661-64 was accused of extravagance and partiality towards Roman Catholics. Without giving an opportunity to explain he was superseded by George Foxcroft but Winter continued Second in Council. In 1665 when Foxcroft assumed charge he found that Winter was indebted to the Company and asked him questions about his conduct. Winter was indignant at his supersession and resolved upon a bold expedient of usurping the Government. He accused Foxcroft of being a Puritan and a Cromwellian in his sympathies and of being against King Charles II. He went with armed musketeers, entered his chamber, arrested Foxcroft and his son. Final orders did not come from England till 1668 and the lawful Governor was till then in prison. It was believed that Winter even thought of giving

over Madras to the Dutch and the English thought of even abandoning Madras. It is interesting to read the order of the Governor of Bombay Island re-appointing Foxcroft as Governor in 1666 which was received in 1667 and Winter refusing to obey it. Two ships with two special envoys from England arrived at Fort Saint George, took possession of the Fort after personal guarantee to Winter for the security of his person and property. Foxcroft was released from prison and reinstated as President. He left for England in 1672.

During the second Governorship of Lord Pigot from 1775, he promised the restoration of the Raja of Tanjore which created suspicion of his motive. His relation with the Nawab also was strained as the former failed to make the remittances to the palace. This brought him into conflict with Robert Fletcher, the Commander-in-Chief. At the same time Benfield laid a claim against the revenues of Tanjore, and demanded the enormous sum of Twenty-three lakhs

of rupees for money lent to the Nawab, though he did not say how he became possessed of such a large sum. Pigot refused to allow it as he considered it fraudulent; but several of the members of the Council, being personally interested in the claim, supported Benfield, and procured a majority in his favour. The majority took action on behalf of Sir Robert Fletcher, and arranged for Pigot's arrest. As the Governor was returning from the Council Chamber in the Fort to Government House, his carriage was stopped by the Adjutant-General, Lieutenant Colonel Edington, and Captain Lysaght. Colonel Stuart, who was sitting by the side of Pigot, and of whom the Governor entertained no suspicion, stepped out of the carriage and asked Captain Lysaght to take his place. Pigot was then driven straight to St. Thomas' Mount where he was left in the custody of Mathew Horne, Major of the Artillery, who was commanding the station. The trouble into which the brave old Governor had fallen preyed upon his spirits; and with excitement and infirmity his health failed. The Surgeon at the Mount ordered his removal back to Government House on the Cooum. Pigot seemed unable to rally, and in May, 1777, he died there. He was buried in a nameless grave inside St. Mary's Church. A plain slab engraved with a cross and the words "In memoriam"

is the adequate and only memorial to mark the last resting place of a man who saw Fort St. George through a crisis in its existence, and who helped to lay the foundation of that bulwark of the Presidency, the Madras Army. His name was cleared of all imputations; and the charges made by his enemies against him of enriching himself fraudulently were amply refuted. It was in his endeavours to suppress the very fault he was charged with that he made for himself enemies.

Face to face

These struggles only remind us of the great controversies that exist in history about the personalities of those pioneers who tried to found an empire. The career of Clive is still more poignant when we read that he tried to commit suicide while he was in Madras. The humiliations that Warren Hastings suffered at the hands of his own countrymen are still greater—facing the highest Court of Judicature in England accused by eminent men like Burke, Fox and Sheridan. The history of France is no exception as could be seen from the differences of opinion between French generals and admirals during the Carnatic wars and the career of Napoleon who himself died a prisoner. Empires themselves have disappeared but the new frontiers of conquering the hearts of men have become the theme after Indian Independence.

The name of empire-builders will be forgotten but not the names of great administrators like Sir Thomas Munro (1820—27) who by his revenue and educational reforms had won a lasting name. Henry Pottinger, Governor of Madras (1853) who wrote the famous dissenting minutes in favour of Tamil as the medium of instruction in schools and colleges, Harris, the Governor of Madras (1854—59) who abolished torture in revenue and police cases and separated Revenue, Police and the Judiciary from each other and Sir Charles Trevelyan (1859—60) who organised the High Court of Madras are memorable names in the history of Madras.

Changing Times

Fort St. George which resembled a factory of the erstwhile East India Company till the other day gives a promising look for the first time now with its green carpets, tidy corridors and brisk movement of files. Time is not far off when the Tamil Nadu Secretariat will put on a 'new look' against a picturesque surrounding of the garden stretching on the banks of the renovated but proverbial 'Silvery Cooum', which the present Government has so thoughtfully taken up for renovation after the lapse of a period of more than three centuries from the time of men have become the theme when Francis Day laid the foundation of the Fort on its banks.

A TREASURE TROVE
OF BEAUTICRAFTS

KURALAGAM

KHADIKRAFT EMPORIUM ESPLANADE

Phone: 26762-21552-21553

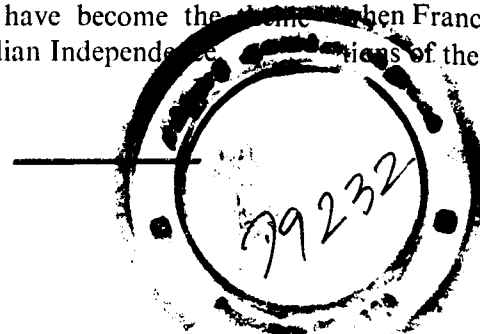
The one place
for
all things



A MUST FOR EVERY
TOURIST VISITING
MADRAS

V211M

N70





Verified
M

This is the design of the proposed Flag of the State of Tamil Nadu, which has been sent to Government of India for approval. In the communication dated 23 May 1970 it has been made clear that the proposed Flag will be used by the Ministers within the State. It will not replace the National Flag, which will be flown as usual during National Festivals and over Government offices and buildings.