

1,000-10-6-10.
Educational (1913) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 197

DATED 3.3. 1913.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Jamil dictionary. Recording ^{with remarks} letter from the Secretary, Saiva Sabha, Palamcottah, forwarding ^{across of} the resolutions of the Sabha ^{passed} at a meeting held on the 31st March January 1913 in connection with the ^{proposed} compilation of a — by the Government.

TK 9/2



THE PROPOSED TAMIL DICTIONARY UNDER ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT.

In pursuance of a notice circulated by the Secretary of the SAIVA SABAH, Palamcottah to thank the Government of Madras, for their proposal to compile a comprehensive Tamil Dictionary, and to submit certain suggestions in connection with it, there was a well-attended and influential meeting, on the 31st January last at 6—30 P.M., in the hall of that Sabah. The pick of the educated community both at Tinnevely and Palamcottah were there, and the following were observed amongst them viz, Mr. N. A. V. Somasundram Pillai B. A. B. L., High Court Vakild and Trustee of the famous temple of Sankaranainarkoil, Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastrial B. A. B. L., District Munsif and an eminent Sanskrit Scholar, Mr. V. V. Srinivasa-chariar, B. A. B. L., High Court Vakild, Mr. K. G. Krisbhaswami Iyer B. A. Ex-president, Palamcottah Municipal Council, Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiar B. A. B. L., the present President of that Municipality, Mr. T. Srinivasa Naidu Bar-at-law, Mr. S. Palaniandi Mudaliar B. A. Vakild, Mr. T. P. Velayutham Pillai B. A. B. L., Vakild, Mr. C. P. Subbiah Pillai B. A. Vakild, Mr. L. Arumugam Pillai B. A. B. L., Vakild, Mr. P. K. Aiyaswami Pillai B. A. B. L., Vakild, Mr. S. Karunakara Das Pillai B. A. Vakild, Mr. J. Ganapathiappa Pillai B. A. Retired Deputy Collector, Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai, M. R. A. S. Retired Excise Commissioner Travancore, Mr. T. Siva Chidambaram Pillai the most Scholarly of the Police Officers of the District, Mr. Guruswami Iyer Sub-Inspector of Police, Mr. T. Nallasivan Pillai B. A. B. L. Vakild, Mr. V. S. Sivagnana Desigar Secretary Saiva Sabah, Mr. S. Veerabahu Pillai Contractor, Mr. N. Chokkalingam Pillai B. A., Mr. Arunachala Mudaliar Head Clerk Assistant Inspector of Schools, Mr. G. Subraya Pillai and others.

The first resolution, namely, that Mr. N. A. V. Somasundram Pillai B. A. B. L., be requested to take the chair, was proposed by Mr. T. Srinivasa Naidu, Bar-at-law, and seconded by Mr. T. P. Velayutham Pillai, B. A. B. L. and passed unanimously. He made a lengthy speech touching on most of the important resolutions to be placed before the meeting, and then called upon Mr. P. K. Aiyaswami Pillai B. A. B. L. to move the second resolution which ran as follows :—

“That while this representative meeting is delighted to learn that His Excellency the Viceroy was so far recovered as to be able to attend the first meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, and open it at great personal risk and sacrifice, and feels sincerely thankful for the great confidence he has reposed in the Indian people by leaving himself and Lady Hardinge to their care, it seeks permission to congratulate him on his marvellous recovery, and to offer their heart felt prayers to Almighty God to vouchsafe to His Excellency, the complete restoration of his health to enable him to discharge the functions of his high office, and years of unalloyed happiness.”

The speech of Mr. P. K. Aiyaswami Pillai was very affecting, particularly when he referred to the pathetic words of His Excellency, that he left himself and Lady Hardinge to the care of the Indian people. This was seconded by Mr. S. Karunagaradas Pillai B. A.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastrigal B. A. B. L., to move the third resolution which runs as follows :— "That this meeting beg to thank the Government of Madras, for the broad minded and sympathetic policy with which they have been promoting the study and improvement of the vernaculars of the Presidency, and for the generosity with which they have placed one hundred thousands of Rupees at the disposal of the syndicate of the University of Madras, for undertaking the compilation and publication of a standard and comprehensive dictionary in Tamil on modern lines, as a fore-runner of similar works in the other vernaculars of this part of India."

Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastrigal in proposing the resolution said, that it was magnanimity on the part of the Government, that prompted them to come forward to compile a Tamil Dictionary at immense cost, and that it was one of the ways to improve the Tamil Language. He further said that it was a step on the part of the benign Government to raise the people in the scale of civilisation, and added that they would not content themselves with giving to the people a Tamil Dictionary alone, but would extend the boon to other languages. In seconding the proposition Mr. J. Ganapathiappa Pillai said that Tamil was one of the most independent and ancient languages of the World and its leading feature was its expressiveness. As an example he mentioned that the word "Gentleman" conveys certain High Qualities of man in consonant to the ages in which he lived, and the that Tamil Language was capable of giving expression to such ideas according to the change of times. He also said that the fact that Tamil was one of the noblest of languages was evident from the fact that the highest ideas of morality are found in that language. He concluded by stating that in by-gone days the Kings of Southern India encouraged only the votaries of literature, but now the British Government encouraged them as well as the language and literature.

The Chairman summoned up the speeches, and put the resolution before the meeting. It was passed with acclamation.

Next the Chairman called upon Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai M. R. A. S. to move the fourth resolution which ran as follows :— "That this meeting beg further to submit the following suggestions for the consideration of the benign Government.

(1) That they may be pleased to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the Government of Ceylon, which has a large Tamil speaking population, and must therefore be interested in a monumental work of the kind, financially and otherwise.

(2) That they may be pleased to call upon all the learned societies in the Tamil Districts, such as the two Tamil Sangams at Madura, one at Tanjore, the Sentamil Sangam at Chidambaram, the Tamil Academy at the Mint Street Madras, the Tamil Sangam at Jaffna, the Saiva Sabah at Palamcottah, and similar Institutions, to co-operate with the committee appointed by the Government, at Madras in connection with the preparation of the proposed Dictionary, and which may for the sake of convenience be called the Central Committee.

(3) That they may be pleased to appoint in the place of the late lamented Sriraman Pandichurai Tevar, a suitable Indian Gentleman, who combines in himself to a decent knowledge of English, a sound scholarship in Tamil, and also to

enlarge the committee, by adding to it at least four other gentlemen having the same qualifications.

(4). That the following names are submitted as some of those possessing the qualifications referred to above :—

1. Mr. J. M. Velu Pillai Late of the Madras Educational Service.
2. Mr. Chelvakesavaraya Mudaliar M. A. Patchayappan's College, Madras.
3. Mr. Thirumalaikolundu Pillai M. A. Christian College, Madras.
4. Mr. Pandit D. Savariraya Pillai M. R. A. S. St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly.
5. Mr. J. M. Nallaswami Pillai B. A. B. L. Choolai, Madras.
6. Mr. K. G. Sesha Iyer B. A. B. L. High Court Vakil, Travancore.
7. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai B. A. Travancore.
8. Mr. T. Kailasa Pillai Mudaliar Colonial Office, Colombo.
9. Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar B. A. B. L. High Court Vakil, Coimbatore.

5. That they may be pleased to form representative committees in every District including Ceylon, whose duties should be to take a census of all the Tamil scholars within their limits, collect through them all the necessary materials for a dictionary, collate them, and submit the results thus obtained to the Central Committee in some prescribed form.

6. That they may be pleased to call upon that committee, to put together all such information as well as those collected under their immediate supervision, print the result thus obtained in the usual form of dictionary in convenient sizes, with sufficient space for interlineation and for marginal notes, circulate them amongst the District Committees and learned Societies, who in their turn may circulate them amongst the scholars in their lists, receive back the proof sheets with necessary remarks and additional informations, enter them on clean proof sheets after sifting, and transmit them to the Central Committee, who may adopt finally the matter to be printed and published.

Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai in moving this resolution explained the several classes, one by one, and requested the audience to add more names under class four, if any struck them. This was seconded by Mr. T. Nallasivan Pillai B. A. B. L. in a neat little speech, and finally stated that he was tempted to add the name of the proposer himself, but as the rules of debate did not permit him, he refrained from doing so.

At this stage Mr. K. G. Krishnaswami Iyer rose and moved an amendment to the effect that the name of the proposer, and that of Ramanuja Chariar Tamil Pandit in the Kumbakonam College should be added to those in Class No. 4, and said that both the gentlemen were scholars in English and Tamil, and that it would be a great defect if their names were not found in the list.

This amendment was duly seconded by Mr. T. P. Velayudam Pillai B. A. B. L.

The Chairman put the amendment first before the meeting which was passed unanimously. Then the substantive resolution was put before it, and passed also unanimously.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiar B.A. B. L. to move the fifth resolution which ran as follows :—namely, that as the Lexicon should be modelled on the lines of the most approved of the latest of English Dictionaries including the discussion of questions of Philology, particularly of Etymology, and quotations from eminent authors for every shade of meaning, this meeting begs that the Government or the syndicate may be pleased to direct the Central Committee, to formulate and publish as a preliminary measure a detailed plan of the work they have set before themselves, with a view to invite public discussion on the matter.

Mr. Reddiar emphasised on the necessity on the part of the committee in taking the public into its confidence. This resolution was seconded by Mr. V. V. Srinivasa Chariar B. A. B. L., in a learned and interesting speech.

The resolution was put to the vote by the Chairman and it was carried unanimously.

The sixth resolution which ran as follows :—namely, That the Secretary of the Saiva Sabah Palamcottah be requested to forward resolutions Nos. 3, 4 and 5 to the Governments of Madras and Ceylon, to the syndicate of the University of Madras, to the Collector of this District, and to all the learned Tamil Societies in this Presidency and Ceylon, together with copies of the proceedings of this meeting That the Secretary be further requested to be good enough to forward a copy of resolution No. 2 to the Private Secretary of His Excellency the Viceroy. This was proposed by Mr. S. Karunakaradas Pillai B. A. and seconded by Mr. L. Arumugam Pillai B. A. B. L. The proposition was put before the meeting and carried unanimously.

The seventh resolution which ran as follows :— That the Saiva Sabah Palamcottah, particularly its Secretary Mr. V. S. Sivagnana Desikar be thanked for calling this meeting, and for permitting the use of this Hall on this occasion, was proposed by Mr. S. Palaniandi Mudaliar B. A. in a humorous speech in the course of it, he said that the Sabah and the Secretary have been doing a good deal of useful work, as far as the Tamil Language was concerned, he further said that the Hall served a great public want and for all purposes, but that of politics. This was seconded by Mr. Kalyanasundram Pillai B. A. B. L., and passed unanimously.

The eighth and the last resolution was voting of thanks to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair, which was moved by Mr. P. R. Meenakshisundram Pillai B. A. B. L. In the course of a short speech, he said that Mr. Somasundram Pillai was an ideal Chairman, and he was always in requisition whenever a public meeting was held. This was seconded by Mr. C. P. Subbiah Pillai B. A.

This brought the proceedings to a close.

CHINTHAMANI PRESS,—PALAMCOTTAH.

NOTE FILE.

Encl. 1
to CP. 5282/12

C. No. 528 From the Saiva Sabah Palamcottah 1866/1868 dated 4-2-1913.

SUBJECT.

Preparation of the Tamil Lexicon.

The Govt have entrusted the work of controlling and supervising the preparation and publication of the Tamil Lexicon to the University of Madras and the Saiva Sabah of Palamcottah has forwarded a copy of its resolutions regarding the preparation of the dictionary to that body. Any action necessary in pursuance of the Sabah's resolutions will be taken by the University. The current may therefore be ~~simply~~ recorded with a remark to that effect.

2 The draft below is for approval.

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Go. no 99142 W
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” ” ” ” ” 191 .

C. No. 528, From the Saira Sabah Pahmotta, No. 1806, dated 4-2-1913.

[illegible]

” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191 .

No. 197 his dated 3. 3. 1913.

Recorded

2. The Govt. notes that a copy of the resolutions has been forwarded ^{direct} to the University of Madras to whom the work of controlling and supervising the preparation and publication of the Tamil Lexicon has been entrusted.

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To The Secy. Saira Sabah, Palamcottah

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 When examined _____
 When signed _____

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READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____
 191 _____

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO O. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETTS.

PAYERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

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V.R.—

A = Copy in full
 B = Not to be copied.
 F = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy Heading only