

Educational (1916) Department.

Mis SERIES.

G.O. No. 564- Col

DATED 22-5-16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording letter from the President of the South India Appresses classes Union bringing the union to the notice of the Government

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1979-4.



CN 17732
19.5.16

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OOTACAMUND.

17th May 1916.

Dear Mr. Rajagopalachariar

I am to transfer to you for information the enclosed letter of 20th March from the President and the General Secretary of the South India Oppressed Classes Union, and its enclosures. I also send you Mr. Wood's reply of 8th May to my letter asking him for information as to the Union, its leaders and its qualifications for the work it has undertaken.

Yours sincerely,

Let Morris

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur

P. Rajagopalachariar Avl., C.I.E.,

Secretary to Government, Public Dept.,

Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund.

Sk

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

PRESIDENT... MR. P. S. SAMUEL, MISSION BARRACKS, NEGAPATAM.
 GENERAL SECRETARY... MR. S. A. S. TANGAMUTHU, Do.
 TREASURER... MR. M. MUTHU, MELAPALAYAM, TINNEVELLY BRIDGE.
 EDITORIAL SECRETARY... MR. DAVID FENN, VIRUDUPATI, S. P. R.

HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
 Negapatam, S. India.
 March 20 1936

To
 The Private Secretary
 To
 The Governor of Fort Saint George.

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Sir,

We beg to submit herewith some papers in connection with the South India Oppressed Classes Union and request that you will kindly recommend and place them before His Excellency the Governor of Madras for favourable disposal.

As a nucleus of our efforts, we have already started a Boarding School at Koilpati, Tinnevelly District, for the children of the Depressed classes. We are also planning for a Model Agricultural School at Melapalayam, Tinnevelly District.

We, the undersigned, beg to inform you that we are Indian Christians and are employed at present as Teachers in the Wesleyan Mission High School, Negapatam. The Principal of the Institution is the Rev. R. Smailes M.A. who will, we are sure, testify to our character and loyalty to the British Raj.

We are seriously thinking of consecrating our lives for the cause of the depressed classes, if the benign British Government will kindly patronize our meagre efforts.

We beg to remain,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servants

P. S. Samuel PRESIDENT.
 S. A. S. Tangamuthu GENERAL SECRETARY.
 South India Oppressed Classes Union.

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

PRESIDENT ... MR. P. S. SAMUEL, MISSION BARRACKS, NEGAPATAM,
 GENERAL SECRETARY MR. S. A. S. TANGAMUTTHU, Do. Do.
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HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
 Negapatam, S. India.
 March 20, 1916.

To

His Excellency The Right Hon'ble

Baron Pentland of Lyth, P.C., G.C., I.E.,

Governor of Fort Saint George.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the officers of the South India Oppressed Classes' Union, humbly beg your Excellency to be graciously pleased to peruse the following account of the Union started and inaugurated on 25-5-1915 and also the papers submitted along with this.

The Union has been started for the elevation ^{of the} so-called "Depressed Classes", intellectually, morally and socially. The pitiable conditions of these people who form one fifth of the population of this Presidency, we believe, are well known to your Excellency.

These people are so ignorant and illiterate that they are not in a position to realize their deplorable condition and to receive the benefits so freely offered by Government and other philanthropic Societies or Associations working here and there in the Presidency. Not only do they ignore the help thus rendered but also, we regret to say, offer resistance to the same.

The Originators of the Union, had for several years been contemplating as to how best to bring about an Organisation of this kind. True it is that there are various Depressed Classes' Missions working under the leadership of eminent Social Reformers and Philanthropic Statesmen such as Sir C. Sankaranair C.I.E. of

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HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
 Negapatam, S. India.

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of the Depressed Class Mission, Madras, Late Sir Gokhale of the Servants of India, Bombay, Mr. Israel Nallappah of the Depressed Classes Elevation Society of South India, Pandur, Tiruvallur, Chingleput District, but as far as we see their work seems to be only superficial as it is from without. To remedy the defects of these, this Union has been started. It proposes to approach the Elders of these people in their villages, who are their Gurus and Secular Leaders in all their doings for good or bad and to awaken in them the consciousness that the "Salvation of the Depressed Classes rests with the Depressed Classes themselves".

The Originators of the Union sent out a special Appeal in Tamil (copy enclosed) to many members of these classes including the few educated among them, and got their hearty and ready willingness to start this Union (Kindly see the enclosed copy of a letter received from the President of the South Indian United Association of Ceylon). The Inaugural Meeting of this Union was held on 21-5-1915 at Virudupatti S. I. R., a central place for the three Districts of Tinnevely, Ramnad and Madura, at which three Sects of these people were represented—Palla, Pariah and Chukla. Extracts of the Proceedings are herewith submitted.

The Union has proposed to open Model Schools at Melapalayam and Koilpatty of the Tinnevely District, and at Aruppukottai of the Ramnad District, for imparting general education and teaching

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teaching Agriculture and some trades, as many of these people
are practical agriculturists and labourers in the field. It
does not propose to interfere with any of the existing schools
managed by Government, Municipalities, Taluk Boards, and other
organised bodies.

It may be remarked that this Union has been curiously named
as "The Oppressed Classes' Union". The names suggested by the
Originators, viz., "The South India Panchama Union" and The
South India Depressed Classes Mission" were not welcome to the
members as they said that they were not depressed but oppressed
by other people even in trifling matters such as the wearing of
shoes and holding of umbrellas. They are even prohibited to dress
properly and to pass by the King's Road of a village. The village
officials are a terror to these ignorant people even when they
are leading a quiet and peaceful life. These must be satisfied
with the decision of the village officials whether they have
adjudicated their affairs rightly or wrongly. The landlords, on the
other hand, oppress them in many more ways than is consi-
dered in the Bill and are not
allowing their children to attend schools as they are also
employed to tend their masters' cattle for little or nothing.
They are not allowed to go abroad to better their means of living as they
have been cunningly deceived by their landlords to borrow from them
such sums of money which they can never dream of repaying in their
life time, except by hard labour. Hence the name "The South India

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THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

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H HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
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"Oppressed Classes Union" is given to suit the desire of the majority of the depressed classes, and may be changed for a better one if found necessary.

The microscopic number of the few educated people among these classes are afraid of coming forward to represent their classes for fear of oppression and loss of appointments and positions if they declare themselves Panchamas. More than one half of the male population of these classes are migrating to Ceylon, the Strait Settlements, and other places, as domestic servants or indentured coolies to free themselves from their hereditary bondage of their own villages.

That these people are very loyal to the British Raj needs no proof. But we wish to give your Excellency just one instance. Just before the dastardly murder of R.W. Ashe Esq., Collector of the Tinnevelly District (a genuine representative of the King Emperor), the so-called high caste people of Tuticorin, tempted the domestic servants who belong to the oppressed classes with money and other things to give up service under Europeans and threatened them saying that if they did not yield, their houses and property would be looted. But, these people adhered to their masters boldly and faithfully.

In these days of cries of Self-Government and Home Rule for India, this Union begs your Excellency to consider the deplorable state of the Depressed Classes.

We believe we have not tired your Excellency's patience with this rather a long account.

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

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HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
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In conclusion, we humbly beg your Excellency to be graciously
pleased to give this Union your kind support and patronage
personal and official, for which act of charity and philanthropy,
we shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

We beg to remain,

Your Excellency's most loyal and dutiful servants

P. S. Samuel PRESIDENT.
S. A. S. Tangamutthu GENERAL SECRETARY.

For the South India Oppressed Classes Union.

A copy of the draft rules is herewith submitted.

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

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HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
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C O P Y .

South Indian United Association of Ceylon.

No. 221, Colpetty,
Colombo.

S. A. S. Thangamuthu Esq.,
Joint Organising Secretary,
Negapatam.

Dear Sir,

We, the members of the South Indian United Association of Ceylon, take this opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks for your esteemed letter of the 6th May 1915, intimating us that an Association is to be organised for the purpose of maintaining the rights and privileges of our own people.

In regard to the formation of a branch in Ceylon we beg to inform you that we have already established an Association which has for its main aim the social and individual betterment of our own people. We hope you will be very glad to hear that a literary Association was in existence for the last one and half years and it has been recently amalgamated with the former under the name of "SOUTH INDIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON". We have herewith enclosed a copy of our rules and regulations from which you can understand what objects this association has been started with. our views and plans are concentrated to one part or a small body of men. As our Association is in its full swing we are unable to give you all of a sudden a definite reply. We shall be glad to have

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a copy of your rules and regulations framed at the inaugural meeting so as to enable us to consider what steps should be taken to form a new branch Association with the Office-bearers as mentioned in the letter.

It will be obliging if you would make arrangements to give a call at this place to inspire the hearts of these members who are still dormant for want of encouragement.

In the mean time we give our candid assurance that we will put forth our best energy available to make this a permanent success and we will work with a spirit of cheerfulness and cordiality towards the fulfilment of which its highest destinies.

If we wish to be crowned with success in our undertaking we should be girded with **PERFECT** UNITY, NATIONAL LOVE, AND SELF-SACRIFICE. Above all it is absolutely necessary for us TO SEEK THE GUIDANCE OF OUR ALMIGHTY, Who will never look with unconcern upon the situation and sufferings of His own creatures formed after His Own Image.

It reflects credit on your part for having hit upon such a brilliant conception as to organise an Association of this sort which will be considered as a new era for this depressed class of people. We are really astonished at your bravery and enthusiasm you are being actuated with. It is sure and certain that our Heavenly Father will shower His Blessings upon you in torrents for working for His cause.

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C O P Y .

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We earnestly wish the Association a career of brilliant
 success and steady progress on the path of improvement.

We remain, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) S. P. Gopalaswamy,

P R E S I D E N T .

Colombo, 24th May 15.

A T R U E C O P Y .

P. S. Samuel PRESIDENT.
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20-3-1916.

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THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.
 HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
 Negapatam, S. India.

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

Draft Rules.

- I. Name. This Union shall be called "The South India Oppressed Classes' Union.
- II. Establishment. This Union was established on 21-5-1915, and shall be legally registered as soon as possible.
- III. Object. The objects of the Union shall be:-
1. To improve the intellectual, social, moral and industrial conditions, and the advancement of its members.
 2. To establish schools for its members to impart secular education combined with training in agriculture, Industries and handicrafts,
 3. To improve their existing but decayed good discipline,
 4. To collect funds for giving effect to the objects of the Union, and to utilise them as the Provincial Union may from time to time decide,
 5. To collect and diffuse information regarding its members,
 6. To watch their interests as far as they may be affected by any proposed legislation, either of the British Government or of the Governments of any of the Native States or other Acts of such Government.
 7. To promote the welfare of the members of the oppressed Classes in general by every legitimate means in its power, and
 8. To do such other things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects,
- Provided however, that the Union shall not interfere with the distinctive differences or practices of any sect of the oppressed classes.
- IV. Loyalty. This Union shall always be loyal to Government.
- V. Membership. All persons, above the age of 18, of the oppressed classes
1. irrespective of caste or creed, shall be eligible for admission to the Union.
 2. All persons other than the oppressed classes shall be members of the Advisory Board.
- Any person devoting much of his or her energy, time and money

for the conduct of the Union shall be called "The Promoter of the Union" and shall be either Active Member of the Union or shall be on the Advisory Board, according to the discretion of the President of the Union.

4. All applications for admission shall be forwarded to the General Secretary, along with the year's subscription, and if approved by the President of the Union, the applicant shall be enrolled as a member.
5. The annual subscriptions of the members shall be Re:1 for the Promoters of the Union, Re:1, As:8, As 4 per family of ordinary members, or, in lieu of it, staple grains, which shall be decided from time to time by the President of the Union.
6. The Promoters' subscription shall be paid in the month of January, and the subscriptions of the ordinary members shall be paid at fixed seasons as decided by their respective Unions.
7. The Promoters shall, with the previous approval of the President, attend and vote in all meetings of the Union and shall be entitled to all the benefits of the Union..
8. No member who has not paid his or her subscription within the prescribed time and season, shall be entitled to receive any notice of the meetings, or take part in, or exercise, his or her right to vote at any meeting or exercise any other privilege as a member of the Union.

N.B. The term "Oppressed Classes", shall include all sects under the Oppressed Classes from Ceylon, The Straits-Settlements, Burma, and other Colonies, resident in India.

VI.

VILLAGE UNION.

1. All persons of the Oppressed Classes of a Village shall form the Village Union.
2. Its affairs shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and three members elected annually at its General Meeting.
3. It shall hold monthly meetings besides Special and

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3. It shall hold monthly meetings besides Special and

5. It shall employ a Travelling Secretary to attend the Annual Meetings.

4. Two thirds of the members shall form a quorum.

5. It shall collect and expend the income, subject to the approval of the President of the Union.

6. It shall aim at the compulsory education of its members by opening night and day schools or by sending the school-going children to the nearest school or schools conducted by Municipalities, Taluk Boards, Government or by Missionaries.

7. It shall take adequate measures to bring down the drink evil to the minimum.

8. It shall take a lively interest to encourage petty trades Agricultural pursuits, &c., with the help of the Government Co-operative Societies.

9. It shall send an annual report to the General Secretary for submission to the President of the Union.

10. It shall have a Committee consisting of a President,

VI. Taluk Union. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Travelling Secretary, and three members from each District Union, who shall be elected annually at its General Meeting.

1. All the village Unions of the Taluk, shall form the Taluk Union, and its affairs shall be managed by a Committee consisting of

a chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 members from each village Union, who shall be elected annually at its General Meeting.

3. It shall hold regular bi-monthly meetings.

4. Two thirds of the members shall form a quorum.

5. Rules 5 to 9 of the village Union shall apply to this Union also.

VII. District Union. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Travelling Secretary, and three members from each Taluk Union, who shall be elected annually at its General Meeting.

1. All the Taluk Unions of a District shall form the District Union, and its affairs shall be managed by a committee, consisting of

a chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Travelling Secretary, and three members from each Taluk Union, who shall be elected annually at its General Meeting.

3. It shall hold regular Quarterly Meetings besides special and annual Meetings.

4. It shall maintain a school for general education combined with training in Agriculture, Industries, and Handicrafts aided by Government grants from the Provincial Union, and the subscriptions and donations.

5. It shall employ a Travelling Secretary to oversee the Village and Taluk Unions and to form new-Union Village Unions.
6. It shall deal with all the minor matters of the Village and Taluk Unions subject to the approval of the Provincial Union.
7. It shall particularly endeavour to arouse the interests of the Union, in the minds of the general public and shall try to obtain their hearty-co-operation.
8. Rules 5 to 9 of the Village Union shall apply to this Union.
Two thirds of the members shall form a quorum.

PROVINCIAL UNION.

1. All the District Unions of a Presidency shall form the Provincial Union.
2. It shall have a Committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Editorial Secretary, Treasurer, and three members from each District Union, who shall be elected annually at the General Meeting of the District Unions.
The Office Bearers with the exception of the President and the General Secretary, who shall be elected once in three and five years respectively) shall be elected annually in the First General Meeting of the Union.
3. It shall have a registered Office at a convenient centre for the time being.
4. It shall endeavour to admit the children of the oppressed classes for Higher Education in Schools and Colleges in the Presidency Town, or, if necessary establish schools and colleges of its own.
5. It shall endeavour to represent to Government all matters affecting the welfare of the Oppressed Classes and to ~~see~~ redress them as far as it lies in its power
6. It shall have control over all the District, Taluk and Village Unions.
7. It shall hold an annual General Meeting at a convenient centre, besides special and extra Ordinary meetings when

IX.

- when necessary. 2/3rds of the members shall form a quorum.
8. It shall have power to revise or alter the rules and regulations and make bye-laws, without infringing the fundamental object of the Union. Two thirds of the members shall form a quorum.
9. It shall publish a Paper as its official Organ, subject to the provisions of the Press Act.
10. It shall have an Advisory Board consisting of prominent Promoters of the Union, Social Reformers and Philanthropic European and Indian Missionaries.
11. It shall introduce the Government Co-operative Credit Society, in all the village, Taluk, District and Provincial Unions.
12. The business of the Union shall be carried on by an Executive Committee.
13. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the Office of the President and other Office-bearers, the Executive Committee shall elect from among the remaining Office-bearers, for the rest of the year.
14. The President, when he thinks it necessary or on the requisition of any seven members of the Executive Committee, may call a special meeting of the Provincial Union.
15. It shall be the duty of the Provincial Union to frame rules for the affiliation of kindred Unions or Associations, and for the formation of Branches, and for the conduct of business both at the meeting of the Provincial Union and of the Executive Committee, and to generally have the management of the affairs of the Union and to endeavour by every legitimate means in its power to effectually carry out the objects of the Union.
16. It shall open, found and establish any other Association or Union or institutions, such as Temperance Associations, Employment Bureaus, that shall be generally necessary for the welfare of the Oppressed Classes.
17. It shall deposit its Income in Government Post Office Savings Banks, in the name of two of the members of

PROVINCIAL UNION.

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of the Executive Committee.

18. The Office bearers of the Provincial Union shall be Ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- X. 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer of the Union and 4 members who shall be elected from among the members present at the Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Union. Four shall form a quorum.
2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee
- To decide on all applications for membership,
 - To arrange for the holding of the annual and all other meetings of the Provincial Union, and the business to be transacted at such meetings,
 - To provide for the safe custody of the Funds of the Union,
 - To examine the books of the Union, at least once in three months and
 - To carry on the work of the Union under the general direction of the Provincial Union.

AFFILIATION.

Any Association or Union of the Oppressed Classes having in view objects substantially the same as this Union, may be affiliated to this Union subject to such rules as may be framed by the Executive Committee and sanctioned at a Meeting of the Provincial Union.

BRANCH UNIONS.

(Ceylon, Burmah, Straits Settlements and other Colonies)

- At any station where there are 15 or more members, it shall be competent for them to form themselves into a Branch Union.
- Every Branch Union shall conduct its business under such rules as the Branch may frame, not inconsistent with the rules of the Parent Union, provided that the rules framed are approved by the Executive Committee of the Parent Union.
- It shall be competent for Branch Unions to admit members and every member thus admitted shall be a member of the Parent Union.
- Every Branch Union shall elect annually one or two members to represent its interests at the Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Union (Parent Union).

XI.

XII.

5. All proceedings of the Branch Unions shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of the Parent Union.
6. Every Branch Union shall send to the Parent Union ^{one} ~~three~~ fourths the amount of membership subscriptions received during the year, and shall also forward to the Parent Union any donation, gift etc ear-marked for the funds of the Parent Union.
7. Every Branch Union shall forward its Annual Report to the General Secretary of the Parent Union, not later than the 15th of April.

XI.

XII.

AFILIATION

Any Association or Union of the Oppressed Classes having in view objects substantially the same as this Union, may be affiliated to this Union subject to such rules as may be framed by the Executive Committee and sanctioned at a Meeting of the Provincial Union.

BRANCH UNIONS.

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2. Every Branch Union shall conduct its business under such rules as the Branch may frame, not inconsistent with the rules of the Parent Union, provided that the rules framed are approved by the Executive Committee of the Parent Union.
3. It shall be competent for Branch Unions to admit members and every member thus admitted shall be a member of the Parent Union.
4. Every Branch Union shall elect annually one or two members to represent its interests at the Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Union (Parent Union).

8. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee
 - a. To decide on all applications for membership,
 - b. To arrange for the holding of the annual and all other meetings of the Provincial Union, and the business to be transacted at such meetings,
 - c. To provide for the safe custody of the funds of the Union,
 - d. To examine the books of the Union, at least once in three months and
 - e. To carry on the work of the Union under the general direction of the Provincial Union.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer of the Union and 4 members who shall be elected from among the members present at the Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Union. Four shall form a quorum.

18. The Office bearers of the Provincial Union shall be Ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee.

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

PRESIDENT ... MR. P. S. SAMUEL, MISSION BARRACKS, NEGAPATAM,
GENERAL SECRETARY MR. S. A. S. TANGAMUTTHU, Do. Do.
TREASURER ... MR. M. MUTHU, MELAPALAYAM, TINNEVELLY BRIDGE,
EDITORIAL SECRETARY MR. DAVID FENN, VIRUDUPATI, S. I. R.

HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
Negapatam, S. India.

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THIS IS A SPECIAL APPEAL SENT OUT TO FRIENDS.

DEAR MR:

You will be glad to see from the enclosed papers that a Union has been started for the uplift of the oppressed classes whom Government and others call "Depressed Classes". Oppressed Classes they are, because they are being suppressed and depressed by others when they attempt to lift themselves up. The definite object in view of the Union is to give them general education combined with training in improved Agriculture (many of these classes are labourers in the field and are practical agriculturists), industries and handicrafts besides improving their social and moral status. A short account of the Union has been published in the leading Madras Newspapers. (Please see The New India, The Indian Patriot, The Hindu dated 6-9-1915, and The Christian Patriot dated (11-9-15). The Union will be registered as per Registration Act of Government so that it may become an authorised Agent to represent to Government the grievances of these people in all matters affecting their welfare. Thus their just cause will even be represented to the King Emperor. This Union aims at the slow but rapid education of these classes and has decided to appoint Travelling Agents to form local Unions in all Villages. It will publish in English and Tamil a monthly periodical as its Official Organ.

There are now 70 members who have consented to subscribe Re. 1 each per annum to promote the cause of the Union. Their annual-subscriptions, we are conscientious, could only be paid during the year current. The President and General Secretary have been the organisers of the Union and have themselves met more than Rs. 40 for the preliminary expenses to start the Union. We are anxious to see its complete organisation at an early date and start work without further delay. We have at present 3 fields to start forthwith. But we are hampered in our activities by the lack of financial assistance for incidental expenses.

Will you not kindly lend us your helping hand by sending us a special donation however small that may be, as soon as possible, besides becoming a member of the Union to promote its object? We are in urgent need for the present of Rs. 300 to meet incidental expenses. Kindly send your donation to our Treasurer M. R. Ry., M. Mutthu Avergal, Merchant, Melapalayam, Tinnevelly Bridge, S. India and intimate to me of your having done so.

Being my friend and sympathiser in a movement like the S. India Oppressed Classes Union, I send you this brief account of the Union, and am confident that you will cheerfully help us in our really good cause. We trust in God that He will guide us in our righteous undertakings.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely

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THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES' UNION.

PRESIDENT ... MR. P. S. SAMUEL, MISSION BARRACKS, NEGAPATAM,
GENERAL SECRETARY MR. S. A. S. TANGAMUTTHU, Do.
TREASURER... MR. M. MUTHU, MELAPALAYAM, TINNEVELLY BRIDGE,
EDITORIAL SECRETARY MR. DAVID FENN, VIRUDUPATI, S. I. R.

HEAD QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
Negapatam, S. India.

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EXTRACTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF
THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES UNION, HELD AT VIRUDUPATTAI,
S.INDIA ON 21-5-1915.

Number of persons present representing 3 sects.....15.

1. A lecture by Mr.S.A.S.Tangamutthu on "The Benfits of British Rule".
2. An address by Mr.P.S.Samuel appealing to the members present to educate the children of the oppressed classes, intellectual ly, morally and socially.
3. Formation of the Union.
4. Inviting Mr.I.Manickavasagam B.A.L.T. Headmaster, American Mission High School, Pasumalai, Madura District, to be president of the Union.
5. Appointment of a Vice-President.
6. " " General Secretary.
7. " " an Editorial Secretary.
8. " " a Treasurer.
9. " " Committee memners for the year 1915-1916.
10. " " a Sub-Committee of nine members to frame rules and regulations of the Union.
11. Inviting a suitable name for the Union.
12. Dispersal of the meeting after invoking God to preserve the British Government.

30-3-1916.

P. S. Samuel PRESIDENT.
S. A. S. Tangamutthu GENERAL SECRETARY.
South India Oppressed Classes Union.

தென் இந்தியா ஒடுக்கப்பட்டவர்களின்

ஐக்கிய ஸங்கம்.

விருதுப்பட்டியில், 21-5-15-ல் நடந்தேறிய முதலாவது பொதுக்

கூட்டத்தின் தீர்மானங்களும் அம்சங்களும்.

ஆஜர்.

கனம்.	வி. ஏசுதாசன் அவர்கள்	...	...	...	கோவில்பட்டி.
"	டேலிட் பென்	...	...	...	விருதுப்பட்டி.
"	S. A. S. தங்கமுத்து	...	...	...	நாகப்பட்டணம்.
"	P. S. சாமுவேல்	...	...	...	சை
"	S. M. ராமசாமிதாஸ்	...	...	...	திருநெல்வேலி.
"	மா. முத்து	...	...	...	மேலப்பாளையம்,
					திருநெல்வேலி.
"	A. சாமுவேல்	...	...	...	கோப்புசித்தம்பட்டி.
"	A. வேதமாணிக்கம்	...	...	...	புளியம்பட்டி.
"	M. ஏசுதாசன்	...	...	...	கோட்டைப்பட்டி, விருதுப்பட்டி.
"	இருளப்பன்	...	...	...	சை
"	வேதமுத்து	...	...	...	சை
"	குருசாமி	...	...	...	சை
"	முத்துசாமி	...	...	...	சை
"	கருப்பணன்	...	...	...	சை
"	அனந்தப்பன்	...	...	...	சை

1. கனம் டேலிட் பென் அவர்கள், ஸ்தாநுபதிகளையும், மற்றும் ஆஜரான மெம்பர்களை யும், வரவேற்றுக்கொண்டு, இன்றைய கூட்டத்திற்காக கனம் வி. ஏசுதாசன் அவர்களை பிடம் வகிக்கும்படி, ஆலோசனை சொன்னார்கள். ஸை ஆலோசனை கனம் S. A. S. தங்கமுத்து அவர்களாலும், கனம் A. வேதமாணிக்கம் அவர்களாலும், ஆமோதிக்கப்பட்டு, யாவராலும் ஒப்புக் கொள்ளப்பட, கனம் V. ஏசுதாசன் அவர்கள் பிடம் வகித்தார்கள்.

2. அக்கிராசனாதிபதி, முகவுரையாக, இச்சங்கத்தின் முக்கிய கோக்கமாகிய கல்வி அபிவிருத்திக்காக பிரயத்தனம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று பேசினார்கள்.

3. கனம் S. A. S. தங்கமுத்து அவர்கள், பிரிட்டிஷ் ராஜாங்கத்தினால் கமக்கு கிடைக்கப் படுகிற பல கன்மைகளை விஸ்தாரமாய் எடுத்துக்கூறி அதற்கு கன்றியறிதலாக காம் பிரிட்டிஷ் ராஜாங்கத்துக்கு கன்றி செலுத்துவது மல்லாமல், கமது ஆயுள் பரியத்தமும், ராஜ விசுவாசமுள்ளவர்களையிருக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் உபநிதாயசம் செய்தார்கள்.

4. கனம் P. S. சாமுவேல் அவர்கள், காகீகத்தில் குறைவடைந்தும், மற்ற வருணத் தாரால் புறக்கணிக்கப்பட்டும் வருகிற ஒடுக்கப்பட்டவர்கள், பிரிட்டிஷ் ராஜாங்கத்தாரால் இலவசமாய் ஏற்படுத்தப்படுகிற பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கும், மிஷனரிமார்களால் ஏற்படுத்தப் படுகிற கல்வி சாலைகளுக்கும், தங்கள் பிள்ளைகளை அனுப்பி படிக்கவைக்கும்படியாகவும், இவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக எழும்பி பிரயாசம் எடுத்துவரும் சங்கங்களையும், அவைகளின் கோக்கங்களையும் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு அவைகளின்படி நடக்கப் பிரயாசப்பட வேண்டுமென்றும், போதித்தார்கள். இதன்பின், இச்சங்கம் ஏற்படுத்துகிற விஷயத்தையும், அதின் முக்கிய கோக்கங்களாகிய

THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES UNION.

READ QUARTERS—MISSION BARRACKS,
VIRUDUPATTI, S. INDIA.

MR. P. S. SAMUEL, MISSION BARRACKS, VIRUDUPATTI.
GENERAL SECRETARY MR. S. A. S. TANGAMUTTU, DO.
TREASURER MR. M. MUTHU MALLAYAR, TIRUVALLY BRIDGE.
EDITORIAL SECRETARY MR. DAVID PENN, VIRUDUPATTI, S. I. I.

EXTRACTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF
THE SOUTH INDIA OPPRESSED CLASSES UNION, HELD AT VIRUDUPATTI,
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6. General Secretary.
7. An Editorial Secretary.
8. A Treasurer.
9. Committee members for the year 1915-1916.
10. A Sub-Committee of nine members to frame rules and regulations of the Union.
11. Inviting a suitable name for the Union.
12. Dispersal of the meeting after invoking God to preserve the British Government.

30-3-1916.

South India Oppressed Classes Union.
P. S. Samuel, General Secretary.

1. கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி.
2. கைத்தொழில்.
3. கெட்டவழக்க பழக்கங்களை நிவர்த்திசெய்தல்

ஆகிய இவைகளைப்பற்றிப் பிரசுரித்த, இவைகளைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால் இந்த வகுப்பார்கள் எல்லாரும் ஒன்று கூடி முயற்சி எடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், இவர்களுக்கு இக் காரியங்களை நிறைவேற்ற ஒத்துழை இருக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், கூட்டத்தார் உற்சாகமாய் கேட்கும்படி உபநிதாயகம் செய்தார்கள்.

5. ஷே காரியங்களை நடத்த இப்பேர்ப்பட்ட ஓர் சங்கம் ஒன்று அவசியம்தானா வென்று அக்கிராசனாதிபதி கூட்டத்தாரை கேட்க ஷேயார்கள் எல்லாரும் சம்மதித்து, ஏகோபித்து, சம்மதத்தை காட்டும் வண்ணம், தங்கள் கைகளை உயர்த்த, இச்சங்கம் ஏற்பட்டது. இதோடு, கொழும்பிலிருந்து இப்பேர்ப்பட்ட ஓர் சங்கத்தின் காரியதரிசியால் அனுப்பிய சம்மத தந்தியும் அக்கிராசனாதிபதியவர்களால் வாசிக்கப்பட்டு ஷேயாருக்கு உத்தியோகப்பெற்று கடிதம் ஒன்று இச்சங்கத்தின் பேரால், அனுப்ப தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது. அப்படியே மாட்டுமை தந்திய, சென்னை கவர்ணரவர்களுக்கும் இச்சங்கத்தின் விஷயமாய் இன்று கூடிய இக்கூட்டத்தைப் பற்றி ஒரு தந்தியனுப்பவும் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது.

6. இச்சங்கத்திற்கு பசுமலை கலாசாலையில் தலைமை ஆசிரியராயிருக்கும் கனம், I. மாணிக்க வாசகர், B.A., L.T., அவர்களை சிலமையான அக்கிராசனாதிபதியாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள ஏக சம்மத தீர்மானம்.

7. பிரதி அக்கிராசனாதிபதியாக கனம், P. S. சாமுவேல் அவர்களை நியமம் செய்ய ஏக சம்மத தீர்மானம்.

8. பொது காரியதரிசியாக, கனம், S. A. S. தங்கமுத்து அவர்களை நியமம் செய்ய, ஏக சம்மத தீர்மானம்.

9. பத்திராதிபராக, கனம், டேவிட் பென் அவர்களை நியமம் செய்ய ஏக சம்மத தீர்மானம்.

10. பொக்கிஷதாரராக, கனம், மா. முத்து அவர்களை நியமம் செய்ய ஏக சம்மத தீர்மானம்.

11. இச்சங்கத்தின் கமிட்டி மெம்பர்களாக 1915—1916 ஆண்டுக்கு மாத்திரம் பின் வருபவர்கள் தெரிந்து கொள்ளப்பட்டார்கள்.

சங்கத்தின் ஐந்து உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள்.

கனம், மாரியப்பன் அவர்கள்	...	...	கோட்டைப்பட்டி.
" இருளப்பன்	...	...	ஷே
" அனந்தப்பன்	...	...	ஷே
" ச. சண்முகம்.	...	...	ஷே
" A. சாமுவேல்	...	...	கோப்புச்சித்தம்பட்டி.
" S. M. ராமசாமி தாஸ்	...	...	திருநெல்வேலி.
" A. வேதமாணிக்கம்	...	...	புளியம்பட்டி.
" V. ஏகதாசன்	...	...	கோவில்பட்டி.
" M. ஏசுடியான்	...	...	கோட்டைப்பட்டி.

12. இச்சங்கத்தின் சட்டதிட்டங்களை ஒழுங்குபண்ண பின்வரும் மெம்பர்கள் சபைகமிட்டி யாராக நியமிக்கப்பட்டார்கள்.

சங்கத்தின் ஐந்து உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள்.

கனம், V. ஏகதாசன் அவர்கள்.

" A. வேதமாணிக்கம். "

" S. M. ராமசாமி தாஸ், "

" A. சாமுவேல். "

13. இச்சங்கத்திற்கு தகுந்த பெயர் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று, அக்கிராசனாதிபதி யவர்கள் சொல்ல பின்வரும் பெயர்கள் ஆலோசனை செய்யப்பட்டன.

ஆலோசனை சொன்னவர்.

சங்கத்திற்குப் பெயர்.

கனம், டேவிட் பென் அவர்கள், தென்னிந்தியா ஏழைகளின் கஷ்ட நிவர்த்தி சங்கம்.

" S. M. ராமசாமி தாஸ், தென்னிந்தியா கஷ்ட நிவர்த்தி சங்கம்.

" M. ஏசுடியான், தென்னிந்தியா பஞ்சமர் சங்கம்.

" ப. மாரியப்பன் தென்னிந்தியா பஞ்சமர் கஷ்ட நிவர்த்தி சங்கம்.

(குறிப்பு.) இச்சங்கத்திற்கு தகுதியான பெயரை, சங்கத்தின் மெம்பர்கள் தெரி வித்தால், அதைப்பற்றி ஆலோசிக்கப்படும்.

14. இச்சங்கத்தின் உற்பத்தி விஷயமாய் பிரயாணம் செய்த ஸ்தானாதிபதிகளுக்கு இது வரை செலவான ரூ. 12—14—6, பேப்பர் அச்சுக்கூலி, ரூ. 8—6—0 ஆக ரூ. 21—4—6-ம் இதுமுதல் வருவாகும் தொகையில் பட்டுவாடாச்செய்ய தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டது.

15. சங்கத்தின் விஷயமாய் தபால் சார்ஜ் தவிர மற்றச் செலவுகள் ரூ. 5-க்கு மேலாகும் பஞ்சத்தில் கமிட்டிமெம்பர்களில் 3-பேருடைய சம்மதத்தின்பேரில் பிசிடெண்டு, செக்ரிட்டரி முதலிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் செலவு செய்யவேண்டும்.

16. கனம், வி. ஏகதாசன் அவர்கள் இவ்வகுப்பாருக்கு வேண்டும் ஓர் போர்டிங் பாட சாலைக்காககொண்டுவந்த மனு, சங்கத்தின் பிற்கால ஆலோசனைக்காக வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

17. "நம் ராஜா வாழ்க" என்று கூட்டத்தார் எல்லோரும் எழுந்து கைகூப்பி கடவுளைப் பிரார்த்திக்க, கூட்டம் முடிவானது.

ஷே 1-17 அம்சங்களுக்கும் தீர்மானங்களுக்கும், கூட்டத்திற்கு வந்திருந்த எல்லாரும் தங்கள் சம்மதம் கொடுத்து, கையொப்பமும் வைத்தார்கள்.

(குறிப்புகள்.) சங்கம் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டுவிட்டதால், மெம்பர்கள் தங்கள் சந்தா ரூபாய் ஒன்றையும், ஷே 10-வது தீர்மானத்தில்கண்ட, பொக்கிஷதாராகிய, கனம், மா. முத்து அவர்க ளுக்கு (மேல்பாடையம், திருநெல்வேலி, தென் இந்தியா), உடனே அனுப்பிவைக்க அன்பாய் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள்.

2. சங்கத்தின் விஷயமாய், இக்கூட்டத்திற்குமுன், பாளையங்கோட்டை, கோவில்பட்டி, மண்டபசாலை முதலிய இடங்களில்,

ராஜ விசுவாசம்,

கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி,

தொழில் அபிவிருத்தி,

என்பவைகளைப்பற்றி, சங்கத்தின் அக்கிராசனாதிபதி கனம் P. S. சாமுவேல் அவர்களாலும், பொதுகாரியதரிசி கனம் S. A. S. தங்கமுத்து அவர்களாலும் உபநிதாயகம் செய்யப் பட்டன.

3. இச்சங்கத்துக்கு என்கொடை, இனம், தானம் முதலிய பணஉதவிகள் அன்பாய் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படும்.

4. சங்கத்தின் "மாதாந்தர வர்த்தமான பத்திரிகை" சிங்கிரம் வெளியாக வேண்டுவதாலும் சங்க வேலை தாமதமில்லாமல், கடத்தவேண்டுவதாலும், சங்க செயர்களும், மெம்பர்களும் தங்களின் சக்தாவை உடனே அனுப்புவதும் இன்னும் அகேசை மெம்பர்களை சேர்க்கப் பிரயாசப்பட கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள்.

வருதுப்பட்டி,
21-5-15.

}

V. Jesudasan - Pastor
Indian Mission
அக்கிராசனாதிபதி.
S. A. S. Tangamuthu,
பொது காரியநிர்வாகி.

L.F. XXII-M-16 (b).

Collector's Office,

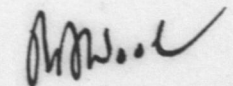
Tanjore, 8th May 1916.

My Dear Moir,

With reference to your Confidential 1979-1 dated 25-3-1916, I return your enclosures and enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Smailes, the Principal of the Wesleyan Mission High School, Negapatam, from which you will see that Messrs. Samuel and Tangamuthu ^{with} ~~are~~ not so much to ask for any definite aid as to bring their union to the notice of Government.

The leaders of this Union are well qualified in so far as they are educated men and come from the classes whom they represent. Whether they have any practical policy of helping the depressed classes, beyond talk, I do not yet know, and they have not yet shown. If they have, there is plenty of work for them to do, and they will not find the District officers slow to help them in anything where they need help.

Yours sincerely,



31

Wesleyan Mission High School,
Negapatam,
April 27 1916.

Dear Mr. Wood,

In reply to your letter No. R.C. 411/G & B of 1916, dated 29th March 1916, I beg to inform you that P.S. Samual and S.A.S. Thangamuthu have been well known to me for the last two years, while employed as teachers in this school. They are Christian men, intelligent and well-educated, and they both bear very good characters here.

I gather from them that they have formed the South India Oppressed classes Union with the object of arousing in the Panchamas a desire for much-needed social and moral improvement. They both ^{come} from these classes themselves, one being of Pallar and the other of Pariah origin, and their aim is to start a reform movement from within the oppressed classes by means of schools, lectures, etc. The Union was inaugurated at a public meeting held in Virudapathi about a year ago, when several of the leading men from these classes in the Madura and Tinnevely Districts associated themselves with the movement, and a similar gathering is to be held in a short time.

The work is now in its earliest stage, but they hope, as it develops, to be able to devote their whole time and energies to it. The Union will raise its own funds, and will not require any financial assistance from Government, beyond what its schools may earn in the usual form of educational grants.

Their object in writing to Government is to assure the authorities that their Union has nothing whatever to do with sedition, and that its members are loyal subjects. They request the sympathy of the Government in order that their work may be helped, and not hindered, by the village officials, who being usually caste men do not always look with favour on the

the elevation of the Panchamas.

I am not personally acquainted with their Union, but I know something of the condition of the oppressed classes, especially in this District and I have every sympathy with their aims.

I shall be glad to give you any further information.

Yours sincerely,
Sd./ R. Smailes.

True copy/

Mrs. e

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 ..

” ” ” ” ” 191.

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1773 From the P.S.G., No. 1979 dated 17.5.1916

" " " " , " , "

191

ORDER.

Miss

No. 564 Edl mis D 22-5-16, dated 191

Recorder

8A
19.5.16

$$\frac{CA}{19.5\%}$$

Note

There is no specific request
in the memorial on which action
has to be taken. The P.S.G. forwards
the correspondence for information

~~8X~~
19.5.16

Open for copying
Copied _____
Examined _____
Signed _____

191

G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.