

For 9. p. A dep

C. No. 6620

C.No. 6620 A, From the S. G. M. No. 222-1/46 of 2. 2. 46

PICF

Subj:- Aiyappan, Dr. A. - Superintendent,
Government Museum - Permitted to broadcast
a talk.

For the pl
W. 7
W. 7
8.2.46

Order 284
Rs.

Dated 8.2.46

Please see the
precedent at (J)

6/2

PICF

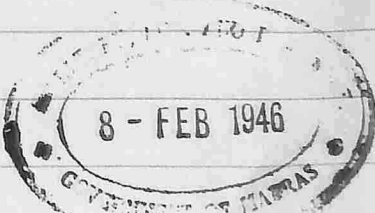
Dr. A. Aiyappan, Superintendent, Government
Museum, is permitted to broadcast a talk
in English on "Studies in Anthropology - The
Study of Race" on the 10th February '46, at
the All-India Radio Station, Madras and to
receive the honorarium offered.

To

242 S. G. M.
The Station Director
All India Radio
Madras

5/2/46
5.2 sub

Opalub



Note: There is nothing objectionable in the
talk.
5/2/46. 5.2 sub

6/2/46. 8.2.46 A4.

6

Jan 9. 1940
C. No. 6620

Chas. 10204 Jan 10 2.4 m. No. 222-1/2 of 2. 46

Dr. A. Huxford
Government Museum - Permitted to broadcast
a talk.
Chas. 10204

Dr. A. Huxford, Superintendent, Government
Museum is permitted to broadcast a talk
in English on "Studies in Anthropology - The
Study of Race" on the 10th February at 10
the 11th - Radio Station on 2nd and to
receive the remuneration of fees.

Chas. 10204
The station in which
the speaker is
permitted to
broadcast

Chas. 10204
There is nothing objectionable in it

~~Part away~~
W

Books, II-21-51, 251-11-11-43

Part 4 + 4

(1946) Department.

Ms.

SERIES.

①

G.O. No. 284.

Dated 8. 2. 46

9

[Despatch Abstract.]

Aiyappan Dr. A. Superintendent
Government Museum - permitted to
broadcast a talk

These are days when the future of mankind and the question whether the human species will survive another war are being discussed with real concern by all thinking men. H.G. Wells in his latest book predicts the doom of man in the near future! Biologists, particularly, eugenists, are getting deppendent over man's physical degeneration, since nothing is being done to improve the human breed while our civilized ways have more or less halted Nature's ruthless processes of selection of the fittest. Sociologists ~~rightly~~ rightly complain against the incapacity man has shown to adapt his mind to the needs of a scientific age. ^{Ethically} ~~Mentally~~, they say, we are not far advanced from savages, while modern science has given us tools which are too dangerous to be put into the hands even of the gods. Mankind thus finds itself in a mess, and there seems to be little room for optimism. The anthropologist who takes the longest view possible of human problems does not feel inclined, even under the present distressing conditions, to give up hope ^{about} our future. While we agree with the criticism made of man's imperfections, yet ^{we believe that} the full story of man's physical and mental evolution, told in its proper perspective, will help us to recover our faith in man's future.

The study of human races, as the scientist sees it, is a part of the study of human evolution. It is specifically the study of human varieties, or as biologists put it ^{of} human sub-species. Now, a species can be defined in non-technical terms, as ^a group of living things ^{that has} having a very large number of common characteristics and ^{has} possesses the capacity to produce fertile offspring on mating. The horse and the ~~ass~~ ^{mare} ass mate and produce the mule, but as you know the mule in its turn ~~cannot~~ cannot produce either mules, horses or asses. The differences between the horse and the ass are so great that they are unable to produce fertile crosses, and for this reason the horse and the ass ^{are} classified ^{as} ~~into~~ different ~~families~~ ^{as} species of the common genus Equus. The whole of mankind belongs to ~~an~~ a single ~~family~~ zoological species. In spite of the superficial physical differences, the various races of mankind ^{fully} are ~~are~~ fertile whatever be ^{the} race involved in mating. Among the races of the world, the Australian aborigines are believed to be the most

primitive. There is now a fairly numerous group of half-breeds among ~~these~~ these aborigines, who are descended from European settlers. By a process of wrong education, this established fact that the whole of mankind belongs to a closely related consanguineous family group is not only not understood by most of us, but on the other hand, the minor, I should say, ^{the} extremely minor differences are exaggerated and magnified by vested interests to fog our vision and confuse our understanding.

The word race is the most misused word in the English language. When a man speaks of the British race or the Hindu race, the word "race" has no scientific meaning at all, it is used as an equivalent of the political term "nation". Similarly, the expressions "Dravidian race", ~~or~~ "Aryan race" is scientifically wrong, because Dravidian and Aryan are language groups, and as you very well know a man's bodily characters and the language he speaks have no genetic relationship. Many Dravidian speaking communities, have, within historical times, ~~have~~ changed their language and substituted it with Aryan Hindi, but that does not ~~mean~~ ^{mean} that ^{their} body has undergone any change. In no part of the world can linguistic or national groups be equated with biological races or definite sub-species of man.

To make the meaning of race absolutely clear to you, and to take you to the very root of the problems involved, I ~~must~~ should tell you briefly about man's physical evolution. Let us try to picture this world of ours about a million years back in time, at the dawn of the age of man. Geologically it was a period of great disturbance, when mountain building was going ~~on~~ on very vigorously. Already ^{by} this time, the fore-runners of modern man had diverged considerably from the small sized ancestral stock from ^{which} not only man but also the modern apes originated. These early men, ~~not~~ scarcely distinguishable from other dwellers of the jungle were valiantly struggling for survival against the more powerful animals of ^{their} ~~his~~ habitat, but as ~~as~~ ^{their} they had already acquired their erect posture on ~~his~~ hind legs and ~~the~~ fore-legs had been freed ^{to} and become hands, ~~they~~ used a number of tools and weapons to strengthen their weak ~~hands~~ hands. This early struggle for existence must have been hard indeed, but two

two factors helped

early man, one, his developing superior brain power, and two, his skill in co-operative enterprise. It is extremely doubtful, if, without his gregariousness and capacity for organised effort, man could have stood the persistent assaults of the wild animals and the rigour of the climate of his original habitat. In his early hunting expeditions and migrations, our primitive ancestors developed the nucleus of ~~high~~ purposive organisation, to direct which on sound lines we are all endeavouring today. It is generally believed on very sound theoretical grounds, that the Himalayan belt which witnessed one of the greatest geological revolutions also saw the first scene of the million year old human drama, namely the first stages in the evolution of man. It was from this first humanoid ancestral group in south central Asia that the whole of the millions of men and who inhabit the world originated. In about half a million years, Asiatic man had spread into Africa, Europe and Australia, for which we have material evidence in the form of fossil humanoid bones, and also of stone tools which ~~they~~ ^{he} manufactured.

Now you will ask me: If as you say, mankind had its beginning in a more or less homogeneous Asiatic group, how do you account for the differences we find between the Negro and the Chinese, or between the Bushman and the Scandinavian? The answer is not simple, but a few illustrations will make it clear. The bull-dog, mastiff, terrier etc., look so different in body and temperament, but they are all descended from an original Asiatic stock. The trick has been done by the dog breeder. If the dog breeder removed himself from the world of dogs, and dogs were allowed to inter-breed for some generations, the result will be a more or less uniform species reminiscent of the ancestral canine stock. In the case of man, we do not know of any conscious attempts at breeding a race with a special characteristics, though something like that was done to keep the royal ~~line~~ ^{line} pure in ancient Egypt. Nature has to some extent played the part of the ~~the~~ breeder. As you know, natural selection works on slight individual variations which are inevitably found even among homogeneous groups, and those variations which have adaptive value get accentuated in the course of time.

In man's ancestral Asiatic group, skin colour would not have been of a dead uniform shade, and individuals with a relatively greater amount of colouring matter in their skin would have found this of survival value. Natural selection will, in course of time eliminate those with little or no black pigment. The cumulative effect of this process for fifteen or twenty thousand generations will be to produce a dark-skinned race such as we find in Africa or S. India. Africa became a black continent not because the ancestral group was black but because natural selection weeded out the ~~the~~ pale skinned types. Biological proofs are not wanting to show that the ancestors of the modern whites were not so white, and the ancestors of the blacks were not so black either. That the most striking difference between a coloured man and a white man is skin deep can be easily demonstrated. Bleach a South Indian, and you get a passable Englishman. Any one who has seen an albino in a Madras Street will agree with this statement. Geographical isolation is another factor that bred human races. Man in the prehistoric past suffered as much from wander-lust as his descendants today. If I tell you that long before the dawn of history Asiatic man walked not only into N. America but also into S. America, some among you might find it hard to believe, but it is all a fact. No one knows how long ago it was that the Papiah gog migrated into Australia with his masters, the Australian Blacks. Isolation in geographical pockets often tended to intensify incipient racial differences. When man in course of time developed languages, and tribal exclusivism, two further isolating causes were added to the other race-making factors.

When we come to historical times, we come across a world full of race and colour prejudice. This variety of prejudice, as most other prejudices from which we suffer, is the result of ignorance and lack of contacts with the objects of the prejudiced view. Black man and white man, the yellow man and the brown man discover, when brought together to friendly intercourse across the barriers of language and caste, that the same ~~same~~ blood ~~circulates~~ courses in their veins and the same sort of mind dwells in each body irrespective of skin colour or eye colour. Then every one realizes that it is unfamiliarity that breeds contempt.

Certain writers, we find, have gone to the length of denying the existence of races. The title of one of the books ~~that~~ that I have been reading is: Race, a study in modern superstition. While I do admit that vast amount of myths has grown about the word RACE, race is a reality that we have to face. If a biologist from Mars came here and proceeded to classify plants and animals of this globe, he with all his freedom from ulterior motives, will still proceed to classify the ~~the~~ species into several sub-species or races in other words, with the rider that there is a good deal of intermixture between the races, making it difficult except in certain areas to pigeon-hole individuals into racial categories, as he might do with wild animals or plants. There is no use denying the existence of such wide racial groups as the Negroid, Mongoloid and Caucasoid races. Colonisation, conquest, commerce and religious movements have in most parts of the world led to inter-mixture between various national, linguistic and racial groups and complicated the racial configuration.

I hope I have said enough to show that race is chiefly a biological problem with some bearing on history. If narrow nationalists and partisans have misused the race concept, and have thrived temporarily on it, it is just because the masses of men are so gullible. It has been neither psychologically nor biologically proved to the satisfaction of the scientific world that one race is superior to another in all the virtues that we value. Neither virtues nor vices are the monopoly of any particular race.