

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1407	Press
	(71-72)	Mis.
Dated	16-9-	19 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th September 1871.*

No. 71. Read the following letter from the Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 8th September 1871, No. 81:—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, a petition from the Vunneer caste in Madras, regarding the position said to be assigned to them in the Census arrangements. I have only to remark upon it that the Vunneers have been repeatedly informed, both in writing and through the heads of the caste, that the classification proposed has been misapprehended, as it was simply intended to group races similar in certain respects, and in no sense to imply identity of position or religious rank.

2. They have also been informed that every caste will now be entered in the returns in alphabetical order, so as to prevent all disputes as to precedence.

3. The petition is forwarded by desire of the petitioners expressed in a letter from Messrs. Branson and Branson.

To
THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION
FOR THE TOWN OF MADRAS.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Vunneers, very respectfully beg to submit that, on the 21st June 1870, we presented a petition to C. E. Gover, Esq., the then Honorary Secretary of the Census Committee, relative to the indignity put upon us by that gentleman in his classification of castes.

In paragraph 27 of his report, dated 25th January 1870, Mr. Gover states, "This great caste may be considered as subordinate to the Vellallers or proprietor cultivating class. It must not, however, be supposed that the many branches of this class have a common origin any further than that they are Dravidians and not Aryan. Practically, they belong to the one class of labourers and are named after the best-known class, Vunneers or Pullees."

We then represented that a gross wrong and injustice was done us by placing us in the ninth order of Class IV. and bracketting us with Upparava, Oddiar and Koraven, &c., and by expressing this supererogatory opinion it was extremely insulting and painful to all the members of our caste. Had the classification then made been taken into consideration, or had any inquiry been instituted with regard to the respect due to us, certainly, it would have been ascertained that we are the descendants of the ancient Sovereigns of the Dravida country. Nor would Mr. Gover have thus expressed himself if he had examined the different Shastras and Puranas, or indeed if he had consulted parties who are well-acquainted with the whole matter and facts of the case. The classification, therefore, made by him is altogether wrong.

If the Census Committee had made proper inquiry of the Vunneers, they certainly would not have been included or classified with the various tribes of Murravers, &c.

In the Southern Peninsula, the Murravers and Kullers are branches of the Sudra Caste. Pullee is not the designation of a caste, but that of a title. The different castes in Hindoostan are described in the Puranas, &c., and the respective occupations of the castes are also given in the said Puranas, &c.

In one of the eighteen Puranas, named Agniya, written by the ancient Viaser Rishee, and which is only applicable to the Kschuttriars or Vunneers, their origin, bravery, dignity, the honour and distinction they gained by conquering their enemies, and ruling the country, are described; and as they originated from Vunne (fire) they are even to the present day designated Vunneers. It is also stated by ancient authors, as is known from existing experience and practice, that the Vunneers being of the fire race, the Solar and Lunar Races sprung from the fire dynasty and are of the one caste Vunneers.

At the present time their offspring rule in India as Maharajahs or Kings and as petty Princes, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin and Ceylon itself. In order to avoid this injustice and in order to avoid this impolicy of the representatives of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, shall we are must we become lost?

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16th September 1871.*

In the issue of the *Madras Standard* of the 21st instant, it is stated that, in a Council of the Municipal Commissioners, the enumerators were simply to take down the names and castes as the inhabitants describe themselves, and that this proposition was agreed to by the Vunneers.

In the printed Census Return, Mr. Gover has said "that gardeners are frequently called Vunneers." In what ancient author is it represented that gardening is peculiar to the Vunneers; does the name Vunneer give the meaning of gardener? Do not Vunneers follow any other occupation but that of gardeners? Do not other castes also follow the said occupation? As all castes follow all kinds of occupation, it is well-known that the Vunneers carry on all kinds of occupation from rulers down to cultivators. As there are other castes carrying on various occupations, if the Census Committee desire to know only the caste of gardeners they would have stated that some of the branches of the Vellallers are designated from the commencement as Thotacars, Kodevals, and Thoolaver, all meaning gardeners; instead of this, from what cause or reason the Kschatriyas or Vunneers are called gardeners, we do not know.

In reference to all the foregoing we very respectfully beg to submit—

1st.—That we are prepared to prove that we are the descendants of Sharen, Cholen, and Pandian, the original Emperors of Southern India.

2nd.—That we are capable of proving from innumerable quotations from the Shastras, Puranas, Etchehasum, and other original authorities that we are of the ruling caste or Kschatriyas.

We will, however, give a few extracts—

In the History of India, fourth edition, Serampore, by John Clark Marshman, page 17, it is stated that about two centuries previous to our century, the Brahmins regenerated the Ugnicoolas or Kschatriyas. In page 23 of the same work it is thus given: "We are led to the singular conclusion that the Hindoo Sooraj or Sun, the descendant of a hundred kings, the undisputed possessor of the honours of Ramu, the patriarch of the Solar Race, from whom other Hindoo princes, before they can succeed to the throne of their father, must obtain the Talek."

It has been already proved by the Vedas, Shastras, and Puranas that the eldest son of Ramu was Loh, who, of course, belongs to our caste.

Further on, at page 18, it is stated that, after each of the four gods, images were formed and thrown into the fountain of fire when there sprung up the four men who became the founders of Rajpoot greatness.

These self-same Rajpoots are described in the Manual of F. Carmichael, Esq., as being the descendants of the Kingly tribe or Solar Race from innumerable quotations from the Shastras, Puranas, Etchehasum, and other original authorities that we are of the ruling caste or Kschatriyar.

These self-same Rajpoots are again described in the same Manual as being the descendants of the kingly tribe or solar race. In that Manual he particularly describes His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagram as being the descendant of the solar race, that is, of the Vunneers.

A manuscript, abstracted at page 90 of the Catalogue Raisonne, states that the Vunneers belong to the Ugnicoola and are descended from the Muni Sambhu, and that they gained victories by means of their skill in archery. Armies of Vunneers are often mentioned in the Ceylon Annals, and a Hindoo History of Ceylon translated in R. A. S. Journal, Volume 24, states that, in the year 3300 of the Cali Uga, a Pandya princess went over to Ceylon and married its King and was accompanied by sixty bands of Vunneers.

Furthermore, it is stated by the Rev. William Taylor in his Pandiyan Chronicle, Volume 2, page 65, that Sheren, Cholen, and Pandyan are uterine brothers of the Ugni alias Hurri or Fire Race, though these three are represented to belong to the Fire, Solar, and Lunar Races in the Puranas, yet it is to be understood that their origin is but one.

Further, at page 525 of the Geographical, &c., Description of Hindustan by Walter Hamilton, Esq., Volume 2, Edition of 1820, it is thus given:—Wunny, a district in the interior of Ceylon, is situated towards Trincomallee in the north-east quarter. This is a fine flat country * * * * *. At different periods, its Wannies or Princes took advantage of the wars between the Candyan sovereigns and their European enemies to establish an authority.

Moreover, at page 44, Mr. Nelson in his Manual, part 3, states the Panyda of the Lunar Race are commonly believed to be of the Kschatriya—not of the Vellala or any other agricultural

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castes. Still yet in the afore-quoted Hamilton's Manual at page 503, it is stated thus; that by the instrumentality of Buddah and the assistance of the inferior deities, Prince Vigia descended from the family of the sun, was the first king who reigned over Ceylon. That this Vigia Prince was a Vunneer can be clearly seen from the following extract from Nelson's Manual of the Madura country: "It is just possible, though that the first Pandya emigrated into the southern part of India and founded Madura, at the same time that King Vigia emigrated into Ceylon, viz., towards the end of the sixth century before Christ."

With respect to the foregoing subject there are still more innumerable authorities, such as the Shastras and Vedas, and Etchehasum, which will be produced in the pamphlet we are about publishing regarding not only our caste, but also relative to all castes obtaining in Southern India.

We, therefore, very respectfully solicit that, as we are about to give full extracts from ancient classic authors to prove our position and the origin of our class, you will be pleased to convene learned men in the Vedas, Shastras, and Puranas, and, in consulting them, call for us, when we will readily be able to uphold the dignity to which we are rightfully and lawfully entitled.

We beg to remain, &c.,

MADRAS,
29th August 1871. (Signed) MAHANAUDOO SEVAPAUTHA NAYAGUR,
and 178 others.

No. 72. ORDER THEREON, 16th September 1871, No. 1407.
The Government approve of the proposal to enter the castes alphabetically.
(True Extract.)

Captain, R. E.,
Under Secretary, P. W. D.,
for Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.

Ed. J. Wright.

TO

*The President of the Municipal
Commission for the Town of Madras*

Sir,

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In para 27 of his Report, dated 25th January 1870, Mr. Gover states, "this great Caste may be considered as subordinate to the Vellallars or proprietor cultivating class. It must not however be supposed that the many branches of this class have a common origin any further than that they are Dravidians and not Aryan. Practically, they belong to the *one class* of laborers and are named after the best known class, Vunneers or Pullees."

We then represented that a gross wrong and injustice was done us by placing us in the 9th Order of Class IV and bracketting us with Upparava, Oddiar and Koraven, &c., and by expressing this superogatory opinion it was extremely insulting and painful to all the Members of our Caste. Had the classification then made been taken into consideration, or had any enquiry been instituted with regard to the respect due to us, certainly, it would have been ascertained that we are the descendants of the Ancient Sovereigns of the Dravida Country. Nor would Mr. Gover have thus expressed himself if he had examined the different Shastras and Puranas, or indeed if he had consulted parties who are well acquainted with the whole matter and facts of the case. The classification, therefore, made by him is altogether wrong.

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Book of 1871

PUBLIC.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

Madras

9th September, 1870.

and

G. O., 16th September 1871, No. 1407.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 71-72.

Arranging of the arrangement of the several
pages in Madras in the Census Returns in alpha
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"of a hundred kings, the undisputed possessor of the honors of Ramu, the patriarch of the Solar Race from whom other Hindu princes before they can succeed to the Throne of their father, must obtain the Talek."

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We beg to remain,

Madras
29th August
1871

Sir,
 Gam ched'ant Liranto,
 Mahanandor Sewasantho kraya

N. Sooboray Nayagar.
N. Perichawumy Nayagar
T. Rajahgopaul & Co. Nayagar
Rajahgopaul & Co. Nayagar
C. Gopalleswary Nayagar
V. Vassoo Pillay
R. Rajasagara Nayagar
S. S. S. S.
L. Varadarajaperumal

8- சிவகாமசுந்தரி
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 O. Hengfah Naicker
 A. Parkachellum Naicker
 M. Lundappah Naicker
 M. Puthnasaimy Naicker
 M. Azupfah Naicker
 A. Kanagasaby Naicker
 P. Namaswaya Naicker

P. Buchanna Vaicker
C. Gopalammurthy
C. Soolarasu Vaicker
C. Vathamony Vaicker -
Mendrasamy Durgam

P. Yellappa Naick
P. Moonesammy Naick
P. Kuntadasammy Naick
P. Perasammy Naick

No - Lummaggenkai
 No - Appavoo Nicker

M. Karsenbaum, Kaidner
C. Mochos, Kaidner

C. Manavallat-Schick
Subj. for the Truck

P. Ramanujaswami Naicker
N. Punganatha Nayagar

N. Somasundra Nayak
N. Somasundra Nayak

~~Thiruvannamalai~~. Nagavari.

Dezimo Gustri

Mr. Oliver Benson

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மேல்குடி கிராமம் -

У. Давидович

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T. Cothundapany Nayager.
 N. Nymoolammy Naicker
 M. Manickum. Nayager.
 N. Balasobramanian Nayager.
 S. Inoosoodammy Naicker
 C. Coopprodammy Naicker
 J. Terovingadusammy. Nayager.
 J. Sundaripah Nayager.
 W. Ramasammy Nayager
 B. Gopaloo Nayager
 J. Sundrasakura Nayager
 B. Chithumbara Pillay
 H. Thistnadammy Naiger
 H. Appasammy Naiger
 B. Mooreapah Naiger
 K. Chellaipah Naicker
 M. Chocalingua Naicker
 M. Puthayappoh Naicker
 C. Gopalasammy Naicker
 J. Geerindoo Naicker
 P. Chocalingum Pillay
 S. Chingulawaya Pillay

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 15. 17 கந்தையுடைய நாயகர்
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 92. 93 கந்தையுடைய நாயகர்
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 96. 97 கந்தையுடைய நாயகர்
 98. 99 கந்தையுடைய நாயகர்
 100. 101 கந்தையுடைய நாயகர்

that every case will now be
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alphabetical order, so as to
prevent all disputes as to
precedency.

3 The petition is forwarded
by desire of the Petitioners
expressed in a letter from
Messrs Branson & Branson

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours most obedt Servt
Wm. Cook

Off President Muncpl.
Commission

MS 916 Sept 11/71
in Public 1917/71

N^o 81

18.

Municipal Comm^{rs} Office
Madras ¹⁸ Sept 1871

From

J. C. Lock Esquire

Off^r President Municipal Comm^{rs}
Madras

R. S. Mis Esq^r C.B.

Chief Secretary to Govt
Colacorumund

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herewith a petition from the Tunnus
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of position or religious rank

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that

129

Approving of the arrangement
of the several Castles in
Inns as in the Census
returns in alphabetical
order.

71-72

Both are ending

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