Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah

A brief review of his life and activities over half a century of service to his fellowmen.

Edited by

T. AMBALAWARNER, B. A. (Cey.)

Issued on the occasion of a public reception accorded to him under the auspices of the Jaffna District Community Centres' Union, at the Town Hall, Jaffna, on the 17th August, 1963.

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THE GATE MUDALIYAR

as he appears today.

In appreciation. What one true Son of Lanka had to say to another nearly 20 years ago.

Office of the Civil Defence Commissioner,
P. O. Box. 357, Colombo, August 24th, 1944.

My dear Mr. Thiagarajah,

I write to thank you for the magnificent reception accorded to me on my recent visit to Manipay. I was pleased with everything I saw. The occasion afforded me a good opportunity of seeing the vast progress Manipay Parish has made under your leadership and guidance. Apart from the very good contribution you have made to the cause of Civil Defence in your capacity as Chief Air Raid Warden of Valikamam West, I saw ample evidence of the marvellous work you have done in very many other directions. As Chairman of the local Village Committee, as President of the Manipay Parish Social Service League, as Chairman of the Manipay War Savings Committee and President of the Victory Volunteer Centre, as a Director of the Manipay Hindu College and as a leading figure in a host of other local activities, you have been of unrivalled service to the people of your area. I know your multifarious public activities must be involving considerable personal

sacrifice. Let me assure you that such service will always be appreciated by a grateful people no less than the Government.

It gave me immense pleasure to find that you were actively engaged in stimulating food production, in distributing free milk to the poor children of the Parish and in developing the Co-operative Movement. I am most grateful to you and your enthusiastic co-workers for all that you are doing for the social and material welfare of the people of your area. I congratulate you on your many successes and hope that your example will be followed by many more in Jaffna.

With all good wishes.

Your's Sincerely,

O. E. Goonetilleke.

GATE MUDALIYAR C. THIAGARAJAH

THE GRAND OLD MAN OF THE NORTH

(A biographical study written on the eve of his 74th birthday. Extracts of this article appeared in the *Sunday Observer* of 7th April, 1963.)

Several lakhs of busy industrious people, toiling their lives out in a terrain that has been singularly ill-favoured by nature have contributed to making Jaffna what it is today, and all but a comparatively small handful of them have passed quietly and anonymously into the limbo of the forgotten past. It was not that they lived in vain or that we who live in the shadows of their labours belittle their contributions to posterity. For history after all is the story of people and not the story of a few. But while the few are remembered, the rest are not, for though they did undoubtedly leave a mark, it was in a collective sense only. But what of the few who are remembered? They are those we still call by name, men of talent, even greatness, whose public deeds altered their country's future, who by rising above their fellow men, left their own distinguishing marks in the pages of history, marks which are not easily erased by the lapse of time.

That we have such a man living among us today in the person of Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, none will deny. On the contrary, there are many, who have bemoaned the inadequacy, the niggardliness of recognition, being held out to him in his lifetime, a singularly full and fruitful lifetime, which at his yet active age of 74, few others can boast of or aspire to reach. For after all, it is not necessary for a man to be dead before the honour due to him is rendered. Half a century of selfless, consistent labour in the interests of his fellow men has surely stood the test of time, and the 74th birthday of this illustrious son

of Ceylon is really a fitting occasion to place on record his vast labours and unselfish endeavours in varied fields, all motivated by the single desire to better the lot of his compatriots in Jaffna and in Ceylon.

Inexhaustible Dynamo of Energy

Acquaintances and friends, even members of his family, have long been intrigued by the question of where does all his energy spring from. To us lesser mortals, struggling to cope up with the demands of a single profession which we seem unable to get through, even at the cost of inroads into portions of the day normally recognised as leisure time. the bewildering variety and multitude of the Gate Mudaliyar's activities and the long string of offices and posts he holds at this tropical equivalent to the Biblical four-score years and ten period of his life seems hardly believable. The impact of his activities on a person hearing about them for the first time, is best described in the words of a team of recent visitors to the town of Manipay, a town that is in more than one sense the Gate Mudaliyar's own creation and regarded by many as his "pocket borough." "We shall remember our visit to Manipay for many years to come. If not for anything else, at least for the fact that it gave us an opportunity to meet its G O M, Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah. Few septuagenarians in Ceylon can claim to live as active a life as he does. At 74, we doubt whether any other son of Lanka has so many irons in the fire as Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah — President, Jaffna District Community Centres Union; Chairman, Valigamam West Rural Development Societies Union; District Organiser, National Savings Movement; Founder and Patron, C. N. A. P. T., Valigamam West; Founder - Director, Manipay Hindu College;—the list of offices he holds seems almost interminable. Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah continues to be of great service to his compatriots in the North in spite of his ripe age and failing health."

Indeed this account is quite correct as to the interminable list of posts that the Gate Mudaliyar holds at the moment. In addition to those already mentioned, the Gate Mudaliyar is also the President of the Manipay Parish Community Centre, the Manipay Rural Development Society, the Manipay Parish Conciliation Board, the oldest in the Island ; Vice-President of the Jaffna Friend-in-Need Society, District Council for Social Services, the Society for the Deaf and Blind, Jaffna, the Northern Province Relief Fund Society and Member of the District Public Assistance Committee and a Member of the Jaffna District Co-ordinating Committee. He is also the Honorary District Representative for Distribution of Information for the U. K., U. S., Canadian, Australian and West German Embassies for the Jaffna District. He is further a Member of the Jaffna General Hospital Committee, Founder-Member and Director of the Manipay Hindu College, and Founder - Patron of the Manipay Hindu Religious Society.

The GOM as a Young Man

Chithamparapillai Thiagarajah was born on the 6th of April, 1889, at Manipay, of a family of educationists. His father, the late Mr. C. Chithamparapillai was a great Tamil scholar. Young Thiagarajah received his education at the Memorial English School, Manipay, an institution founded and owned by his grandfather, the late Mr. Vaithianather Page, the pioneer of English education in Manipay, and later at the Jaffna Hindu College. He left the latter at the early age of 18 and proceeded to Colombo. There he joined the firm of an Englishman, a Mr. H. P. Church, F. S. A. A. (Public Accountant and Auditor.) He very soon so impressed Mr. Church that he was rapidly promoted to Chief Shorthand Writer, then to Confidential Clerk and finally to Chief Clerk of the firm with a staff of thirty working under him. This firm by that time had become Ford, Rhodes, Thornton and Co., under which

name it exists today. In 1919, however, he resigned from the firm to start his own business venture of importing and exporting under the name of C. Thiagarajah and Co., with its premises at Baillie Street, Fort, Colombo. Subsequently he became Guarantee Broker to several leading European firms.

First Essays at Social Work

But Thiagarajah was not content with his advancement in the world of business and finance only. Even at this early stage, when most other young men of affluent circumstances, stirred up by the heady spirit and temptations of big city life, were turning their thoughts to night clubs, theatres and other forms of amusement, Thiagarajah consumed by a restless yearning, which he was later to know and recognise as a feeling of concern and desire to do his bit and more for the betterment of his less fortunate fellows, began to look for avenues where he could be useful. The first came his way in 1909. In that year Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan started a school called the Ponnambaleswara Hindu School at Kochchikade. Thiagarajah attached himself to the project and was its Secretary. Unfortunately, this project for various reasons was short-lived and the school had to be closed down. He then turned to the resuscitation of the Colombo Saiva Paripalana Sabha, along with Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, who was its President for many years with Thiagarajah as its Secretary. This reorganised Sabha is now known as the Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Sabha. His work on these two projects so impressed Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan that he, writing in 1922, described Thiagarajah as "The ideal man for a society that required to be overhauled and placed on a satisfactory footing." In 1923, Thiagarajah also joined hands with Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam and other leading Tamils in Colombo to found the Ceylon Tamil League, of which he was the first Secretary and Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam the first

President. During this period, he also served on the Committee of Management of the Colombo Vivekananda Society.

Return of the Native

In 1936, having wound up his business in Colombo, Thiagarajah returned to his birthplace of Manipay. But it was not to be a life of lordly inactivity and ease. In fact, considering the volume of work that he was soon to undertake, one is not wrong in saying, that the busiest and most crowded period of his life began with his retirement and has not ended yet. Manipay, though the birthplace of several illustrious Tamils, was still not a town in the strict sense of the word. Its local body was a Village Committee. Thiagarajah launched himself into the affairs of the V. C. with his characteristic vigour. In 1941, he was elected its Chairman, an office he was to hold uninterruptedly for eight years. During this period, he also organised the Jaffna District Village Committees' Association of which too, he was President throughout the period that he dabbled in local politics. His tenure of office as Chairman of the Manipay V. C. witnessed an all round improvement in Manipay and the outlying areas. Straining himself to the limit of his dynamic energy, Thiagarajah strayed far afield from the provinces normally and customarily recognised as the legitimate spheres of action of a V. C. There was no subject that even remotely concerned the lives of the inhabitants of the area that he did not try to envelope or draw into the protective wings of the V. C. Chief among these activities that are normally not dealt with by a V. C. but introduced by Thiagarajah at Manipay was the setting apart of a day every fortnight for the settling of disputes among the residents, which would otherwise have led to litigation. This innovation met with such signal success that several judicial officers stationed in the Peninsula, commended the idea and its author highly and advocated that similar action should be resorted to by other V. C.'s too. Another

notable achievement by the Manipay V. C. under Thiagarajah's stewardship was the introduction of annual reports of the nature of Administration Reports, giving a succinct account of the yearly activities of the V. C. This was at that time a unique feature for the Island and came in for lavish and well-deserved praise from all concerned. The Manipay V. C. was in truth, a shining example to all other local bodies, even of higher status.

Then not satisfied with the status of a mere V. C. for his beloved birth place and much against the wishes of many residents, he had Manipay declared a Town Council, under the Governor General's powers of declaring and elevating to the status of a Town Council, a developed local area, whose administration is being carried on efficiently. But the duties of a city father alone, onerous though they were, were not enough to exhaust his tremendous capacity for work and he had to find other avenues. At this time Manipay was being plagued with a spate of thefts and petty crime, and Thiagarajah, profiting by his experience of big city life and its methods, organised a Vigilance Society from among the responsible-minded citizens of the area. With the help of this society, he soon had the crime wave under control. Along with this Vigilance Society, he also organised a sister institution, the Manipay Parish Social Service League. The work and agitation of these two societies under his leadership were to be very fruitful. The Manipay Maternity Home, the Government Dispensary at Manipay and three branch dispensaries in the surrounding areas at Navaly, Sandilipay and Suthumalai, the Police Station at Anaicottai and the Suthumalai Drainage Scheme were all set up as a result of the labours of these two societies under his guidance. Not content to rest with these laurels, Thiagarajah took to other fields too. In 1943, he founded the Manipay Parish Community Centre, the oldest in the Island and one of the many firsts that Thiagarajah was to create

as examples to the rest of the country. Almost simultaneously, he founded the Manipay Parish Rural Development Society. These two embryo societies were to go from strength to strength and stimulate by their examples, the setting up of similar societies in the Peninsula. These societies are now combined into two major federaations—the Jaffna District Community Centres' Union and the Valigamam West Rural Development Societies' Union, both of which keep him as their revered and respected President. The Ceetee Building at Manipay, which no visitor can fail to spot as he passes through the main street of Manipay, combining as it does the phonetic abbreviation of the Community Centre Movement and the initials of its inspired leader is a standing monument to Thiagarajah's endeavours in that field.

Another institution of which he was the originator and of which he is deservedly very proud is the Manipay Parish Conciliation Board, set up in 1943. This was the first of its kind to be set up in the Island and is still very active today. Many a family, living today in domestic felicity and harmony will lift up their hands in gratitude at the very mention of the Board and its Founder - President, Thiagarajah, who in the dark days of discord and bickering, brought them together by the patient exercise of his skill as moderator. During this period he also served for many years on the Jatfna District Roads Committee, until this work was taken over by the P. W. D.

In the Field of War and National Savings

With the first Japanese air raid over Colombo, when war in all its grim horror and reality visited the Island, and with the authorities directing their frenzied efforts to civil defence and air raid precautions, Thiagarajah stepped into the breach in Jaffna. As one of the Chief Air Raid Wardens for the District, he took charge of the Valigamam West division and

organised both paid and volunteer workers into various units such as Fire Service, First Aid, Street Fire Fighting units etc. His organisation was so thorough and overlooked no detail however insignificant that Sir Ivor Jennings, visiting Jaffna at about this time was moved to say that if war did come to Ceylon, casualities at Valigamam West would be much fewer than in any other part of Ceylon. In addition to this active defence work, Thiagarajah also took on as District Organiser of War Publicity, the additional tasks of disseminating correct war news to sustain the morale of the people, and also by organising Home Garden Competitions went a long way to encourage and foster the Food Production Drive, which at that time of dire scarcity of food material, was a matter of paramount interest. During this period, he also organised a Victory Volunteer Centre, the first in Jaffna District and the second in the Island. He soon followed this up by setting up several other such centres throughout the district.

As a necessary corollary to his War effort, Thiagarajah took to the National Savings Movement too. As Hony. District Organiser for the North, he organised so many Rural Savings Committees that they soon totalled more than fifty per cent of the Savings Committees in the entire Island. Lord Soulbury, then Governor General, after a visit to Jaffna said: "The Savings Rally at Manipay which I opened was a model of what careful planning and good organisation can do. The National Savings Movement is indeed fortunate in counting among its principal supporters Mudaliyar Thiagarajah, the Organiser of the Rally."

The highly commendable feature of all this was that all this inspired work was entirely honorary. Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah was and is the only District Organiser of the National Savings Movement who was not in receipt of any remuneration. A grateful Govern-

ment however, awarded him a medal for his war work and in 1947 conferred on him the rank of Muhandiram, which was raised the following year to that of Mudaliyar.

In the Field of Education

And here we come to an achievement of his, which in his own words is his crowning glory. Manipay in the nineteen tens, although a well - developed village in most senses of the word, had however not been favoured with any educational institution of size and worth, and this at an era when the American Mission was spreading English education all over the rest of the Peninsula with the speed of a raging forest fire. Thiagarajah felt that this was a void that should be filled and what was to him more important, filled with an institution that would be essentially Hindu in character and traditions. With this end in view, he travelled back and forth to Colombo, lecturing in halls, addressing informal groups in their homes, visiting persons of wealth and pleading his cause. His efforts began to bear fruit, when with the late Mr. W. Sangarapillai, leading the bandwagon, several other prominent Tamils too joined the movement and money started pouring in. The movement gathered strength and on the 4th of July, 1910, the foundation stone of the institution that is today a household word in the North, the Manipay Hindu College, was laid by Sir Joseph Hutchinson, the Chief Justice of the Island at that time. Soon after the death of Mr. Sangarapillai, which occurred at about this time, the first Board of Directors of the institution was formed with Thiagarajah as its Assistant Secretary. Since that time, there has been no looking back and today this proud institution, imparting knowledge to a roll of nearly two thousand, can boast of an alumni on which figure past pupils who have reached the top in every branch of learning, the professions, government service and in the world of finance and business.

Looking Back in Contentment

Today at the age of 74, Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah, (he was conferred that honour in 1952,) can well afford in the comfort and security of his beloved "Ayodhya" ancestral home of the Thiagarajahs, to sit back and relax, though this is as far from his intentions today as when he was in the prime of his life. He has not yet done with life's labours, which for him will cease only when he is in the grave, and life has been good to him too in its turn. He is a proud father and a happy husband. His wife, Indrani, who is a daughter of the late Dr. S. Sinnathamby has been whole-heartedly with him in all his enterprises. Her understanding, sympathy, encouragement and her capacity as genial hostess has contributed in no small measure to her husband's success in his various undertakings. His son, who shows every promise of one day out-doing his illustrious father, if he has not already done so is Mr. T. Sri Ramanathan, the well-known Colombo lawyer. Among other activities such as being the author of a book on Thesavalamai and Lecturer and Examiner at Law College, he is also a Rotarian and the Founder Gen. Secretary of the United Nations Association of Ceylon and Director of several well-known firms. The Gate Mudaliyar's two daughters are both married to distinguished men, one of whom is Mr. V. Vamadevan, J. P., Vice-Chairman of the Hatton-Dickoya Urban Council and the other is Mr. C. Nadesan, M. B. E., J. P. Rotarian, Chief Shroff of the Indian Overseas Bank and Director of the Development Finance Corporation. The Gate Mudaliyar is also the fond grandfather of six, two grand daughters and four grandsons.

When I last had the pleasure of visiting him at his residence, it was only a week ago, and listening to his easy relaxed conversation on a variety of subjects, I was struck by another aspect of his character, which

MRS. INTHIRANI THIAGARAJAH

alone should make him endeared to all who come in contact with him, that is his almost self - effacing and disarming modesty. "Even if all the other things that I have strived for and which God in his goodness has granted me, had not come my way, I would still die a satisfied death, if only for the fact that I have realised my life's three aims. They are the establishment of the Manipay Hindu College, the building of a temple in the College premises, which incidentally is a gift to me by my son and the setting up of a separate College for girls." This from a man who has left his mark, the stamp of his personality on practically every aspect of the lives of his fellowmen. In politics his consistent plea for fair - play, tolerance and compromise as a solution to the communal problem has earned him the admiration of many persons of sober disposition like Mr. C. Thanabalasingam, District Judge, who in a recent speech remarked that Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah has kept the Tamil flag flying inspite of the repeated and disgraceful failures of the Tamil politicians.

As I was turning out of his gates, I could not help but be struck by a single thought. Here is a man who can look back on a life well spent.

WHAT EMINENT PERSONS HAVE HAD TO SAY ABOUT GATE MUDALIYAR THIAGARAJAH

ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL SAVINGS MOVEMENT

His Excellency Lord Soulbury, Governor-General.

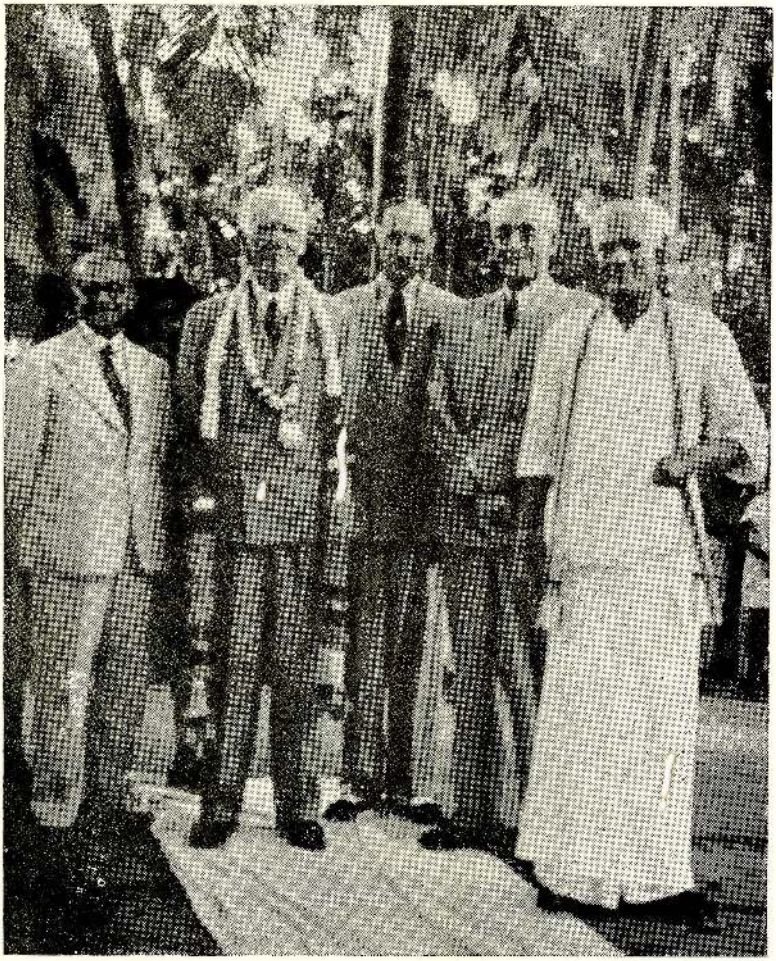
The Savings Rally at Manipay which I opened was a model of what careful planning and good organisation can do. The National Savings Movement is indeed fortunate in counting among its principal supporters Mudaliyar Thiagarajah, the Organiser of the Rally. His energy and enthusiasm combined with his business efficiency have been one of the chief factors in the success of the Savings Campaign in the Northern Province. His example furnishes an inspiration to all who are engaged in this important activity.

The Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister, in declaring open the Savings Centre in Manipay.

Not only has the Department benefitted by his public spiritedness, but has also saved a considerable amount of money.

The Hon. J. R. Jayawardene, Minister of Finance.

Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah has been associated with the National Savings Movement from its very inception. He organised the first Rural Savings Committee at Manipay. His achievements have been commended by Sir Andrew Caldecott. At present he is in charge of the Savings Centre in Jaffna, and is also the Honorary District Organiser for the National Savings Movement. He has functioned to perfection in this capacity that the need to appoint a paid Assistant Commissioner of Savings for the Jaffna District has not



The Gate Mudaliyar with Lord Soulbury, Governor General (second from left) Mr. P. O. Fernando, Government Agent, Northern Province (extreme left) and Mr. R. Y. Daniel, Commissioner of National Savings Movement (fourth from left) at the Savings Rally held at Manipay on 7th Nov., 1951.

been felt. With the result, he has saved the Government a large some of money. Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah is associated in a host of other activities.

Mr. R. Y. Daniel, Commissioner, National Savings Movement.

His voluntary services on behalf of the National Savings Movement have evoked from all leading residents of Ceylon including His Excellency the Governor-General and our late Prime Minister much praise. The Savings Centre at Manipay is a model for the rest of the Island.

Mr. P. O. Fernando, Government Agent, Jaffna.

I have been greatly impressed by Mudaliyar Thiagarajah as District Organiser of the National Savings Movement. His presence at meetings and his addresses helped to create great enthusiasm in the Savings Movement. He has for several years devoted his time and energy to the Savings Movement and the only reward he has had is the satisfaction of having done some work which has benefitted and continues to benefit large numbers of people.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Emillianuspillai, Bishop of Jaffna.

Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah's name is a household word in the Jaffna District wherever the National Savings Movement has taken root. He has given of his very best in this and other social movements designed to improve the condition of our people. The Rural Development and Local Government spheres have been two other principal fields of his activity. Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah has been a source of inspiration to others, to work for the public welfare. He is so well-known and his services are so much sought after that his entire time seems to be devoted to the services of his fellowmen.

IN THE FIELD OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Late Hon Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike as Minister for Local Government.

Judged by the progress of the Manipay Village Committee, it is a model for the 400 Village Committees in the Island.

The Soulbury Commission

The following entry by Lord Soulbury is on record.

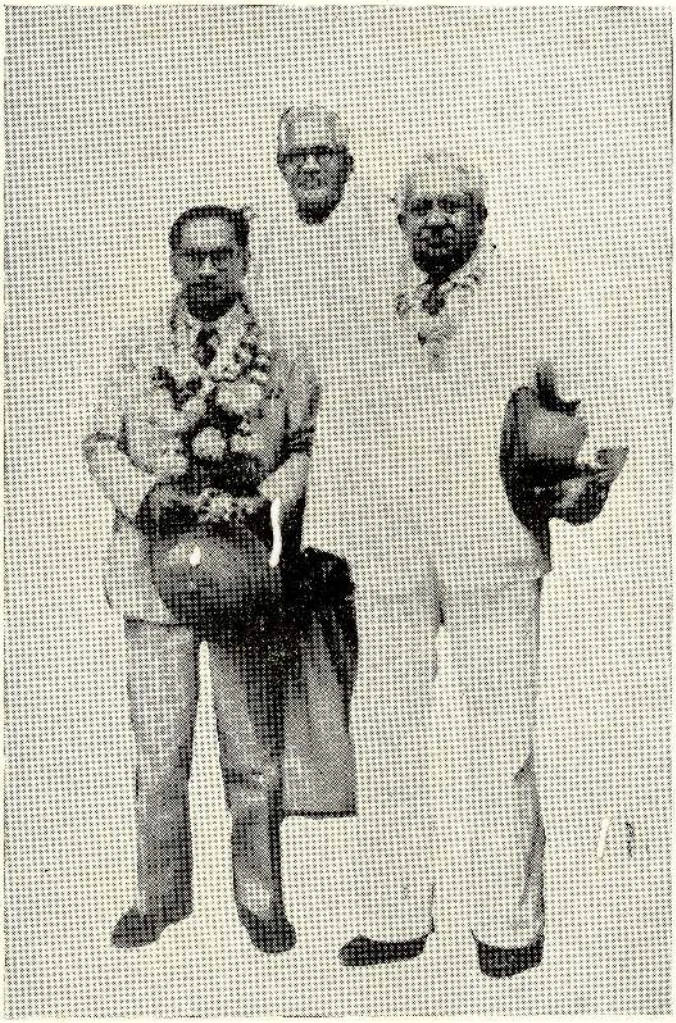
My colleagues and I were most interested in all we saw and heard of the varied activities of the Manipay Village Committee ..... We were specially glad to learn of the Committee's successful War effort in the spheres of food production, War Savings and its Victory Volunteer Centre, which we understand was the first to be established in the North and the second in all Ceylon.

Sir Waithilingam Duraiswamy, Speaker of the Ceylon State Council.

I must congratulate you on the well - organised and exemplary work that has been done in the Manipay Parish. I am sure that under your chairmanship, the Committee will continue the good work it has done for the people, and I trust that Manipay will be a shining example for other parishes to follow.

Sir Richard Aluvihare, C. C. S. as Inspector General of Police.

The important role the V. C's. will be called upon to play in the development of rural Ceylon cannot be over - emphasised, and I am happy to note that the Manipay V. C. has realised its responsibilities and has already formulated schemes for the benefit of the inhabitants committed to its charge.



Gate Mudaliyar with the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Minister of Local Government and Mr. E. W. Kannangara, Commissioner of Local Government at a Reception accorded in Manipay in 1943.

Mr. Justice Cannon

From what I have read and heard, Manipay deserves its reputation of being one of Ceylon's most progressive communities. Excellent and efficient organisation is apparently due to the judicious delegation of responsibility to responsible persons.

Mr. V. Coomaraswamy, C. C. S.

Your Village Committee is perhaps the only one of its kind which issues reports annually giving a succinct account of its activities for the information of the Public, ... A perusal of the various activities in which your Committee is engaged shows what tremendous strides can be made by the proper exercise of their powers by the various Village Committees in our country if only the Chairman and the members are as public spirited as you and the members of the Village Committee are. I have no doubt that the success of the Village Committee administration at Manipay is largely due to you in your capacity as Chairman .....

Mr. R. R. Selvadurai, District Judge.

It is unique for a Village Committee to publish annual reports. I hope that other Village Committees will follow your good example. I was particularly interested on reading the para headed "conciliation". I was not aware that the V. C. through the good offices of its able Chairman was endeavouring to settle disputes and put down litigation. Litigation not only brings about poverty and ruin but also ill-feelings between families which sometimes lasts for generations. The courts should be the last resort when all other efforts have failed. I am indeed very pleased that 31 disputes were settled during the last year and that it is proposed to set apart a day every fortnight for this very useful piece of social service.

Mr. J. Tyagaraja, Member of the former Ceylon State Council.

The Village Committee of Manipay has earned the reputation of being a model Village Committee for the Island. The Village Committee has maintained this reputation for which the President is to a very large extent responsible.

Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, C. C. S., G. A., Jaffna.

I have no hesitation in saying that this is a most progressive Committee and has been doing excellent work under the guidance of its energetic Chairman. This Committee has not only attended to its legitimate functions very creditably, but has also acted in close harmony with other organisations for the betterment of the people, such as the Social Service League, Conciliation Board etc.

Mr. K. Alvapillai, C. C. S. as Director of Food Supplies.

The report records an achievement of which any V. C. can be justly proud—an achievement of progress in measures of health, education and measures calculated to assist in the economic upliftment of the inhabitants of the Parish. The success of the Village Committees in Ceylon (the primary unit of local self-government) of which Manipay is a shining example, is a good augury of our Country's future ..... I hope the people of Manipay Parish will maintain the lead they have given to other Village Committees, and create sound traditions in V. C. administration which all other V. C.'s and even larger units of local self-government may follow.

THE GATE MUDALIYAR IN THE FIELDS OF SOCIAL SERVICE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY CENTRES' MOVEMENTS, EDUCATION AND WAR EFFORT.

Mr. P. J. Hudson, C. C. S., G. A., Jaffna.

The R. D. Union has been the spear - head of the Rural Development Movement in the Valikamam West Division. Special mention must be made of the live-wire of the Rural Development Movement in this division, Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, on account of whose indefatigable service the Movement has reached this pitch of efficiency. The Savings activities in this district have been so successful again due to the organising ability and drive of Mudaliyar Thiagarajah.

Mr. Sam. Sabapathy, Mayor of Jaffna.

There is hardly any movement in the Jaffna District with which Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah has not actively identified himself. The present proud position in the Jaffna District of the Community Centre Movement and the National Savings Movement is largely due to his drive and the excellent leadership displayed by him.

Sir Chittampalam Gardiner

Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah has been connected with almost every movement sponsored by Government. Movements such as the National Savings, Rural Development, Community Centre organisations etc. and in every one of these cases, he has received the highest praise from all officials and people in high office.

Mr. K. Kanagaratnam, Acting Auditor General.

I am personally aware of your very distinguished service in many directions, viz: A. R. P. work, War

Victory Movement, Savings Movement, Health Work, Food Production, Milk Feeding, and Recreational facilities to the Parishioners. All these show how a citizen in his honorary capacity could utilise his talents and his time for the uplift of his countrymen.

Mr. E. W. Kannangara, C. C. S., Commissioner of Local Government.

I was glad to find that not only in the furtherance of V. C. matters such as social service, prevention of crime etc., but also in war effort and war savings, Manipay Parish has achieved such outstanding success, which is an example worthy of emulation by the local authorities throughout the Island. When the history of the war in Ceylon comes to be written, Manipay Parish will take pride of place among Village Committees for real service.

Mr. A. L. P. Himbury, Representative of the British Council in Ceylon.

During my several visits to the Jaffna Peninsula, I have been greatly impressed by the Community Centres inspired by Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah's leadership, and indeed I have noticed that whatever he puts his hand to is usually crowned with success. It is well known that Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah has been associated with the National Savings Movement from the earliest days, and his indefatigable energy coupled with his pleasing personality are unquestionably factors which have contributed to the success of his undertakings. In frequent conversations with Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah, I have not failed to observe that he is an ardent supporter of the Commonwealth, and his peculiar genius for interesting himself in all matters affecting the welfare of his fellowmen reinforces my belief that he is worthy of being regarded as one of the most outstanding contemporary members of his community.

The Gate Mudaliyar with the Hon. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike (extreme left) and the Hon. Mathiripala Senanayake at the Savings Rally held at Jaffna Town Hall on 20th Oct. 1960.

Mr. S. Natesan, Minister for Posts and Information.

He is an indefatigable social worker and has been the successful pioneer of many movements connected with the social and economic betterment of the people. He is an able administrator and his services have been availed of by the public as well as the Government.

PUBLICISED OPINIONS OF A PUBLIC-SPIRITED PERSON

" Interest in Local Government wanted "

" Voting in local elections should be made compulsory to create civic consciousness as in Australia and certain other advanced countries," said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah declaring open a Carnival in Manipay in aid of the Manipay Town Hall Project.

" The lack of interest and the apathy of the people in Local Government matters in this country is shocking and this could be judged by the large number of unexercised votes at elections. It is this lack of interest that has aided corruption and inefficiency."

— Extract from the *Morning Star* of 8-6-1963.

" Let us Unite to stem Crisis "

" A round table conference would solve all problems, including communal and language problems," said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah presiding at the final day celebrations of the Valikamam West Community Centres Rally at Pandatheruppu.

"I appeal to all parties, including the Federal Party, to rise to the occasion, postpone for a time their internal objectives, and help in the formation of a National Council, to avert the calamity that threatens our nationhood."

— Extract from the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* of 6-4-1963.

" Tolerance, compromise needed now "

"Jaffna which produced the great Arumuga Navalar should produce several similar leaders and those leaders should be imbued with the spirit of tolerance and compromise if the community is to go forward in all directions," said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah declaring open at Vaddukoddai, the Cultural Competitions organised by the Valikamam West Community Centres' Rally.

Continuing Gate Mudaliyar Thiagarajah said that Ceylon today needed a revolution in the methods of thinking and approach to her problems and unless there was such a revolution, the ills of her present system would continue unhindered, ultimately leading to chaos and disaster.

— Extract from the Ceylon *Daily News* of 8-3-1963.

" Rural Development Society "

"Government's step-motherly treatment of the Rural Development Movement is not in anyway conducive to national development" said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President of the Valikamam West Rural Development Union at a general meeting of the Union held at Chankanai on Saturday. He further said that Ceylon could progress only if the people living in villages are made to enjoy a higher standard of living.

Continuing he said that the Rural Development Movement should be given top priority by the Government if the problems of the rural masses are to be

solved. But he was surprised he said that the allotment of finance by the Government to the Rural Development Movement has of late been considerably reduced and the Movement was facing a crisis.

— Extract from the *Hindu Organ* of 18-1-1963.

" Stop vain demonstrations and seek agreement "

"Stop these senseless demonstrations and work out an honourable agreement" was the advice given to the Federal Party by the President, Valikamam West R. D. S. Union.

"We should not tolerate incidents that may lead to communal blood baths as in 1958. Rather than dissipating their energies in such senseless demonstrations, it would be better if our leaders could work out an agreement with the major community, an agreement based on self - respect and our rights as free citizens of a democratic country," said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President, Valikamam West R. D. Societies Union addressing a general meeting of the Union at Chankanai.

"The history of the relationships of the two major communities of this Island, for long one of brotherliness and goodwill, has of late been fraught with hate and mistrust. For this state of affairs, I must say that both parties are equally to blame.

"It is high time now that both sections did some serious re - thinking and formulated a new attitude to this tragic situation facing us. I appeal to the major community to forget their preconceived ideas of fear and mistrust of the Tamils and to revise their thinking on lines of tolerance and fair play."

— Extract from the Ceylon *Daily News* of 17-1-63

" National Games will bring amity "

" National Games competitions, if organised on a territorial basis, would in my opinion be one of the

best means of bringing amity and goodwill among all races in this country," said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President, Valikamam West Rural Development Union at the Final Day Celebrations of the National Games Competitions organised at Manipay.

"The encouragement of national games would greatly help to eradicate caste prejudices and create unity and greater understanding among the rural communities of Ceylon. The trouble with Ceylonese society today is the prevalence of narrow prejudices born out of a wrong sense of values. This can only be remedied by people belonging to various communities, participating in even wider spheres of activities."

— Extract from the Ceylon *Daily News* of 6-10-63

"Community Centres can give lead"

Speaking from the chair at the 14th annual celebrations of the Alaveddy North Community Centre, Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President, Jaffna District Community Centres' Union, said that Ceylon was at the cross roads today and that unless there was sufficient foresightedness among the leaders, he was sure that they were heading for serious trouble. The economic crisis facing the country was primarily due to hasty nationalisation and as a result no tangible improvement had been recorded. Nationalisation was bound to fail because there was a lack of sufficient social consciousness among those who administered these organisations and from the public. The failure of these national projects was due to undue haste and the error of putting the cart before the horse.

— Extract from the Ceylon *Daily News* of 20-10-62.

"Youth Clubs can stem drift towards vice"

"The country's inability to solve its two basic problems, economic and racial, amounts to the declaration that the country is bankrupt of leaders with wisdom,"

said Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President of the Valikamam West Rural Development Union at the Union's annual general meeting.

Mudaliyar Thiagarajah said the hope lay in the creation of future leaders who will be fitted to solve the country's problems. The organisation of Youth Clubs in villages by Rural Development Societies was a suggestion that should be considered.

In advanced countries Youth Clubs had functioned satisfactorily. It was time we started the movement here. Juvenile delinquency, loss of parental authority, disrespect for the teacher and smoking were some of the problems of youth in Ceylon today. He was sure that the creation of Youth Clubs would, go a long way towards solving these problems by diverting their talents and energies to constructive spheres of activity. Unless something was done early, Mudaliyar Thiagarajah predicted that in ten years time robbery, thefts, drunkenness and other vices would reach a new "high".

— Extract from the *Sunday Times* 6th May, 1962.

U. N. DAY IN MANIPAY

IDEAL OF HUMAN BROTHERHOOD STRESSED

In welcoming Mr. A. A. Gromov, Resident Representative of the United Nations, at the public meeting held in Manipay on Saturday in connection with the U. N. Day celebrations, Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President Jaffna District Community Centres Union, said that it was most appropriate that the Jaffna Community Centres Union has this time organised the U. N. Day celebrations in this area because they believe in the oneness and universality of the human community. They feel that by such celebrations they would be able to forcibly emphasise upon the people that the ideal of human brotherhood and world unity are something worthwhile and most desirable. Continuing, he emphasised the importance of the United Nations in relation to countries like Ceylon. The United Nations work for universal peace and for a better world. How can, there be he said universal peace when there is tension and disorder within nations? The United Nations has to a large extent succeeded in strengthening good relations between nations, but it has not done very much yet to maintain good relations between the various races living within nations. This is a matter which deserves attention of United Nations. The United Nations should devise ways and means to solve the minority problems existing in many countries of the world. Ceylon is a member of the United Nations, and it is the moral duty of the Government and people of Ceylon to live up to the Charter and the Declaration of Fundamental Rights of the United Nations, he said. The various covenants and the decisions of the United Nations are the conscience of mankind today, and we in Ceylon should in our activities be guided by this conscience if we are to be called a progressive nation. It is hypocritical to pay lip service to United Nations on local platforms and in the international forums if we do not put into

practice the ideals of the United Nations in our own country he said. Ceylon is an ideal country to test the efficacy of the United Nations' objectives. Therefore he said let us dedicate ourselves today to work for the ideal of a United Nation because he believed unity and peace within Ceylon is a fundamental pre-requisite, if Ceylon is to play a decisive role in strengthening world peace. Continuing further he said there are various problems affecting this country which arise due to faulty relationships between various groups; be it racial, religious or economical. He would suggest that we could easily solve them if we base our solutions on the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and the various covenants of United Nations.

The Indian citizenship problem in Ceylon could be easily solved if we apply the covenants on stateless persons to the situation in Ceylon he stated. He appealed to the Government of Ceylon and India to solve the Indian problem basing the solution on the United Nations. This he was sure would be the best way to get out of this problem. Once this problem is solved the people of Ceylon and India would live as good neighbours and loving brothers. If the people of the world are to live in amity and friendship for which the United Nations Organisation works for, let there be good neighbourliness both among the people and between nations.

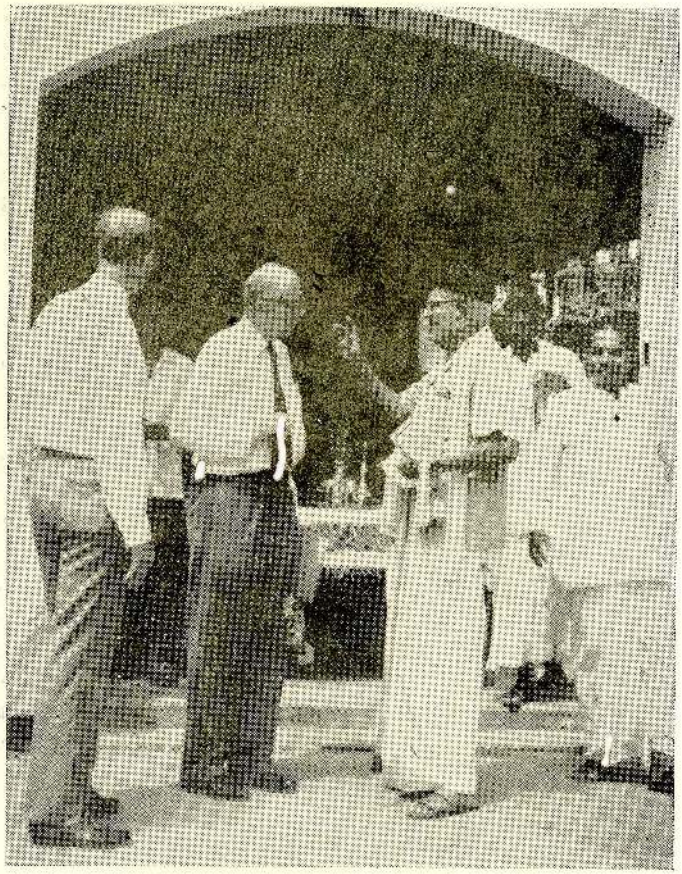
The United Nations he said must take the credit for averting a third world war so far and this itself is sufficient justification for its existence. Therefore, he said we need the United Nations at least for our own safety and for the continuance of the human race, because if a third world war begins, it is sure to annihilate human civilisation. United Nations is the only hope to create a civilised international community, he concluded.

— Extract from the *Hindu Organ* of 2-11-62.

Festival of Arts.

In extending a welcome to his Excellency Dr. T. M. Auer, Ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany in Ceylon, to the Festival of Arts organised by the Community Centres at the Jaffna Town Hall last Saturday, Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, President of the Jaffna District Community Centres' Union, said that they had particular pleasure in welcoming him because he came from a country which had developed a high standard of Community Service and therefore his visit to Jaffna gave them great inspiration and encouragement. They were particularly happy to note the Federal Republic of Germany's willingness to help them in the sphere of culture. They hoped that Dr. Auer would help the Movement in Jaffna by providing facilities to study Community Service in Germany. He suggested to Government that the National Service Scheme should be re-oriented to promote community development if it was to serve the interests of the people of this country. Continuing the Gate Mudaliyar said that the greatest problem of Ceylon was a cultural problem. He suggested that the Ceylon Government instead of sending cultural delegations outside to further peace and friendship, should send such delegations inside Ceylon. As this is a country of many cultures it would help to unify the nation and create better understanding and amity between the various communities.

— Extract from the *Morning Star* of 3-8-62.



The Gate Mudaliyar with His Excellency Dr. T. M. Auer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ceylon, at the Sanmarka Community Centre, Kurumbaciddy on the 29th July, 1962.

Origin and growth of the Manipay Hindu College— A Chapter in the Cause of Saiva Education.

By Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah, Founder-Member and Member of the Board of Directors.

As a Founder - Member of the Manipay Hindu College, and as one who is in possession of the facts of the origin of the College, I have been called upon to recapitulate for the benefit of well - wishers the origin and growth of the College.

Unlike the other villages in the Peninsula, Manipay was a fertile ground to implant new ideas which would soon develop. That was why the American Missionaries thought it as one of the villages fit to commence their activities of service. The Green Memorial Hospital, then a training centre for medical men, was founded at Manipay. This was the fore-runner of the Ceylon Medical College. The American Missionaries quickly sowed the germs of western influence which made many of our people educated and conscious of their country's needs.

The Urge

I wish to take you back to the years 1908, 1909, and 1910, the time when Manipay was undoubtedly a leading village in the Jaffna Peninsula as many of its prominent residents began to be well - known in the world of business, having displayed business acumen and amassed wealth in the metropolis. The time was ripe to sow the seeds of nationalism which would quickly bear fruition.

During these years, the writer of this article' imbued with a spirit of nationalism gave vent to his feelings in a series of articles published in the *Hindu Organ* and the *Ceylon Patriot*, advocating the need for setting up of a Hindu College in Manipay. Through the assistance of the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, the writer organised a public lecture at the Manipay Vivekananda Sabha Hall, when Mr. Myron H. Phelps,

an American Educationist, gave a stirring address on the necessity of founding national institutions for the training of the youth. His speech was printed in pamphlets and widely distributed. It was then thought opportune to convene a public meeting. As a preliminary step, an appeal was made to the public on the 14th of May, 1910.

The appeal concluded as follows:

"The time has come when the liberality of the Hindu Community should be directed towards strengthening their own concerns by establishing their own schools. An English School at Manipay where the Hindu children can be instructed without injury to their religious convictions has been very often suggested and many references have been made to it in the Press recently. It is proposed that such an institution be opened with the Manipay Vivekananda Society, and the Hindu public are requested to contribute towards it."

This was signed among others by Messrs S. K. Lawton, S. Subramaniam, A. Suppiah, M. Sivapirakasam, S. Kanagasabay, S. Kathigesampillai, S. Ponnusamy, M. Muttuvelu, T. Sellacutty, K R. Lawton and C. Thiagarajah.

How it took shape

Soon after this appeal, a public meeting was held at the Vivekananda Sabha Hall, and a committee was set up with Mr. S. K. Lawton as President and the writer as Secretary to take steps to organise a College at Manipay. A school was accordingly set up at the Manipay Vivekananda Sabha Hall with Mr. S. Veerasamypillai, B. A. as its Principal. A number of students were enrolled. The demand for such a school was great, the necessity to establish a permanent College was soon felt. As Secretary of this Committee, the writer appealed to the public for contributions. The late Mr. S. Sivapirakasam, then a leading merchant in Colombo was the first to contribute a sum of Rs. 300/-. The

response to the appeal was successful. Many contributed liberally. Among the first donors were Messrs. M. Moothatamby, K. Vythilingam, S. Subramaniam, S. K. Lawton, A. Suppiah, S. Kanagasabai, C. Namasivayam, C. Sivacolundhu, C. Thiagarajah, A. Sellamuttu, S. Thiagarajah, S. Ponnusamy, E. T. Ratnam, K. R. Lawton, K. Balasingam, S. Somasunderam, A. Vythilingam, T. Karalapillai, and a good number of others including Government officers and mercantile clerks. The late Mr. C Sivacolundhu took a prominent part in collecting among Government clerks.

The writer along with Mr. R. Dharmalingam, Proctor, went round canvassing for donations. Among others we went to was the late Mr. W. Sangarapillai, a leading broker. He was very enthusiastic about the project and promised to donate the required land and also to find the wherewithal to set up the College on a sound footing. The writer handed over to him all monies collected, and for purposes of collecting funds, at Mr. Sangarapillai's request, a new committee was organised with him as President and the writer as Secretary. From that time onwards Mr. Sangarapillai called for donations as President of the committee from his friends and well-wishers not only from Manipay but even from the business circles of Colombo, which consisted of Indians and other communities. Mr. Sangarapillai was a very influential and popular figure in Colombo, and the active interest taken by other popular figures like the late Mr. C. Namasivayam, Mr. M. Moothatamby, Mr. A. Sellamuttu and Mudaliyar Karalapillai brought in money in thousands. Mr. Sangarapillai undertook to put up the buildings and as President of the Managing Committee, the management of the College was left in his hands. Mr. Sangarapillai was undoubtedly the largest donor and he spent for the major portion of the buildings. The major portion of the land was also donated by him. Mr. S. Kanagasabai also donated a piece of land. If not for this gift of land, the frontage of the building to Sangarapillai Road would not

have been possible. On being satisfied with the response received from the public, he immediately took the necessary steps to build the College. On the 25th of June, 1910, invitations were sent out to the public inviting them for the foundation ceremony of the College on the 4th of July, 1910, at 6-00 p. m. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Joseph Hutchinson, Chief Justice of the Island. As soon as accommodation was available, the school which was housed in the Manipay Vivekananda Sabha building for about five months was moved to the new premises.

The first Board of Directors

After Mr. Sangarapillai's death, the writer convened a public meeting of the residents of Manipay in Colombo on behalf of the Managing Committee. At this meeting it was decided to constitute a Board of Directors to properly run the College. A Board was accordingly formed consisting of 32 Directors. A constitution and a set of by-laws were discussed and approved. Mr. C. Namasivayam, J. P. was elected the first President and Manager of the College. Dr. M. M. Kumarasamy was elected Vice-President and Gate Mudaliyar Karalapillai was elected Secretary and the writer was elected Assistant Secretary, Mr. A. Vythilingam and Mr. A. Sellamuttu were elected Treasurers, while Mr. T. Sockanathan was elected Auditor. A local Advisory Committee was also elected from among the Directors resident in Jaffna. This Committee consisted of Messrs. S. K. Lawton, J. N. Sandrasekara, A. Suppiah, S. Supiramaniam, Atikar C. M. Sinniah, Messrs. S. Ponnusamy, K. Vythilingam and E. Murugesampillai. Mr. Lawton and Mr. Sandrasekara were elected Local Superintendents.

The Early Benefactors.

To manage the school, finding the money necessary to pay the teachers was then a very difficult job. Every month there was a deficit of roughly Rs. 800/–, and this had to be found before the 10th of the following month. A monthly subscription list was

opened and the writer was responsible for collecting the money and remitting it to the Local Treasurer in Jaffna to pay the teachers punctually. The following were among the Directors who contributed towards the deficit monthly; Mr. C Namasivayam, Dr. M. M. Kumarasamy, Messrs. M. Moothatamby, A. Sellamuttu, T. Sinnathamby, S. Rasaretnam, K. Balasingham, S. Thiagarajah. C. Thiagarajah, N. Ratnasabapathy, Mudaliyar Karalapillai. A great need of the College then was a Science Laboratory. The late Mr. M. Moothatamby not only provided one at his own cost, but also supplied it with all necessary chemicals etc. for several years. With a view to putting the organisation on a proper footing as a public institution, the Board of Directors was re-organised in 1945, which was incorporated by Ordinance No. 28 of 1946. The present Board consists of 21 Directors with two representatives of the Old Boys. Mr. S Pararajasingam, J. P. is the President and Manager and Mr. K. Sundarampillai, Secretary.

Aim of the College

The aims and objects of the Founders are to conduct and manage the College in accordance with the tenets of the Hindu religion, and to give all pupils admitted into the College a thorough general education and religious instruction.

There was an array of high intellectuals who adorned the office of Principal of the College from its very inception. Mr. S. Veerasamypillai, B. A. was the first Principal. He served the College for nine months. During his Principalship, the College gained in strength and spirit. He presented a student for the London Matriculation with Tamil as the additional language and secured success. He was succeeded by Mr. P. Sabapathypillai, B. A., L. T., who tactfully maintained the prestige of his predecessor. It was in his time that the College presented boys for the Government grant - in - aid. Mr. G. Shiva Rao was then appointed Principal. Mr. Shiva Rao was a reputed edu-

cationalist of wide experience. After a period of most useful service, he left the College owing to ill health. Mr. Sabapathypillai became once again the Principal. On his retirement Mr. Sabaratnasinghe, B. A. became the Principal. His services were lent by the Jaffna Hindu College. Sometime in January 1915, he was relieved by Mr. T. P. Hudson, B. A. He was a great teacher but he was not spared long to serve us. It was during Mr. Hudson's time that the Old Boys' Association was formed. During his time a student was presented for the Intermediate in Arts Examination of the University of London with success. At his death Mr. Sabaratnasinghe of Jaffna Hindu College came to this College once again as its Head.

Mr. T. H. Crosette, M. A., F. R. H. S., was then appointed Principal. Since he assumed duties there were many changes in the buildings and organisations. The College Literary Society and the Scout Corps were formed during his tenure of office.

Mr. S. Sivapathasunderam, B. A., a devout Hindu was Principal for a short time. During his Principalship, the important feature of his activity was the commencement of the Saiva Initiation (Samaya Theedchai) and hundreds of boys were initiated. Pandit V. Mylvaganam was Principal for about a year. He gave an impetus to the study of Tamil. Mr. V. Veerasingham succeeded Pandit Mylvaganam and officiated as Principal for 29 years. During his principalship for six years in succession, the College team were the champions of the North Ceylon Inter - Collegiate Athletic Meets. In public examinations too the attainments were as good as in sports. It was during Mr. Veerasingham's time that the College obtained the All Empire Prize for Essay Competition. This was the first school to get it.

Stress on Religious Instruction

Religious knowledge was one of the main items for competition among the various Houses. The House

system was organised by Mr. Veerasingham. At a public competitive examination on Hindu Religion, the Manipay Hindu College students carried away three out of the nine prizes offered. Lectures on the life of Shivaji, Saraswathy, Hindu ideals of service etc. were delivered. In short, the programme of religious instruction during Mr. Veerasingham's principalship is worthy of being maintained by the College and followed by other educational institutions. The spiritual, mental, physical and moral development of the youth was what he strived for. Mr. Veerasingham was responsible for the construction of the Thirunavukkarasu Nayanar Hall. He collected Rs. 5,300/- for this purpose from the Old Boys and the public. The following gentlemen officiated as Managers : Mr. C. Namasivayam, J. P., Mr. H. Thiruvilangam, Gate Mudaliyar Karalapillai, Mr. A. Sellamuttu, M. B. E.

It should not be out of place to say a few words about the present set-up of the institution. Mr. C. Navaratnam, B. S. c., unassumingly carries on his duties as Principal. He abounds in amiability and is an emblem of sober temperament, worthy of emulation by other teachers. Mr. K. Muthuvetpillai, B. S. C, Vice Principal is responsible for the present new look and organisation of the College. His enthusiasm and keenness is greatly appreciated by the management and the public.

There is now an awakening of responsibility among the members of the Board, due mainly to the constant generator of enthusiasm—Senator S. Nadesan. The following Directors are among those who have recently contributed liberally for the development of the College and have earned the gratitude of Manipay; Messrs A. Sellamuttu, S. Pararajasingam, S. Pathmanathan, S. Nadesan, S. Mahadevan, K. Sunderampillai, Sellamuttu Somasunderam, S. Sivanathan, Muhandiram V. Mahesan and others. The recent construction of 8 new classrooms, extension to the playground, equipment of the Laboratory and Library would not have been possible if not for their munificence. Mr. S. Pararajasingam continues to be the President and Manager. He worthily

fills this position with great acceptance. The keen interest taken by his brother, Mr. S. Pathmanathan, Mr. Sellamuttu (a great pillar of the College who never hesitates to contribute liberally whenever necessary) Mr. S. Somasunderam, Mr K. Sunderampillai and others on the Board is a good omen for the College.

Efforts of Old Boys

The Old Students' Association is now determined to do all it can to develop the College The present set-up of the Committee is highly efficient and the keenness of the Old Students is reflected by their collection of Rs. 33, 000/ - on the recital given by Shrimathi Pattambal. The Association is now taking steps to find money to separate and run the girls' section in a separate building—a long-felt need. The O S A deserves the highest praise for attaining such heights of service. The present enthusiasm among the Old Boys is due to the organising capabilities of Mr. P. Selvaratnam, Secretary.

The present set - up of the Parent - Teachers Association with Mr. Muthucumaraswamy, a capable organiser as Secretary is another good omen for the College. This Association can materially help the development of the institution.

The Manipay Hindu College was a dream that has become a reality. It is the writer's hope that the members of the Board of Directors, the teachers, parents and the Old Students of the College should all jointly strive and co operate to fulfil the objects for which the College was founded and see that this institution is A 1. To achieve this aim is no easy task. This would mean much labour and heavy responsibilities but with a team spirit the object could be achieved.

In conclusion, it is worth remembering Swami Vivekananda's saying, " Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached."

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