

THE MADRAS LABOUR UNION.

MESSAGES & OPINIONS ON
THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

HELD AT S. I. A. A. GROUNDS

ON 14 - 4 - 1943.



PRINTED AT
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M A D R A S.

1943.

DEWAN OF TRAVANCORE,

Trivandrum,
26-3-43.

Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar is in receipt of the invitation of the Madras Labour Union to the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Union on the 14th April, 1943 and wishes the function all success.

A D Y A R,
26-3-43.

I have the heartiest pleasure in sending to the members of the Madras Labour Union my fraternal greetings and good wishes on the occasion of the Union's Silver Jubilee. I cherish the memory of the days when I was actively working on their behalf and the highlights of the period during which the Union had to struggle for its recognition and existence.

I am more than ever convinced that every individual whether man or woman, has an inalienable right to a happy childhood and suitable education, free from privations, physical, emotional or mental. Then, when he arrives at manhood, he must have the means of engaging in such honest and useful work as he is fitted for. The man who does such work to the measure of his capacity during his manhood is entitled to such adequate salary and conditions as will afford him satisfaction for every legitimate need and further provide him with opportunities for improvement, recreation, and even adventure. This right he must be able to exercise during the period of his work as well as during the days of his old age and disability. We must insist on these fundamental provisions in any new order which may be planned and must work successfully to this end.

N. Sri Ram.

NELLIMARLA JUTE MILL WORKERS' UNION.

Nellimarla,

26-3-43.

Dear Comrade,

We are in receipt of your invitation to the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Madras Labour Union and thank you for the same. It is a rare fortune of the Madras Labour Union to be the first labour union in India and also to be the first to celebrate the Silver Jubilee, after steering through successfully a period of twenty-five eventful years in the history of the Trade Union Movement of India. It is a very nice idea to celebrate the Jubilee under the Presidency of Mr. B. P. Wadia who is the founder of the Union as also of the Trade Union Movement of India. The members of the Madras Labour Union are to be congratulated on successfully conducting the Union all these years. Their responsibility has now been immensely increased in the present crisis as the Fascist forces are out to destroy the labour movement once for all. At present we should have no other consideration, no other thought in our minds except to mobilise ourselves, to route out Fascism, the bloody enemy of the workers, from the face of the world.

Let us be realistic and rise up to the task lying ahead of us and save humanity as a whole from the tyranny of barbaric rule.

We will try to send a fraternal delegate to be present on the glorious occasion of the Indian Trade Union Movement. With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

P. VENKATA RAO,

President.

C. P & BERAR,

PROVINCIAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS COMMITTEE,

N a g p u r,

29-3-43.

Dear Sir,

Your kind invitation dated 24-3-1943 to hand.

It is a great pleasure to note that your Union has completed 25 years of successful movement.

I, for my part, am extremely busy in organising a Reception committee for the forthcoming All-India Trade Union Congress to be held at Nagpur at the fag end of this month. As such, it is not possible for me to attend nor am I in a position to send a suitable representative on my behalf. However, I wish every success in your celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Union.

To my mind, it appears that your Union was established somewhere in the year 1918 when there was a successful Soviet Revolution in Russia, and now when Indians are on the road to salvation and freedom, you are celebrating this noteworthy function after 25 years which is creditably termed as Silver Jubilee.

Our mother country has reached, I believe, its maximum towards labour movement and I hope full well that a day will come when workers will be masters of their country

It is further requested of you that delegates from your Province will kindly attend the Session of the All India Trade Union Congress in large numbers when I will have an ample opportunity to discuss in extension on the labour movement.

Again, for a second time, I wish all success to the Silver Jubilee function of your Union.

With best regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

V. G. BALWAIK,

General Secretary, P. T. U. C., & Vice-President, Nagpur Textile Union.

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

Bombay,

30-3-43.

To

Com. G. CHELVAPATHI CHETTIAR,

Com. G. RAMANUJALU NAIDU.

Dear Comrades,

I was pleased to receive your invitation for the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee ceremony of the Madras Labour Union. It is a matter of pride to the Labour Movement to trace the history of achievements of Trade Unions like yours.

Permit me to wish the Union on this auspicious occasion, a still more glorious record of useful service to the Textile Workers of Madras, in the coming years of stress and strain which face our country and its workers in the immediate future.

I am very sorry I will not be able to remain present.

Yours Fraternally,
SHANTA BHALERAO,
Asst. Secretary, AITUC.

7, Barakhamba Road,
New Delhi,
30-3-43.

Dear Friend,

Thank you very much for your letter of 25th March. I am delighted to know that the Union is proposing to celebrate its Silver Jubilee on 14th April. It will be a source of great happiness and inspiration to the workers to have Mr. and Mrs. Wadia on that auspicious occasion. The Union, and indeed the entire Trade Union movement in this country, cannot afford to forget that it was Mr. Wadia's sympathetic interest in the welfare of workers, his sturdy championship of their rights and his willingness to suffer for the cause that brought about the establishment of the first organized Union in this country. We have travelled far from those days. It is a source of great good fortune that Mr. Wadia, though he has not been taking an active interest in the movement in recent years, is still in a position to see for himself the fruits of his early labours. Having been associated with the Union for a number of years after his departure from Madras, I should have deemed it a great privilege to be present on the occasion. Unfortunately, the long distance that separates me from Madras and my own work here prevent me from accepting your invitation. Kindly convey to the meeting my wife's and my best wishes for the success of the celebrations and greater strength to the cause.

Yours sincerely,

B. SHIVA RAO.

Rao Bahadur

K. V. SESHU AIYANGAR, M.A., B.L., M.B.E.,

Advocate.

Madras,

1-4-43.

Dear Sir,

On the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Labour Union, it gives me the greatest pleasure as one in contact with it for many years, to convey best wishes for its growing prosperity and usefulness in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

K. V. Seshu Aiyangar.

THE HINDUSTAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION.

M a d r a s,

Dear Mr. Selvapathi Chettiar,

3-4-43.

Many thanks for your kind invitation to attend the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Labour Union on the 14th instant. As I expect to be away on tour in connection with Scout work, I regret I will not be able to attend your function. Please accept my hearty congratulations on your and Mr. Ramanajulu Naidu's very successful work for the cause of labour all these many years. Twenty-five years of strenuous work for the Madras Labour Union has its own reward. Perhaps all these years of uphill work for building up labour movement in this country through the Madras Labour Union which was the first Union to be in the country has established the fact that the labour population play a vital part in the life of the nation and that they deserve every consideration and are entitled to the best treatment possible, by all concerned. I was happy to be associated, though for a short time, with the work of the Madras Labour Union, which has become one of the most well-organised and effective Labour Unions in the country, thanks to the great help rendered by Dr. Annie Besant, Dr. G. S. Arundale, Messrs. B. P. Wadia, B. Shiva Rao, T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, V. Chakkarai Chettiar and other leaders. The help rendered for the cause of the labour through the Corporation by the Labour representative, Mr. Selvapathy Chettiar and the selfless service done by the Joint Secretary Mr. Ramanujulu Naidu is wellknown. May the Labour Union grow from strength to strength and result in the solidarity of the labour movement which is destined to play a great part in the future, is our prayer.

Yours sincerely,

V. S. Ratnasabapathy.

Provincial Organising Commissioner.

THE TATA WORKERS' UNION.

Jamshedpur,
3-4-43.

Dear Sirs,

Regret I can not personally attend your function though heartily I wish I could.

Please convey our felicitations and hearty greetings to our brother Workers.

Wish you every success.

Yours Sincerely,
B. R. BOSE
Ag. General Secretary.

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

B o m b a y,
6-4-43.

Com. G. CHELVAPATHI CHETTIAR,
Com. G. RAMANUJALU NAIDU.

Dear Comrades,

I thank you very much for your letter inviting me to attend the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Madras Labour Union. I am very glad to note that my friend Mr. B. P. Wadia, the first President of the Union, will take the chair on the occasion. I regret I shall not be able to be present, but I take this occasion to convey to you my feelings of good wishes to the office bearers and members of the Union on this great occasion. I have always watched the career of your Union with great interest. I know that the Union has rendered great service in the past to its members and the Trade Union Movement in the country. I have every hope that it will continue its work with equal vigour in the future.

Yours Fraternally,
N. M. JOSHI,
General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

Bombay,
7-4-43.

Dear Comrade,

Many thanks for the invitation of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of your Union to be held on the 14th April. I am sorry I cannot attend the function being busily engaged in my Union work and also in preparing the reports etc., for the Session of The All India Trade Union Congress.

Your Union has given a lead to the Trade Union movement in the beginning and I wish the Union will gather sufficient strength once more to lead the movement.

I wish all success.

Yours sincerely,
R. A. Khedgikar,
Assistant Secretary, A.I.T.U.C.

THYAGARAYANAGAR, MADRAS.

Dear Sir,

8-4-43.

My best wishes to the Madras Labour Union on the occasion of its silver Jubilee. I am especially glad that the Union has been able to secure the presence on the occasion of my old friend and brother Mr. B. P. Wadia. I can safely say that I endorse all that Mr. Wadia will say to the assembled gathering.

Yours sincerely,
C. Rajagopalachar.

RAOSAHIB

Pachaiyappa's College,

Dr. B. V. NARAYANASWAMY,

Chetput, Madras.

M. A., PHD., B. COM., BAR-AT-LAW,

10-4-43.

My dear Mr. Chelvapathi Chetti,

Thanks very much for sending me the invitation for the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Labour Union. Owing to previous engagement it would not be possible for me to attend the function.

Every honest citizen will sympathise with the difficulties of the labour. May they obtain more good things in this world through the help of Labour Unions.

I wish the function all success.

Thanking you and with regards,

Yours sincerely,

B. V. Narayanaswamy.

Principal & Professor of economics.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

M A D R A S,

10-4-43.

Dear Mr. Chelvapathi Chettiar,

I must thank you for your kind invitation to the Madras Labour Union Jubilee celebration on Wednesday next. But I am sorry I shall be away at Calcutta at that time and I therefore wish to be excused.

With best wishes for the success of your Union,

Sincerely yours,

G. Solomon

General Secretary.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Labour Welfare Adviser
CAMP: MADRAS.

Dated the 10th April, 1943.

Dear Friends,

I am so happy to learn that you are proposing to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Madras Labour Union on the 14th of April 1943, and I have also learnt in the press that Mr. B. P. Wadia, the first President of the Union unfortunately cannot come to preside over this occasion. I have already fixed up to leave for Coimbatore on this date, otherwise I would have been extremely glad to be present on this occasion.

The Madras Labour Union is a Pioneer Trade Union in this country, and I have read with interest all its trials and tribulations through which it has passed during the first days of the Trade Union Movement in this country.

We are anxious to see that India gets a sound Trade Union Movement and efforts of many of us are directed towards this end. The Madras Labour Union has shown this way, and I am sure that after the Silver Jubilee, you will be able to carry on your splendid work with greater energies. I wish the organisation still greater successes.

Sincerely yours,
R. S. NIMBKAR.

(Telegram.)

BOMBAY,

12-4-43.

To

CHELVAPATHI CHETTY,

MADRAS, PERAMBUR.

Send best wishes greetings for Silver Jubilee celebration. May Union live to serve the cause of peace and human brotherhood.

Wadia.

K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU,

B.A., B.L., M.L.C.,

MADRAS,

12th April 1943.

Dear Sir,

Kindly accept my hearty congratulations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of your Union. It is one of the oldest Unions and has long record of useful work. May God grant you further lease of still more useful work.

Yours Sincerely,

K. Venkataswamy Naidu.

DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, INDIAN BRANCH.

New Delhi, 14-4-43.

The Madras Labour Union is perhaps the oldest workers' union in India. When it was started, its pioneering founders, Mr. B. P. Wadia and Mrs. Annie Besant, like the "Tolpuddle Martyrs", had to encounter considerable opposition and overcome great prejudice. Today, in India, trade union activities have come to be recognised as a legitimate and indeed a desirable endeavour to protect working-class interests; and a great deal of the credit for this happy consummation is to be attributed to the splendid record of work of organisations like the Madras Labour Union and to their proved service in the difficult field of employer-employee relationships. It is in the fitness of things that Mr. Wadia, the founder of the Union, should preside over its Silver Jubilee Celebration and derive pleasure from the knowledge that the organisation which he established 25 years ago has now grown to maturity and can look forward with confidence to winning additional laurels in the service of industry generally and the working-classes in particular.

As the representative in India of the International Labour Organisation and as a well-wisher and friend of Indian Labour, I cordially felicitate the Madras Labour Union on its 25 years' record of disinterested work, and wish it still further success and prosperity in spite of the difficult years that lie ahead.

P. P. PILLAI.

15

(Telegram.)

NEW DELHI,

14-4-43.

To

Chelvapathi Chetti,
Madras Labour Union,
Perambur Barracks, Madras.

Best wishes Silver Jubilee celebrations
from us both. SHIVA RAO.

THE E. I. D. & S. F. LTD., LABOUR UNION.

Nellikuppam,
13-4-43.

Dear Sirs,

The E. I. D. & S. F. Ltd., Labour Union, Nellikuppam congratulates the Madras Labour Union for celebrating the Silver Jubilee. It is a well known fact that it is the oldest organisation and the best first well organised Union in this Presidency nay in the whole of India.

We hope that the premier Union will champion the cause of the workers in earnest and set an example to other unions as to how to improve labour conditions worsened by the war at a time when our beloved country which stands foremost in the world in producing the greatest many-sided personalities the world has never seen, is threatened with Fascism and Nazism.

Further we wish that the Union will devote its considerable attention to achieve National Government based upon national unity for defence of our country. For the important lesson we are learning from this war is that no army of occupation can successfully defend a country without the fullest and hearty co-operation of the people. Hence National Government for national defence and national Unity to get our beloved national leaders released, to stop sabotage and nip the fifth column activities in the bud.

Yours Faithfully,
M. RATNAM PILLAI,
President.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, DATED 16th, APRIL, 1943.

15-4-43.

A landmark in the history of the Trade Union Movement in India was left behind when the Madras Labour Union, the first of such institutions to be formed in the land, celebrated its Silver Jubilee last evening on the S.I.A.A grounds. Dr. G. S. Arundale, a former President of the Union, presided.

Mr. C. Tadulinga Mudaliar, Mayor of Madras and Messrs K. Venkataswami Naidu, M. Singaravelu Chetty, V Chakkarai Chetty, and others interested in the Labour Movement and many City Fathers and prominent men of the City were present.

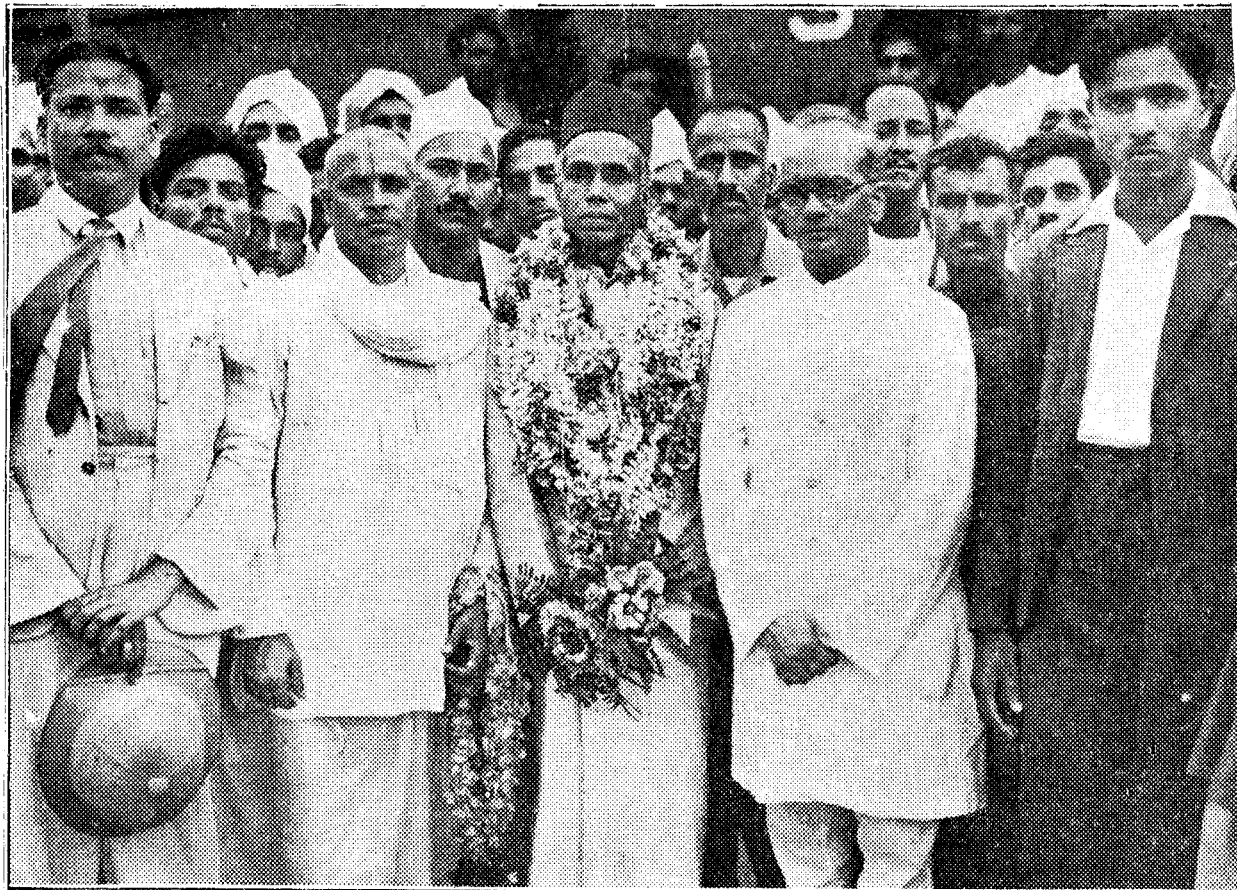
Mr. P. A. Kanniah on behalf of the Labour Union presented an address to Dr. Arundale.

Messrs. B. P. Wadia (the Union's first President), C. Rajagopalachari, N. M. Joshi, R. S. Nimbkar, B. Shiva Rao and Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer sent messages.

Messrs G. Selvapathi Chetti and G. Ramanujalu Naidu, the Secretaries of the Union from its inception, in a report read on the occasion, traced the rise and growth of the Union. The Madras Labour Union, it was stated, 'ignited and set ablaze the labour world of India', which resulted in the formation of the All-India Trade Union Congress and organised labour activity in the country dated only from its inception.

The report dealt with the historic strikes undertaken by it and the stormy career and the vicissitudes it underwent. Among the benefits accruing to the Labour Movement since the Union's coming into being were the passing of the Trade Unions Act, Trades Dispute Act, Workmen's Compensation Act and other enactments, reduction of the working hours from 12 to 10 and ultimately to 9, half yearly bonus, 15 days privilege leave and 13 days leave for festivals with full wages for one year etc.

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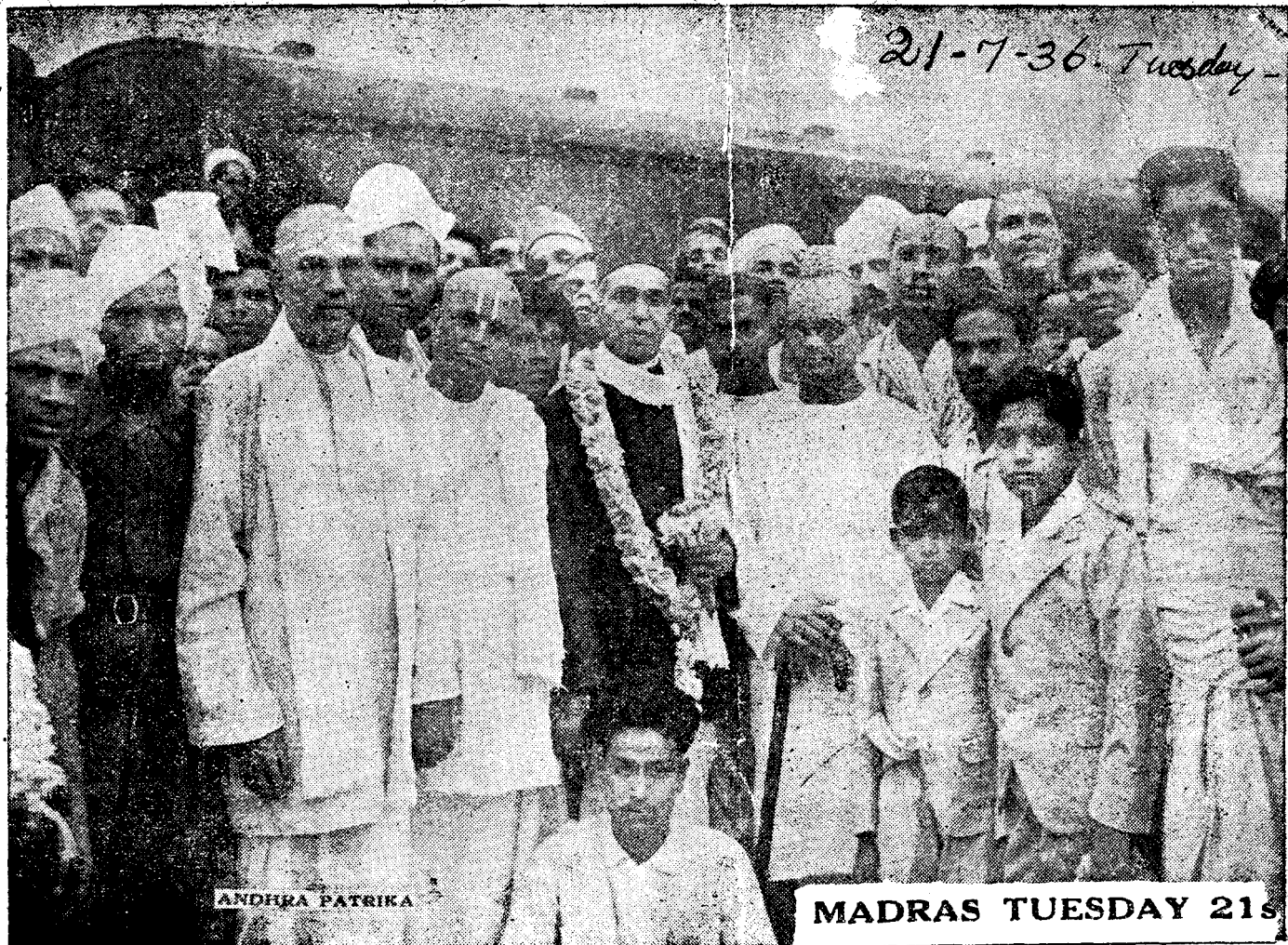


Mr. G. Selvapathy Chettiar, the Indian delegate to the International Labour Conference at Tokio, was given a reception at the Central Station on his return from Japan.



The Indian delegation to the International Labour Conference at Geneva (left to right): Mr. Fulay, Mr. Chetti, Mrs. Zaman, Mr. Roy and (right extreme) Sir H. Mehta.

Sat 4th July '36



21-7-36 Tuesday

ANDHRA PATRIKA

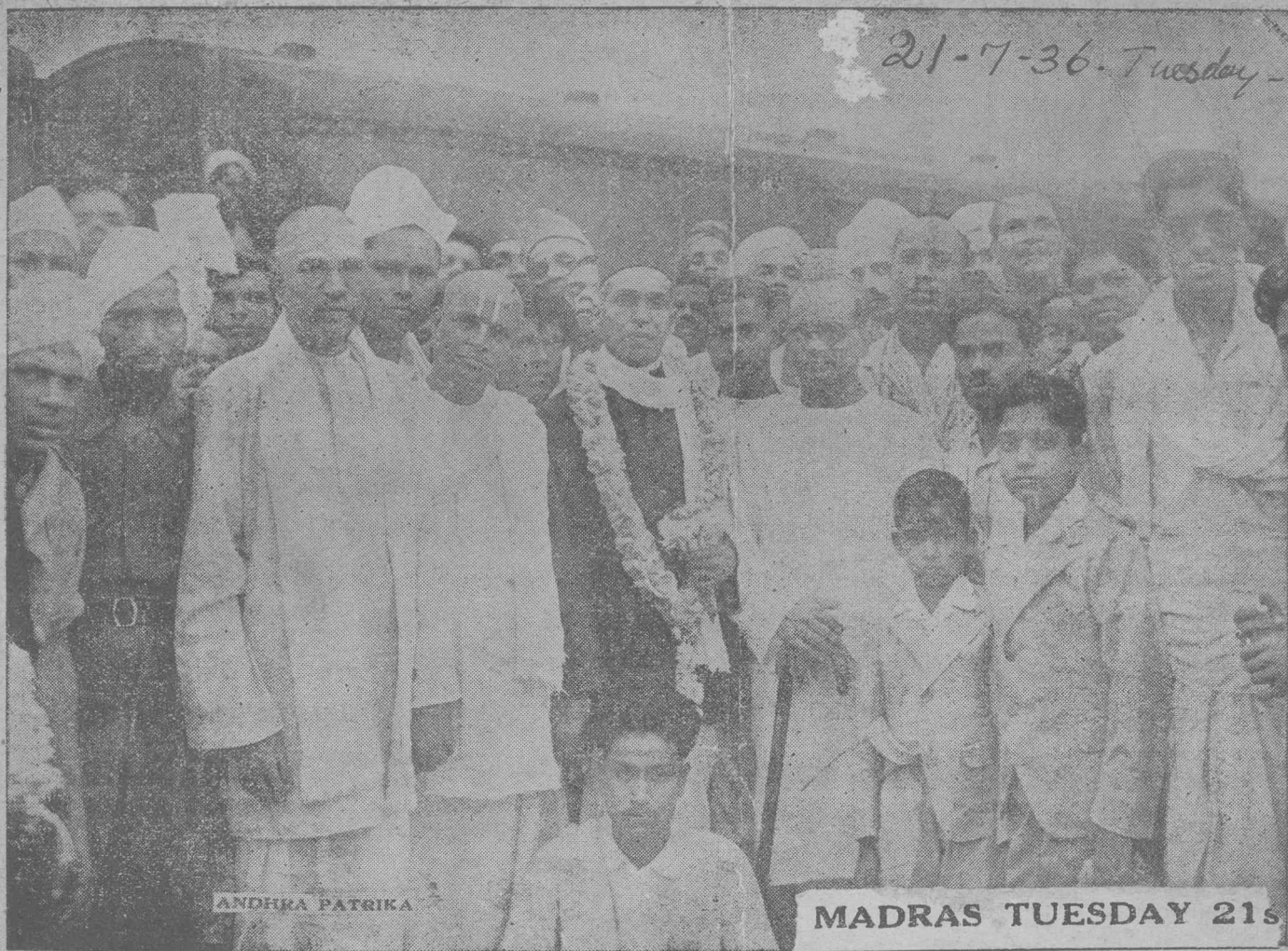
MADRAS TUESDAY 21s

(P. P. B

జి. సెన్సెటివ్ డివిజన్, జనీవానుంకి మకరాను మకలివచ్చినపుడు సెంట్రలుట్టేషనువద్ద వితులు నన్నానించుట.

21-7-36

21-7-36. Tuesday -



ANDHRA PATRIKA

MADRAS TUESDAY 21s

(P. P. B

జ. సెన్సెటివ్ డెట్టి గారు, జినీవానం? మకరాసు మరలివచ్చినపుడు సెంట్రలు డ్వేషనువద్ద మిత్రులు సన్మానించుట.
అనియంతులు

THE MADRAS LABOUR UNION

SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY

14th April 1943

As the Union is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of its birth to-day, it is only fitting that a retrospect of its history should be provided, for the benefit of the general public as well as its own members. The humble origin of the Union, its subsequent stormy career and the many vicissitudes it has passed through, must possess deep interest and doubly so in view of the fact that it was the first Union to be started not only in Madras, but the first in our country as a whole, setting the example followed in a few years by other similar organisations in connection with several industries in the city and elsewhere. It was the Madras Labour Union that ignited the spark that has set ablaze the whole labour world of India, resulting in the All India Trade Union Congress and its recognition in the world wide Labour organisation set up in Geneva. Before the birth of this Union, there was no **Organised Labour** activity and the strikes that occasionally broke out were very different from those that were undertaken later on, under the auspices of organised Trade Unions.

Before the founding of the Union, some of the textile workers of the Mills used to gather for religious lectures in the premises of Janga Ramaya Ammal bungalow in Perambur Barracks, under the

auspices of Sri Venkatesa Guna Amurta Varshini Sabha. Mr. G. Selvapathy Chettiar, the Secretary of the Sabha used to invite Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar among others, to address the gatherings.

As this was going on, Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai was writing a series of articles in the "Indian Patriot" pertaining to the grievances of the textile workers with the assistance of Mr. G. Ramanjalu Naidu and the translations of some of these articles were published in 'Desa Dakthan' of which Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar was the Editor.

These leaders while discussing labour problems in which they were interested, found the dire need for an organisation to voice forth the grievances of the workmen. With this object in view, a meeting of the Sabha was held in the aforesaid premises on March 2nd, 1918 and it was attended by thousands of workmen. Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar who spoke then, dwelt at length on the history of the labour movement in the west and urged the necessity of the Economic Independence of the labourers and concluded with the need for a labour Union. The chairman, Mr. Sudarsana Mudaliar who came to the meeting with the expectation of hearing some religious discourse, was taken aback, and in concluding the proceedings of the meeting opposed the views of Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, and his opposition was a cry in the wilderness as the audience did not lend him a patient hearing. Then the Secretary of the Sabha Mr. Chelvapathi Chettiar in proposing the vote of thanks gave a fitting reply to the chairman and thus the meeting ended. The interference of the



P. Kesava Pillai



T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar



B. P. Wadia



G. Selvapathy Chettiar



G. Ramanjalu Naidu

police in the proceedings that day was deeply resented.

From that day the idea to found a union took root and Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar approached Mr. Kesava Pillai and requested him to be the first President of the union when founded. As he was not a permanent resident of Madras, he suggested that it would be better if a permanent resident was pitched upon. Thereupon Mr. Wadia, a prominent member of the Theosophical Society was approached. In the meantime a few meetings were held at the said bungalow at which Mr. Wadia spoke in English and the same was translated into Tamil by Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar. These meetings paved the way for the birth of a union. The labourers were kindled with a burning zeal to see the birth of a Union and the union actually saw the light of day under the name of the **Madras Labour Union** on Saturday the 27th April, 1918. The following office bearers were elected :—

President :

Mr. B. P. Wadia

Vice-Presidents :

Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai
Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar
and others.

Secretaries :

Mr. G. Selvapathy Chettiar
„ G. Ramanjalu Naidu

The secretaries continue in this office still with a record of unbroken and meritorious service for a quarter of a century.

Since that date the movement spread like wild fire and under the inspiration of our Union other Unions were started, among which the following are important.

M. & S. M. Ry. Union.
 Tramway Men's Union.
 Electric Supply Corporation Union.
 Kerosine Oil Workers Union.
 Printers Union.
 Aluminium Workers Union.
 Scavengers Union.
 Police Union.
 S. I. R. Union.
 Coimbatore Textile Workers Union
 Madura Textile Workers Union
 Domestic Servants Union etc.

The successive Presidents of the Madras Labour Union are :

Messrs. B. P. Wadia - April 1918 to January 1921
 T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar - January 1921 to September 1923
 K. M. Natesa Nayagar (worker) 1923 to 1924
 Dr. G. S. Arundale 1924 to 1926
 B. Shiva Rao 1926 to 1935
 T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar 1935 to 1943.

The Union cannot but record its appreciation of the worthy help rendered to the union by Dr. Annie Besant then president of the Theosophical Society.

Successful attempts were made to enlist the support and sympathy of prominent public workers in Madras and elsewhere, in the promotion of labour interests, irrespective of party affiliations.

and this feature of non-party character of the Labour Unions continued to characterise their activities in the early years, which fact accounts for the phenomenal success that marked the beginnings and the spirit of harmony among the leaders of the several unions.

As an off-shoot of the founding and active exertions of the Madras Labour Union, the first Labour Provincial Conference was held on 21st March 1920 at the Lodd Govindoss palace garden at which Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai presided. It was attended by delegates from all over the Province and the proceedings gave a great stimulus to the Labour movement in the different industrial centres. Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar who was the chairman of the Reception Committee explained the importance of constituting a central Board and getting into its fold all the unions that were working at several places within the limits of the city. As the product of his suggestion the **Madras Central Labour Board** was started on 4th July 1920 to which were affiliated all the City Unions and this preceded the formation of the **All India Trade Union Congress**. This Board sought to co-ordinate the activities of all the Unions, the membership of which amounted to about 75,000. At no time in subsequent years was the solidarity of labour, its sagacity and enthusiasm, shown in a more striking manner than in the early history of the Madras Central Labour Board. One conspicuous instance of its success deserves to be mentioned. Owing to the increased number of Unions and their activities in connection with the strikes and lock-outs in the City, the attention of Lord Willingdon's Government was drawn to them. It was proposed by his Government that a Committee should be set up to



K. M. Natesa Nayagar



Dr. G. S. Arundale



B. Shiva Rao



V. Chakkarai Chettiar



Dr. Annie Besant



E. L. Iyer

enquire into the conditions of labour and Mr. Justice Kumaraswami Sastriar's name was proposed for its Chairmanship. This name aroused strong protests from the Madras Central Labour Board that held several meetings for the purpose. Lord Willingdon sent for the leaders of labour and discussed the matter with them. But as the leaders remained adamant regarding their objections to Mr. Sastriar who, though personally a very estimable gentleman, was not favoured on account of his giving his assent to the Rowlatt Report, suggesting drastic steps to counter political activities alleged to be revolutionary, the Committee was dropped—a striking success. In this connection mention must be made of the services rendered to labour and the Madras Central Labour Board by Miss. Mirnalini Chattopadhyaya, sister of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. At first Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar was the Chairman of the Board and then Mr. V. Chakkarai Chettiar. The Board after doing its work and passing through certain internal dissensions, had to be temporarily suspended.

During the early years there were many incidents in the mills that led to the increasing bitterness on the part of the workers. At first friendly negotiations were opened with Messrs. Binny & Co. by Mr. B. P. Wadia and certain proposals were made by him. These were:—(a) The midday recess of 30 minutes should be extended to an hour (b) An increase of wages by 25 per cent as in Ahmedabad (c) Payment of wages when machinery gets out of order. (d) Payment of wages on the 7th of each month instead of on the 22nd. (e) Regulations for the dismissal of workers (f) Better treatment of the labourers by the European officers and removal of racial feelings. (NOTE: It may be noted that

there were several cases of assault in the Mills by the Assistants, some of which ended in conviction in the Police Courts. In one case a European Assistant was convicted, for branding a worker with a red hot iron bar and fined Rs. 35/-)

To these suggestions no reply was received from Messrs. Binny & Co., though Mr. B. P. Wadia was willing to discontinue meetings of the Union during the period for considering them. And a strike was contemplated in consequence of this indifferent attitude.

In October 1918, the first lock-out in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills arose on account of the men refusing to obey the rule of being present at the Mills at 6 a. m. daily. Following the advice of the President, the men presented themselves on the following day at the gates at 6 a. m. and work was resumed.

On the morning of 27th November 1918, a second lock-out was declared on the ground that the Manager and the Accountant of the first, and the weaving master of the Second Mills were assaulted on the previous day and Monday before. On the 5th a notice was put up by the authorities of the B and C Mills, that the Mills, with the exception of the weaving department, would run; but the weaving shed would continue to remain closed except to those who were willing to express regret for their recent misconduct. On the 7th December, 18 representatives went to see the authorities and put forward the following requests: (a) pay for the days of the lock-out (b) the restoration of gratuity fund to weavers (c) the reinstatement of men who were suspected of complicity in the assault. The authorities would not accept the conditions. Then Mr. C. F. Andrews arrived in Madras to settle the

dispute. He along with 18 representatives led a deputation to discuss the terms of settlement (See page 2 Memorandum to Royal Commission). Sir C. Simpson of Messrs. Binny & Co., would not accept the arbitration, but promised to consider the payment of wages for 7 days as a matter of concession and a part of the gratuity fund being paid at the end of the year conditional upon good conduct. Relief measures including the sale of cheap rice at $3\frac{1}{2}$ measures per rupee and the opening of a bank for the benefit of members were adopted by the union. The lock-out came to an end after some time. The union celebrated its first Anniversary on 14th April 1919.

Towards the end of April, Mr. Wadia left for Europe to appear before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Government of India Bill, on behalf of Indian Labour and also to attend the International Labour Conference at Washington. In August 1920 Mr. B. P. Wadia returned from his tour and was given a rousing reception by the Madras Labour Union and the Central Labour Board.

On 20-10-1920 a European Mill officer entered his department with a revolver in his hand, in consequence of which strong protests were made and the lethal weapon was snatched from his hands and was handed over to the Police. This added fuel to the already smouldering discontent among workmen caused by the victimisation of the leading members of the Executive Committee and the neglect of the claims of some others for promotion. This created a great stir among the management of the mills and a lock - out of the Buckingham Mill was declared on 21-10-1920. With the view of safeguarding labour interests, a

committee consisting of the following (1) B. P. Wadia, (2) T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, (3) G. Ramanjalu Naidu, (4) Vedanatham, (5) S. Natesa Mudaliar, (6) Varadaraja Nayagar, (7) Kesavalu Naidu, (8) Syed Jalal, (9) K. M. Natesa Nayagar and (10) Namasivayam Pillai, was appointed, against which the Buckingham Mill Management instituted a suit for damages to the extent of Rs. 75,000/- and got an injunction restraining the members of the Committee from carrying on their activities till the strike was over. This case is a land mark in the history of labour in India, as it indicated the legal position of a trade union and the dangers to which it was exposed as the law then stood, before the enactment of the Trades union act. The suit was instituted on the allegation that the members had conspired together to cause dislocation in the work of the mill by persuading the men to go on strike thus causing loss to the employers. The activities of a labour Union were not then recognised by law as legitimate and legal. The case was tried by Justice Phillips Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer (now Sir), Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer (now Sir), S. Duraiswami Iyer, Dewan Bahadur S. Guruswami Chettiar, Mr. Venkataramana Rao Naidu (now Rao Bahadur) and others appeared on behalf of the committee and the Union would ever be grateful to them for their advocacy. (Ultimately the case was withdrawn).

The meetings of the workmen were conducted by the men themselves quite peacefully. With the help of the Police, outsiders were brought into the Mills so as to carry on the work and thus create disruption among the workers. On 19th Dec. 1920 the Police opened fire alleging that the workers threw stones at the vans, with the result that two young men were killed and some

others were wounded. These are the first martyrs in the cause of labour and their memories will be held in reverence as long as the Union continues to exist. At that time Mr. B. P. Wadia had to go out of India, and since he did not wish to leave the lock-out in lurch, in his absence, he made the people resume work and proceeded west.

In May 1921 a very big strike took place, and continued for six long months, during which time men suffered great miseries, with a fortitude and patience worthy of admiration, and which would stand as a memorable example in the history of labour in the city. It is enough to state very briefly the causes of this strike which began as a lock-out prolonged for almost six months and the incidental sufferings of the men. There was a strike of the men in the Carding department in the Carnatic Mills on the dismissal of two Adi Dravidas. On the advice of Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, President of the Union, the men were prepared to resume work on the following day and waited at the gate. To the entire body of workmen, including the Carding Department men, the management had given notice in the meantime, that the bonus due to them was forfeited and if they agreed to lose that, the mill would be reopened. This arbitrary action of the employers was condemned and the Labour Commissioner, Mr. Moier and Mr. K. Srinivasa Iyengar, the Executive councillor incharge of Labour Portfolio, were informed of the proceedings, but, Government pleaded their inability to intervene. Then on June 3rd the employees of the Buckingham Mill resolved to go on strike, in sympathy, and notified the management that on 20th June, there would be a strike of the Buckingham Mill too and no reply

was given to the notice of the Union. The strike took place on 20th. Thus began one of the most memorable strikes in Madras, and probably in the whole of India. The leaders Messrs T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, V. Chakkara Chettiar and E. L. Iyer (whose untimely death the labour world still laments) led the strike inspiring the men to hold on, as their cause was just and the public were with them. It is perhaps necessary to remark, that in the early years the public gave whole hearted support to labour in its struggles both on the platform and in the press. The 'Hindu' of those days, under the editorship of the late Mr. Kasturiranga Iyengar, championed our cause in the most sympathetic way for which the Union would always be grateful.

About 10,000 men took part in the strike. The struggle went on amidst the combined opposition of Government and the employers. Seeing that the workers would not make an abject surrender, the most ingenious and now well known expedient of dividing the workers was employed. The most alluring promises were made to the Adi Dravidas, to separate them from the caste Hindus, to which some yielded. Along with them and others the Mills began to resume work, the men being escorted under strong Police bandobust. Villagers from outside were also recruited and separate places were assigned to them. There began daily incidents, police firing, brutal assaults with knives and acts of incendiarism, that were then ascribed to be the work of unknwn agents.

Lord Willingdon then on the Hills came down and invited the leaders Messrs. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, V. Chakkarai Chettiar, E. L. Iyer and Jaleel Khan to meet him, the members of his Council and the then 'Justice' Ministers. Lord

Willingdon threw the responsibility for the many acts of assault, incendiarism etc. on them to which they replied by repudiating the charges and demanding proof of their complicity in them. Finally Lord Willingdon threatened them with deportation in case the unlawful acts were repeated. For very good reasons, it was firmly believed in the labour circles that it was the intervention of the late Sir P. Thyagaraya Chettiar that saved the leaders from deportation and worse.

Police prosecutions were launched against some of the men and a committee was appointed to enquire into these disturbances with Mr. Justice Ayling as the Chairman and Sir Venkataratnam Naidu and Mr. Narasimhachari of Kurnool, as its members. The enquiry began on 10-8-1921. The Union refused to take part in the proceedings on the main ground that the disturbances were subjects of magisterial enquiry and the Union had no manner of connection with them. In consequence of this non-participation, the enquiry became abortive.

The then Police commissioner issued a notice announcing several threatening measures for the preservation of the public peace and on 29-8-1921 the Police opened fire to which seven fell victims including a woman, and many others were severely wounded.

The strike after many incidents was brought to an end, when the late Sir P. Thyagaraya Chettiar addressed the workmen, in the compound of Savalai Rajah Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, advising them to return to work as conditions were not favourable. This advice was taken by them and the strike ended.

After the termination of the big strike in 1921 the mill management started a rival association under the name of Welfare Association. Some workmen, not aware of the risks to which a genuine trade union is exposed by the activities of such a welfare association, joined it and it still continues to live basking in the sunshine of the employers' favour. In all the subsequent struggles this association, though ostensibly meant for the social well-being of its members, has impeded the growth of the Union and constitutes a menace to the solidarity and progress of textile workers. Need it be said that in Britain and even in America an association of this kind, started and worked in rivalry to an organised Union has been condemned by labour leaders and wise laws have been set in motion against it. Even in India the law must step in and dissolve such an organisation carried on by the employers and "ipso facto" disqualify it to be a real Trade Union.

In this place mention may be made of the contribution of Rs. 30,000 made to the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee on the initiative of Mahatma Gandhi towards the relief of workmen on strike. A Sub-Committee was set up by the said Congress Committee and a piece of land was bought and a building was put up but it was never handed over to the Madras Labour Union and it must be said that great disappointment has been caused by this attitude and by the fact that at the time, not much help was rendered.

Before we pass on to the subsequent history of the Union, it would not be out of place to record that some of the leaders prominent in the struggles of the Union, have been honoured in various ways.

Messrs. V. Chakkarai Chettiar, E. L. Iyer, G. Chelvapathi Chettiar and Rajagopal Naidu were returned to the Corporation Council and their electoral success was due not a little to the efforts of the members of the Union in the electoral campaigns. Messrs. B. Shiva Rao and G. Chelvapathi Chettiar were deputed by the Government of India to attend the International Labour Conference at Geneva and Mr. G. Chelvapathi Chettiar was enabled to go as a delegate to the Asiatic Labour Conference in Japan. He represents the Textile workers in the Madras Legislative assembly since 1937. Mr. V. Chakkarai Chettiar, the Vice President became the Mayor of Madras in 1941-42.

The defamation case launched by the Employers against the leaders drew the attention of India to the labour conditions. A series of labour legislation was put through, beginning with the Trades Union Act, legalising the Union and subsequent amendments thereto, the Trades Disputes Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act and other enactments. The legal position is still far from satisfactory, the great need being the formation of agencies for the settlement of disputes, in conformity with the legislation obtaining in Britain, the prevention of dismissals and victimisation under various pretexts, better housing accommodation, and fixing of a living wages, bonus, and profit - sharing. The tendency in Britain is towards some form of socialism, especially as regards the key industries, and the war has accelerated the progress. It is to be hoped that steps should be taken even now to give to labour a fraction, at least, of the enormous profits now being made. The dearness allowance given is inadequate to meet the high cost of living and therefore an

enquiry should be made into the profits, the cost of living etc., with a view to fix fair wages and allowances. The war will have been fought in vain so far as labour is concerned, if a charter is not given to labour liberating it from, thralldom to capital and securing the greatest possible benefits commensurate with their efforts in war time. If labour in Britain and America could do this, then the position here in India would also follow the same lines; a better day will dawn, to dispel darkness and the shadows that now lie heavy on labour.

We are obliged to pass over the uneventful history of many years during which the labour consciousness, inspite of many disasters and disillusionments, has been steadily growing and the Red Flag now is the symbol and the rallying centre of labour.

There is to-day in different ways a conflict of ideologies among the leaders and the rank and file. Trade unionists, Socialists and Communists are trying to capture the labour forum and it is yet too early to predict the future. But of this there can be no doubt that some form of collective lift in the economic life of the workers will emerge, not following, probably, the western models but congenial to our land and its psychology.

In 1939 there took place the Choolai Mills strike and the management took advantage of it to permanently close them. The strike was not responsible for this drastic step, as the mills were heavily indebted and could not meet its liabilities for many years satisfactorily. Some prosecutions were launched against workers and the intervention of the Congress Ministry, that was fondly expected

did not materialise. Thousands of workmen and their families were exposed to the severest forms of destitution and misery, resulting in open begging. Not much help was forthcoming, either from Government or the public. The Union had to fight for the arrears of pay due, amounting to over Rs. 35000/- in the Bombay High Court and the Madras High Court though the Labour Commissioner had decided in our favour. Ultimately the arrears were ordered to be paid, and the workmen received them, thanks to the unselfish exertions of Messrs S. Parthasarathy Iyengar, the son of the late Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, who always evinced the most sincere interest in the cause of labour and whose death we all lament, and Mr. V. K. Tiruven-gadachari. Thus ended the Choolai Mills strike. Many of the workmen have been absorbed in the B and C Mills and in other industries.

The year 1942 witnessed the last series of sufferings of the workmen. Beginning with a partial stay-in-strike of the spinning department of the Carnatic Mills, the situation rapidly worsened and a lock-out ensued which the management construed as an illegal strike because the new rule of giving 14 days notice was not observed. This was hotly contested before the Labour Commissioner and the Hon'ble Advisor, but in vain. On 11-3-1942 the Police opened fire, resulting in the death of 9 workmen and outsiders and in several being wounded. At last the men resumed work on the advice of the leaders. The Union appealed to the Government and the Company for a compassionate compensation to the families of the deceased, but they turned a deaf ear to our representations. The Union has collected Rs. 570^{127.8.5} which amount is

being disbursed to the families of the deceased who fell as martyrs in the cause of labour. The Union will prepare a roll of honour of all these and record their names in a brass tablet in the Hall of the Union.

Once again there were misunderstandings between the workmen and the employers, which led to a stay-in-strike and the lock-out of the mills. The leaders of the union intervened and on their advice the workers resumed work. Unfortunately, about 51 persons had to lose their jobs.

Out of all the strenuous struggles and self sacrificing labours of the Union, some good results have been achieved standing out in conspicuous relief. The Union now owns a press, and a building, in Strahans Road, where its office is located, named Chelvapathi - Ramanuja Building. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar and the premises was declared open by the late Dewan Bahadur Kesava Pillai. The bust of Mr. B. P. Wadia adorns the terrace. Thus the pioneers of the Madras Labour Union have been honoured. Among the benefits, should be mentioned the following :

The Trade Union Act was passed in 1926.

The Union was recognised in 1932.

The working hours were reduced from 12 to 10
then from 10 to 9.

Wages rose to 150%.

15 days privilege leave for 1 year with full wages.

13 days for festivals with full wages.

Half yearly bonus.

Some tenements for housing workers were built.

Stores for the sales of provisions were opened.
Masters' jobs were given to Indians.

Above all these is the fact that labour has become deeply conscious of its role in the economic and political reconstruction of India—a gain of incalculable importance. In the free India of the future, which is being expected either during the war or after, labour will come to its own inheritance. To the realisation of these objects the Union has contributed its share by no means inconsiderable. In conclusion the Union calls on workers to unitedly stand solid and four square in all the winds that blow.

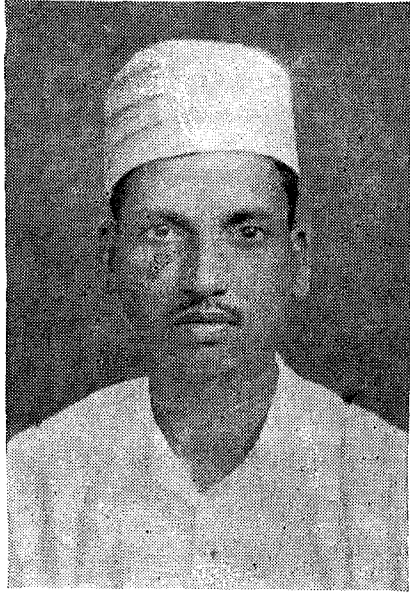
The dawn of your deliverance is at hand. Lift up your heads.

G. SELVAPATHY CHETTI,
G. RAMANJALU NAIDU,

Secretaries.

தொழிற் சங்கம் ஒங்குக!

தொழிலாளர் வாழ்க !!



திருவாளர் :

N. கோவிந்தசாமி அவர்கள்

சென்னை நெசவு தொழிலாளர் சார்பாக சட்டசபை

அங்கத்தினராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டதைக் குறித்துச்

சென்னை வாலிபத் தொழிலாளர் சங்கத்தார்

14-4-1946-ல் வாழ்த்தி அளித்த

வாழ்த்துப்பா.

நிலைமண்டில ஆசிரியப்பா.

சென்னையில் சிறப்புடன் வாழ்ந்து மிளிர்ந்த
சீர்நர சிம்மலு நாயுடு என்போர்
தமக்கு மகனுய்த் தகவுடன் தோன்றிப்
புளியந் தோப்பிடைப் பலநாள் வாழ்ந்தும்,
பக்கிங் காமில் தன்னிடைப் பாங்குடன்
முப்பது வருட மாகத் தொழிலைப்
புரிந்து கொண்டே கல்வியில் தேர்ந்தும்,
சென்னை வேதாந்த சங்கந் தன்னில்
சுப்பய்ய சாமிகள் மாணவ னாகியும்,
பலப்பல ஞானிகள் நட்பினை யுற்றும்,
கற்ற அறிவினர் தொடர்பினைக் கொண்டும்,
அறவுரை தம்மைக் கேட்டதற் கேற்பச்
சிந்தனை செய்து திடமுடன் திகழ்ந்தும்,
நல்லவை தம்மை நலமுடன் புரிந்தும்,
தியவை தம்மை அஞ்சா தெதிர்த்துக்
காரணம் காட்டிப் பலரைத் திருத்தியும்,
சொல்வதைக் காட்டிலும் செய்தலே சிறப்பென
நல்லொழுக்கந் தனில் நடந்து காட்டியும்,
பகைவரும் விரும்பிடப் பண்புடன் திகழ்ந்தும்
தூய உணர்வினை எளிமையில் கொண்டும்,
ஆட்பர உடையை அறவே ஒழித்தும்,
சாதி மதத்தில் பேதம் இன்றி
எல்லாச் சாதியும் ஒன்றெனக் கருதியும்,
மக்கள் பணியே தெய்வப் பணியெனப்
பகலும் இரவும் நாட்டுக் குழைத்தும்,
மில்முத லாளிகள் வேலையி னின்று
நீக்கினும் அஞ்சா தெதிர்த்துப் பொருதும்,
ஸ்பின்னிங் டிபார்ட்மென்ட் இடையுண் டான
கலகம் தணிக்க நெட்டால் துரையும்
டவுன் துரை யவரும் கேட்டுக் கொள்ள
அவ்வா றவற்றை அவரும் வியக்க
மக்களை நல்முறைத் துறையில் தணித்தும்,
தொழிலவர் குறைகளை முதலா ளிகள்பால்
எடுத்துக் காட்டி அவற்றை நீக்கியும்,
எம்சங் கத்திடைப் பத்தாண் டுகளாய்
சீர்உப தலைவர் பதவி வகித்து
மிளிரும் கோவிந்த சாமி என்போய்!
இன்று யாவரும் புகழ்ந்திட நடந்த
சென்னைச் சட்ட சபையின் தேர்தலில்
பெரும்பா லான ஓட்டுகள் பெற்று
நிற்றலே உன்றன் பெரும்புகழ் காட்டும்;
இத்தகை உணையும் ஒழுக்கமும் பெற்று
நல்லோய் இன்னும் நாட்டுக் குழைக்கும்
சட்ட சபையின் மூல மாகப்
புவியோர் யாவரும் புகழ்ந்திடும் வண்ணம்
ஆக்கத் தொழில்கள் பற்பல புரிந்தே
இன்புடன் என்றும் வாழி! வாழியே !!

இயற்றியவர், சென்னைப் பச்சையப்பன் கல்லூரித் தமிழ் விரிவுரையாளர்,
வித்துவான் : பண்டித ரா. நடேச நாயகர்.

சென்னை நகராண்மைக் கழக மேயர்
உயர் திருவாளர் Dr. U. கிருஷ்ணராவ் அவர்களுக்கு,
இந்தியர் முன்னேற்றக் கழகத்தினரும்,
முன்னைய சென்னைத் தொழிற்சங்க மாணவர் வகுப்பினரும்

சேர்ந்து அன்புடன் வாசித்தளித்த

வாழ்த்துப் பத்திரம்.

அன்புள்ள தலைவரே!

வணக்கம்! இவ்வாண்டு தாங்கள் சென்னைமாநகரின் மேயராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப் பட்டதைக் குறித்து சென்னை வாசிகளாகிய நாங்கள் மட்டற்ற மகிழ்ச்சியுறுகிறோம். இன்றைய நம் நாட்டின் நிலை தங்களைப்போன்றவர்களின் தலைமையையே நாடி நிற்கின்றது. பொதுஜன சேவையே குறிக்கோள் என வாழ்ந்த குடும்பத்தில் உதித்த தங்களுக்கு இப்பதவியுற்றது நனி சிறந்ததாகும்.

இன்சொல் நிறை இனியரே!

கடந்த ஈரெட்டாண்டுகளாக சென்னை நகராண்மைக் கழக உறுப்பினராக இருந்து தாங்கள் ஆற்றிய பணி அனைவரும் அறிந்ததே. 'இந்திய வைத்திய சங்கத்திற்கு' துணைத் தலைவராகவும், வைத்திய விளக்கங்கள் அளிக்கும் 'Health', 'Antiseptic' என்ற பத்திரிகைகளுக்கு ஆசிரியராகவுமிருந்து ஆற்றும் சேவையை நாங்கள் மறத்தற்கியலாது. பொது ஜன நலனைக்கருதி தாங்கள் நடாத்திவரும் வைத்தியசாலை போற்றற்குரியது. நாட்டின் பல பகுதிகளிலுள்ள பெரிய கழகங்களில் தாங்கள் முக்கிய பங்கெடுத்துக் கொண்டிள்ளதை நாங்கள் அறிவோம்.

தொழிலாளர் நேரரே!

தாங்கள் மேயர் பதவியேற்றதும் நிகழ்த்திய பிரசங்கத்தில் 'தொழிலாளர் நலனுக்கு உழைப்பதே என குறிக்கோள்' என உறுதி கூறியதை, ஆதரவற்ற தொழிலாளர்களாகிய நாங்கள் மகிழ்வுடன் வரவேற்கிறோம்.

உங்களுடைய பதவி காலத்தை தொழிலாளர் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கே செலவழிப்பீர் என எதிர்பார்க்கிறோம். நகரின் பல பாகங்களிலுள்ள சேரிகளை ஒழித்து, சேரி வாழ் ஏழை மக்களின் வாழ்வை உயர்த்த தங்களுடைய உயரிய நேரத்தை உபயோகிக்கும்படி தாழ்மை யுடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்.

நாட்டின் மக்கள் நலமுற, உணவு, உடை, இடவசதி முதலிய வாழ்க்கை அத்தயாவசியங்களுக்கேனும் குறைவில்லாமல் மக்கள் வாழவேண்டும் என்ற பொருளாதார கொள்கை சித்திபெற பாடுபடவேண்டுமென வேண்டுகின்றோம். நகரில் இன்னும் பல இலவச பள்ளிக் கூடங்களை நிறுவி, ஐந்து வயதிற்கு மேம்பட்ட ஒவ்வொரு சிறுவனையும், சிறுமியையும் கட்டாய ஆரம்பக்கல்வி பெறுமாறு செய்யும்படித் தங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகின்றோம்.

உங்களுடைய தந்தையின் வழிப்படியாக, தேசத்திற்காகவும், தேச மக்களுக்காகவும், சாதி சமய வேறுபாடின்றி, கட்சி மனப்பான்மை யின்றி சேவை செய்ய எல்லாம் வல்ல, எங்கும் நிறை இறைவன் தங்களுக்கு நீண்ட ஆயுளும், திட திரேகமும், ஊக்கமும் தரும்படி இறைஞ்சுகின்றோம்.

இங்ஙனம் :

சென்னை,
 21-12-'47.

இந்தியர் முன்னேற்றக் கழகத்தார்,
முன்னைய சென்னை தொழிற்சங்க மாணவர் வகுப்பினர்.

കിഴക്കി P. ദുരന്തം മെയ് 26-2-1891
മെയ് 16-12-1945

85400

M.L.U. മേയ് 1926 to 1932

കുടുംബം

- 1) കോളേജ് (3 മാസം മാത്രം)
 - 2) KVC കോളേജ് (1 മാസം മാത്രം)
 - 3) മിസോറിയൻ കോളേജ് (1 മാസം മാത്രം)
 - 4) കോളേജ് (1 മാസം മാത്രം)
 - 5) കോളേജ് (1 മാസം മാത്രം)
 - 6) കോളേജ് (1 മാസം മാത്രം)
 - 7) കോളേജ് (1 മാസം മാത്രം)
- പ്രൊഫ് = P. ദുരന്തം
Killy B. ദുരന്തം

കോളേജ് മേയ് 1926 to 1932
6-1-1986 മേയ് 14 1986

99. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കോളേജ്, പാലക്കാട്
ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കോളേജ്, പാലക്കാട്

1-1985 @ കോളേജ് മേയ് 1926 to 1932
മേയ് 10-30 1985

മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985

11-1-1984 State Bank of India (Hall)
മേയ് 10-30 1985
മേയ് 10-30 1985

திருவாளர். ஜி. செல்வபதி செட்டியார்

சென்னை நகரசபை உதவி மேயராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டதை முன்னிட்டு

அவர்கட்கு வாசித்து அளித்த

வாழ்த்து உபசாரப் பத்திரம்.

அன்புரிக்க ஐயா!

இந்திய முன்னேற்றக் கழகத்தினரும், முன்னைய சென்னை தொழிற்சங்க வகுப்பு மாணவர்களும் தாங்கள் சென்னை நகரசபை உதவி மேயராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டதைக் குறித்துத் தங்களை மனமார வாழ்த்துகின்றனர்.

தாங்கள் எங்கள் பேட்டைக்குச் சென்ற இருபது ஆண்டுகளாக சென்னை நகரசபை அங்கத்தினராகவிருந்து அருஞ்சேவை செய்திருக்கிறீர்கள். தாங்கள் தொழிலாளர் தலைவராக இருந்தமையால் தொழிலாளர் வாழும் இந்தப் பேட்டையில் முக்கிய தேவைகளை நன்குணர்ந்து அவைகளுக்காகச் சலிக்காமல் உழைத்துப் பல நன்மைகள் புரிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். இப்பேட்டையில் நன்கு அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள தெருக்கள், பூந்தோட்டங்கள், விளையாடுமிடங்கள், வாசக சாலைகள், தெரு மின்சார விளக்குகள், இன்னும் இதர செளகரியங்கள் யாவும் தங்கள் பெரு முயற்சியின் பயனை விளைந்தனவாகும் எனக் கூறின் சிறிதும் மிகையாது. சுமார் பதினைந்து ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு நகரம் போன்று இருந்த போகி பாளையத்தை பெசன்ட் நகரமாகச் செய்து ஏழை மக்கள் எளிய வாடகையில் சுகாதாரம் நிறைந்த விடுதிகளில் வாழச் செய்து தாங்கள் செய்த சேவைகளில் தலைசிறந்த சேவையாகும். பெசன்ட் நகரும், காண்ரன்ஸ்மித் நகரும் தங்கள் அரிய ஊழியத்தின் அழியா ரூபகச் சின்னங்களாக என்னும் விளங்குமென்று நன்றியறிதலோடு நாங்கள் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறோம். தற்போது இப்பேட்டையில் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கும் மணிக்கூண்டும் தங்கள் முயற்சியினால் ஏற்பட்டது என்பதையறிய நாங்கள் பெருமை கொள்ளுகிறோம்- இப்பேட்டையின் சுகாதாரக் குறைகளை நீக்கவும், வசதிகளைச் சேர்க்கவும் தாங்கள் அப்போதைக்கப்போது வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்து வந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். மேலும் பொதுமக்களுக்கு நகரசபை சம்பந்தப்பட்ட எல்லா விஷயங்களிலும் தங்களாலான உதவியை நேர்மையாகவும் உவப்புடனும் செய்திருக்கிறீர்கள். பொது ஊழியத்தில் ஆர்வம், சுயநலமற்ற சேவை, எளியவர்க்கு தவறும் மனப்பான்மை ஆகிய இவ்வரும்பெருங் குணங்களே தாங்கள் இந்நகரசபைக்கு உதவி மேயராக விளங்கும் பெருமைக்குக் காரணங்களாக இருந்தன. எனவே தாங்கள் இப்பெரும் நகரசபைக்கு உதவி மேயராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டமைக்கு நாங்கள் அடங்கா மகிழ்ச்சியையும் அளவிலா பெருமையையும் அடைகின்றோம்.

தாங்கள் ஜாதி மத வேற்றுமையின்றியும், கஷ்டி வகுப்பு வாதமின்றியும் இதுகாறும் பொது வாழ்வில் நடுநிலையோடு வாழ்ந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். பொதுவாழ்வென்னும் புயலிடைப் பல்லாண்டு உழன்றும், சுயநலங் குறைந்து சோர்ந்தும், தங்கள் தங்கள் நேர்மையினின்றும் பிறழ்ந்ததில்லை. நகரசபைக் கூட்டங்களிலும் இதர பொதுக்கூட்டங்களிலும் நகரவாசிகள், ஏழை மக்கள், தொழிலாளர்கள் ஆகியவர்களின் உரிமை, நன்மை முதலியவைகள் விவாதத்திற்கெழுந்த போதெல்லாம் உண்மையைத் தைரியமாக உரைத்திருக்கின்றீர்கள்; குற்றம் குற்றமென்றே கூறியிருக்கின்றீர்கள்; எதிரியின் உயர்வு தாழ்வு கருதாமல் உள்ளதை உள்ளவாறே உணர்த்தி உரிமைக்காகவும் நன்மைக்காகவும் போராடியிருக்கின்றீர்கள்.

இச்சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குத் தாங்கள் செய்த ஒப்புயர்வற்ற, சொல்லற்கரிய சேவைகளைக் கூறுவிட்டால் இவ்வாழ்த்துரை முற்றுப்பெறுது. இந்தியாவில் தொழிற்சங்க இயக்கத்தைத் தோற்றுவித்த முதல்வர்களில் தாங்கள் ஒருவர் என்பது யாவரும் அறிந்த உண்மை. 1918-ம் ஆண்டில் சென்னைத் தொழிலாளர் சங்கத்தை நம் பேட்டையில் ஆரம்பித்து அன்று முதல் 1945-ம் ஆண்டு வரை அதன் காரியதரிசியாகவும், நிர்வாகஸ்தராகவும் இருந்து தாங்கள் ஆற்றிய பெரும் பணி தொழிற்சங்க சரித்தரின் முதற்பக்கங்களாக அமையும். ஜெனிவா, ஜப்பான் ஆகிய நாடுகளில் நடந்த சர்வதேச, ஆசிய தேச தொழில் மகாநாடுகளுக்குத் தாங்கள் இந்தியாவின் பிரதிநிதியாகச் சென்று தொழிலாளரின் உரிமைக்காகப் போராடிப் பலப்பல நன்மைகளை ஆற்றி அழியாப் புகழடைந்தீர்கள்.

இத்துணை உயர்ந்த குணங்களைப் படைக்கப்பெற்று அரிய செயல்களைச் செய்து பெரும் புகழமுடைந்தத் தங்களுக்கு இந்நகரசபையின் உதவி மேயராகவிருக்கும் பொறுப்பு உயர்ந்த பெருமையைத் தங்களுக்கு அளிக்காது. தங்களே அப்பதவிக்குப் பெருமையைத் தருகிறீர்கள். எனவே, தங்கள் தங்கள் பெருமைக்கேற்ப இந்நகரசபைக்கு மேயராக விரைவில் விளங்கவேண்டுமென்பது எங்கள் அவா. தாங்கள் அப்பதவியையும் அண்மையிலேயே பெற்று இந்நகரத்தின் திலகமாய் விளங்கி நன்மைகள் பல புரிந்து பல்லாண்டு வாழ, எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவன் தங்களுக்கு நீண்ட ஆயுளும், ஆரோக்கியமும், ஆற்றலும் அருள்புரிய வேண்டுமென மன மொழி மெய்களார இறைஞ்சுகின்றோம்.

இங்ஙனம்:

சென்னை,
21-12-'47.

முன்னைய சென்னை தொழிற்சங்க மாணவர் வகுப்பினர்,
இந்தியர் முன்னேற்றக் கழகத்தார்.

பெரம்பூர் பரக்கல், சென்னை.