

Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Relinquishes Dewanship

On his relinquishing charge Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in a statement issued to the press and datelined Trivandrum August 19, 1947, says :—

“SIXTEEN years ago, I accepted the position of Constitutional Adviser to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore and five years thereafter, assumed charge as Dewan. The following are the main tasks that I have sought to achieve:—

- (1) The social and economic uplift of the Backward Communities in the State, the first step being His Highness's memorable and State-wide Temple Entry Proclamation, other measures including the annual setting apart of large sums of money for scholarships and 'free meals for school children belonging to these and other indigent groups and the starting of co-operative and other colonies for the benefit of those formerly described as Depressed Classes.
- (2) A scheme for the elimination of beggary and the introduction of beggar-relief including homes for children, the aged and infirm and work centres for the able-bodied.
- (3) The introduction of free and compulsory Primary Education by successive and quick stages throughout the State which is already the most literate unit in India.
- (4) Steps to encourage the renaissance of Indian culture and comprehensive scholarship on the basis of Travancore's age-long Hindu traditions, the foundation of the Travancore University and allied Institutions with special concentration on pure and applied research and the starting of the Library Movement and of various Art Museums and schools.
- (5) The rapid industrialisation of the State so as to make it economically strong and financially able to purchase for its consumption cereals including rice in respect of which, by

reason of its geographical features, its area and dense population, it cannot be self-sufficient; arrangements for launching a Government-sponsored deep-sea fishery scheme and for the extraction of sharkliver oil on a commercial scale by way of supplementing the food and nutrition resources of the State.

- (6) The improvement of agriculture, the starting of a fertiliser factory and the introduction of special irrigation and pumping facilities.
- (7) The promotion of heavy industries like chemicals, salt and allied products, rubber, aluminium, porcelain, pepper, matches, timber and rayon and the processing of mineral sands.
- (8) The increase and stabilising of the State's financial resources. The State with an annual income of approximately ten crores this year is, intrinsically and for its area, the richest unit in India.

I have done my best in these directions and thanks to the uniform and unswerving encouragement and support of His Highness, some success has been achieved in these efforts.

A new Constitution based on adult franchise for the Lower House and a comprehensive functional representation for the Upper House both of which will consist exclusively of elected members, has been promulgated.

Some months ago, I tendered my resignation as Dewan so as to devote myself wholly to literary and philosophical work in which I have always been deeply interested but the imminence and urgency of important constitutional discussions and His Highness's desire that I should stay on, postponed the accomplishment of my object.

A new epoch is opening and I have endeavoured to be of use to His Highness in the negotiations connected therewith.

On the 15th August the State, on the lapse of Paramountcy, has reassumed its position as a Sovereign independent unit subject to certain agreements with the Dominion of India on matters of common concern.