

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

We the members of the Committee appointed by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore to report on the question of providing a new University for the State of Travancore by itself, or in association with the adjacent areas, and to make enquiries and recommendations in regard thereto, have the honour to submit the following Report.

2. The scope of our enquiry as well as the circumstances in which our Committee came to be constituted are set forth in the Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore, R. O. C. No. 276 of 23/Leg. E., dated the 15th April, 1923, and the points of reference are indicated in the following paragraphs of the Government Order : —

“The new Committee will re-examine generally the conclusions and the recommendations of its predecessor contained in the *ad interim* Report of the 10th October, 1919, in the light of such changes in the conditions within and without Travancore as have taken place since it was submitted. It will be advised to do so particularly taking into consideration the discussions in the last session of the Legislative Council on Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's Resolution, as well as the debate in the Madras Legislative Council on the University Bill. Such a review might reveal the need to modify in some cases the findings of the earlier Committee. Government can think of one such recommendation from which there will now be a general agreement to differ. The University Committee proposed that the new University should be of the unitary, residential and teaching type, located outside Trivandrum but on a site near it, and that all University work now done in different stations in the State should be transferred to and concentrated on that centre.

The outlook of this Committee was also limited by the terms of its reference to the area and requirements of Travancore. The type of University thus recommended may be good as an *ideal*. But it has had to be given up elsewhere in India when a new University had to be planned which has to serve a large territory in which there already existed a number of colleges scattered over the area, whose claim for continued individual life could not well be ignored, and which could not be removed to a new locality without great and disproportionate sacrifices. There now seems to be, accordingly, a growing disposition to accept in such cases the type which would, whenever it is impracticable to remove a college from its station, or undesirable to close it, allow it to continue in the same place, and develop, if possible, into an additional University centre, where the provision of adequate residential facilities for the students and the staff might create the right atmosphere for the growth of really satisfactory academic life and traditions. Important changes have taken place in the last three years in the academic conditions of the State. The second grade colleges at Alwaye and Changanacherry have come into existence, a Chair in Natural Science has been established in H. H. the Maharaja's College, a big additional building to the Training College is nearing completion, and the construction of a large hostel for H. H. the Maharaja's College at Trivandrum has been taken in hand. A Government Commercial School has been established at Alleppey. In view of the large expenditure incurred in the past and present, in the localities where the present colleges are situated, by the Government or by private agencies, it would be increasingly difficult to view the transfer of all such institutions to a common site as a practical proposition, while the idea of such a concentration may *a fortiori* have to be given up, if the new University is to embrace the whole area of the Malabar Coast. The advantages of a compromise between the competing types of a unitary and an affiliating type of University will have, therefore, to be fully explored by the Committee even if it recommends that the new University does not extend its activities beyond the limits of the State.

“ The Committee will have before it the following alternative schemes for the University, each of which has some advantages over the others :—

(1) A University whose headquarters will be in Trivandrum, which would confine its activities to Travancore and have no administrative connection with institutions outside the State.

(2) A University started in the first instance at Trivandrum on the strength of the resources now existing in Travancore, but keeping its doors open for the incorporation into it of institutions of a University standard in the neighbouring State of Cochin and the adjacent British Districts of Malabar and Tinnevely, when such institutions spring up and their authorities desire the incorporation and also prepared to shift the University offices later on, if necessary, to some place within the State, which would be more central than Trivandrum for the entire territory embraced by the new University.

(3) A University created from the very beginning by the conjoined efforts of all these three Governments, whose areas will be comprised in a Pan-Kerala University, maintained by contributions (of all kinds) made from all the three States, and governed by University bodies, on which adequate representation is provided to the component areas and institutions.

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“ His Highness' Government will await the advice of the Committee now appointed before deciding between these alternatives or any other alternative that may be put forward by it. They feel, however, that, on a point regarding the location of the head offices of the University, they should make their position quite explicit even at this stage. Even in an All-Kerala University, Travancore will, it is believed, always maintain the first place in virtue of the number, variety, standard, and size of the institutions of a University type that it would contribute. Public opinion in the State has been fully alive to this and would not accept any scheme which ignores it and seeks to place the centre of the University outside Travancore. The Government would, therefore, instruct the Committee not to consider any proposal which would run counter

to the idea of locating the headquarters of the University within the State.

“ His Highness’ Government also request that the Committee regard the following points as specifically within the terms of reference :—

(1) The location of the head offices of the University, now and hereafter, within the State, and proposals as to the several institutions which should form part of the University and their location ;

(2) The ways and means to co-ordinate the resources in men and material now existing within the State, so as to create teaching and residential centres, providing facilities for higher work and research ;

(3) The departments in which instruction should be offered, the Faculties to be organised and the examinations to be provided in the University, on its inauguration, for a few years after it, and in successive stages, with a clear indication of the order of priority in which they should be opened ;

(4) The additions that must be made for the residential accommodation now available in possible University centres for the residence of students and teachers both immediately and for some years to come ;

(5) The immediate and proximate requirements of the University within the State, in the matter of buildings, equipment and staff, both for the University itself and for its constituent institutions, with a clear indication of the additions necessary to bring the existing provision under these heads up to the standard, and with rough estimates of their probable cost ;

(6) The relations of the University to secondary and intermediate education ;

(7) Special features to be provided in the University, such as facilities for University education of women, the advancement of Oriental Studies and University publication ;

(8) The relations that should be established between the University and the Colleges or Halls of Residence or Hostels ;

(9) The safeguards to be devised to prevent any improper lowering of the standard of examinations, diplomas and degrees of the University and the means by which their acceptance outside the State and by other Universities may be secured ;

(10) The constitution of the chief constituent bodies of the University such as the Senate, the Academic body, etc., including specific proposals for their composition.

(11) Probable initial and recurring costs of which estimate, as accurate as possible in the circumstances, should be furnished."

3. As originally constituted, our Committee consisted of the following members :—

Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar Esq., B. A., B. L.,
President.

L. C. Hodgson Esq., M. A., *Director of Public Instruction.*

The Rev. Dr. E. Monteith Macphail, M. A., D. D., C. B. E.,
Principal, Christian College, Madras.

Dr. John Matthai, B. A., B. L., B. LIT., D. SC.,
Professor of Economics, University of Madras.

P. K. Narayana Pillai Esq., B. A., B. L.	} <i>Elected by the Legislative Council.</i>
G. Paramesvaran Pillai Esq., B. A., B. L.	
K. Paramesvaran Pillai Esq., B. A., B. L.	
T. K. Velu Pillai Esq., B. A., B. L.	

Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar Esq., M. A.,
*Senior Professor of History and Economics, H. H. The
Maharaja's College, Trivandrum. Convener.*

Dr. Macphail was unable to join the Committee and resigned on being appointed as the first whole-time Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, as re-constituted under the University Act of 1923. His place was filled by the nomination of the Rev. Father D. Honoré, S. J., B. A., of the St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly. Mr. Hodgson's connection with the Committee terminated in February, 1924, when he left India on leave, preparatory to retirement.

4. Our Committee was constituted on 15th April 1923. The Convener assumed charge immediately and commenced the preliminary work. We held our first meeting on the 28th May, 1923,

as soon as a sufficient amount of material had been collected by the Convener. Our concluding meeting was held on the 26th December, 1924. In the interval, we have held altogether four sessions, namely, from (a) the 28th May to the 4th June, 1923; (b) the 18th June to the 24th June, 1923; (c) the 17th September to the 28th September, 1923; and (d) the 22nd December to the 26th December, 1924. We sat altogether for 24 days. Besides our meetings as a full Committee, four Sub-committees appointed by us held meetings. Dr. Matthai, Father Honorè and the Convener also met for six days and prepared work for two of the Sub-committees.

5. Our Committee was appointed to review *inter alia* the recommendations of the earlier Committee appointed by the Government of Travancore by G. O. No. E. 3983, dated the 23rd November, 1917, to explore the possibility of starting a separate University for Travancore, 'suited to local conditions and environment.' The Committee, after investigating the various aspects of the question, submitted an Interim Report on the 10th October 1919. They did not pursue the matter any further, after the submission of their Interim Report, as the Government informed them that the question of reorganisation in the University of Madras, which was being taken up by the Senate of that University, might have to be examined before any final conclusions were reached. We have not only had the advantage of perusing the short Interim Report of the earlier Committee, but we have had the opportunity to examine the data on which that body based their findings as well as the summary of their discussions.

6. The attention of our Committee has been specifically invited by the Government to the discussions centering round the University Act of 1923 both in the Madras Legislative Council and in the Press. We have considered the points brought out in this discussion.

7. The Committee's attention has also been specifically drawn to the debate on the Resolution moved in the Travancore Legislative Council on the 23rd November, 1922, for 'the immediate establishment of a teaching and residential University in Travancore'

and to the assurance then given on behalf of the Government that the question would be considered by a Committee to be appointed by them.

8. We have also read and considered the communication in which the Government of Travancore placed their views on the probable effects on higher education within the State of the passing of the Bill for the re-constitution of the University of Madras, which subsequently became an enactment.

9. When the previous University Committee presented their Interim Report, the Commission appointed by the Government of India to report on the Calcutta University had not published their monumental Report. The position of our predecessors was in this respect somewhat like that of the Government of India, when they founded the provincial Universities in 1857, and when they appointed the Indian University Commission of 1902, in each case a year before important alterations took place in the constitution of the University of London, on the model of which the Indian Universities were formed. It is, however, a matter for gratification that in many important points the conclusions of the Interim Report anticipated those of the Calcutta University Commission. Again, between 1917 and 1919, the Universities of Benares and Mysore were the only new Universities, whose organisation and experience were available for comparative study with those of the then existing provincial Universities. Since the submission of the Interim Report, however, University education in India has made a considerable advance. New Universities have been founded at Dacca, Patna, Lucknow, Aligarh, Rangoon, Delhi, Nagpore and Hyderabad (Dakhan). The constitutions of the older provincial Universities have also undergone important modifications. Our Committee have thus had the advantage of the experience of a number of new Universities not all of which have been of the same pattern nor conformed to the models or the ideals of the first Indian unitary residential Universities or of the still earlier provincial Universities. We have had the further benefit of the experience of the re-construction of existing Universities both in India and outside, as the result of the general interest created in University matters after the War. The

recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission have been subjected to a searching enquiry by different Indian Universities and Administrations. The Reports of the Madras Government Committee appointed in G. O. No. 1557/Law (Education), dated the 25th October, 1921, as well as the Committee of the Senate of the University of Madras regarding the applicability of the recommendations of the Calcutta Commission to South India were also available to us. Through the courtesy of the authorities of some of the younger Indian Universities, our Convener has also been enabled to collect and place before us valuable data concerning their scope, aims, organisation, methods and work.

10. A considerable amount of information had been collected by the Convener in the interval between the appointment of our Committee and our initial meeting. We desired next to receive information and guidance from those who were connected with or interested in the subject of our enquiry, or who were in a position to give advice of value. We made it, therefore, one of our first duties to draw up a very detailed Questionnaire, a copy of which is printed as an annexure to this Report. Copies of this Questionnaire, as well as of shorter lists of questions on specific points, such as the education of women, the equipment of the existing collegiate institutions in the State and the organisation of Oriental Studies, were submitted to about 500 persons and associations both within and outside Travancore. A general invitation was also issued to the public through the *Travancore Government Gazette* and the Press to favour us with their views on the point raised in our Questionnaire.

11. The Press, both in and outside Travancore, showed great interest in the University question. The Government favoured the Committee with a large collection of representations and articles in the Press. The *Ernakulam College Magazine* arranged for a symposium on the Kerala University problem. Copies of the special number of the Magazine containing this symposium were supplied to the Committee by the courtesy of the Editor. Individual contributors to the Press on the University question also sent cuttings containing their views.

12. Considerable interest in the University question, as affecting both the State and the adjacent areas, was manifested outside Travancore as well as within it. This is evidenced by the number of letters and memorials addressed to the Government and to the Committee by individuals and public bodies as well as by the very numerous contributions to the Press. They have related mainly to the question of the area to be comprehended in the new University, the essential features to be secured by it, the location of its headquarters, the educational institutions to be brought within it, the subjects to be taught in it and the place of the vernaculars, *e. g.*, Malayalam and Tamil, in its schemes of study. We have carefully considered the suggestions thus made.

13. The response to the requests for replies to our Questionnaires cannot be regarded in any way as unsatisfactory. We received a considerable number of answers. Most of them were comprehensive and thorough, and dealt exhaustively with the aspects of the University question, with special regard to the condition of higher education in Travancore and the rest of the West Coast. Following the example of the Calcutta University Commission, the evidence received by us was arranged in the order of the questions contained in the Questionnaires, and the evidence thus arranged is submitted with this Report.

14. Our first session was devoted to the preparation of the Questionnaires and to general discussions, based on such material as was available to us, on the character and scope of a University, the need for a separate University for Travancore, the type of the University to be selected in relation to possible types, the area to be served by the new University, the location of the University institutions generally and of its head offices in particular, with special reference to the alternative schemes outlined in paragraph 15 of G. O. No. R. O. C. 276 of 1923/Leg. E., dated the 15th April, 1923, the features to be provided in the new University including such questions as the place of residence, teaching and research. For the detailed consideration of several of these questions, sub-committees were appointed, and the reports of these sub-committees were ready before the commencement of our second session. During this session, we considered the question of visiting Cochin, Malabar and Alwaye which had been suggested by many correspondents as a site

for a Pan-Kerala University. Under the sanction, and with the assistance of the Government, and with the hearty co-operation of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, we were able to make a visit to Ernakulam and to Alwaye and to make a local inspection of the sites and buildings of the Union Christian College at Alwaye, as well as of the sites which had been indicated by some of our correspondents, particularly by the Rev. W. E. S. Holland, as very suitable for the location of a Pan-Kerala University of a residential and teaching type. Our inspection of Alwaye took place on the 23rd June 1923. The next day we conferred with Rao Bahadur P. Narayana Menon, B. A., I. S. O., the Dewan of Cochin, and a number of leading gentlemen of Cochin, both official and non-official, who had been invited by the Dewan to meet us. We discussed fully and freely with these representatives of Cochin important points in our reference, and the chief issues raised by the correspondents from Cochin and Malabar in their answers to our Questionnaires or in communications to the newspapers. We made a special endeavour to ascertain the nature and the extent of the co-operation which might be expected by Travancore if it was ultimately decided that the new University should embrace the three areas. A detailed account of this conference is submitted with this Report. In the course of this tour, some members of our Committee were able to visit the colleges at Changanacherry and Kottayam to inspect their grounds, buildings, equipment and hostels, and to confer with their Principals.

15. Our third session was mainly devoted to the preparation and discussion of resolutions embodying our conclusions, in order to prepare the way for a Draft Report. In the interval between the second and third sessions we had studied the digested evidence. We felt that it would be well if the heads of the chief colleges in Travancore, who desired to do so, were given the opportunity to meet us. We therefore issued a general invitation to the Principals of colleges in Travancore. In response to this invitation, three Principals, *viz.*, Mr. J. Stephenson, B. Sc., Principal, H. H. the Maharaja's College, Trivandrum; the Rev. Father Mathew K. Purakkal, M. A., Principal, St. Berchman's College, Changanacherry; and Miss D. H. Watts, B. A., Lady Principal, H. H. the Maharaja's College for Women, Trivandrum, met us and enabled us to ascertain in detail their position in regard to a number of important issues. We next

visited the chief educational institutions, buildings and sites in Travandrum as well as certain sites in its vicinity, which had been suggested either by the last Committee or by various correspondents as suitable for the location of either the University centre or its buildings and institutions. After the interviews with the Principals and the local inspections above referred to, we proceeded to consider the draft resolutions which had been prepared for us in the meanwhile by a sub-committee specially appointed for the purpose. The rest of our third session was devoted to the discussion of the draft resolutions and of their disposal. The session ended with a direction for the preparation of a Draft Report on the lines indicated in the resolutions thus adopted.

16. In our fourth and final session, we retraversed the ground, particularly in the light of such fresh information as had been gathered since our last meeting, and we discussed and settled the terms of this Report.

17. We desire to record our obligation to those who have assisted us in manifold ways and helped our work: to the Registrars of the Universities of Madras, Mysore, Dacca, Lucknow, Benares, Delhi and Aligarh, for the information and assistance courteously furnished by them; to the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of Madras (the late Sir K. Srinivasa Aiyangar, B. A., B. L.), Mysore (Dr. Brajendranath Seal, M. A., Ph. D.), Lucknow (Rai Bahadur Dr. G. N. Chakravarti, M. A., D. Sc., I. S. O.), and Dacca (Mr. P. J. Hartog, C. I. E.); to Dr. Gauranganath Banerjee, M. A., Ph. D., Secretary of the Post-graduate Council of the University of Calcutta, for the advice, information and help given to the Convener; to the Dewan of Cochin and the gentlemen from Cochin, who conferred with us at Ernakulam; to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, for the hospitality extended to us during the visit of the Committee to Cochin; to the several correspondents and witnesses who assisted us with information and advice; to the Heads of the various Departments in the State as well as others outside Travancore, who collected and supplied such data as were requisitioned for the Committee; and to the Government of Travancore for the prompt attention given by them to all the requests made by or on behalf of our Committee, and to the efficient arrangements sanctioned by them for the conduct of our work.
