

TEMPLE ENTRY BY AVARNAS

COCHIN RULER AND THE PROCLAMATION

TEMPLE FESTIVAL ABANDONED

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COCHIN, Nov. 22.

The Travancore Proclamation throwing open the temples to all the Avarnas has been received with surprise by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin. On coming to know of the issue of the Proclamation, His Highness directed the discontinuance of the *Sandhya Vela* in the Vaikom temple which was to have come off there on the Janma Nakshatra day of His Highness.

A feature of this festival is a feast to the Brahmins, special *Abhishekams* and offerings to the deity, and other ceremonials. Though elaborate preparations were made at great cost for the festival, it had to be cancelled and the provisions were taken back to Trippunithura under the orders of His Highness.

There are several temples belonging to Cochin situated in such close proximity to Travancore temples, that when these temples are thrown open to Avarnas they would get polluted by such entry according to the orthodox school, and consequently the Cochin temples also would be deprived of their purity. Orders have been issued to close all such temples and to discontinue the daily *poojas* until further notice.

There are temples belonging to Travancore and Cochin where the same *Thanthries* function as priests and difficulties have arisen on account of the fact that the priests who officiate in the Travancore temples hereafter will be disqualified to hold office as such in Cochin. In the Perumanam temple near Trichur, the midday *Pooja* is conducted by the Travancore Government and the question has arisen whether any priest recognised by the Travancore Government can be allowed to conduct this and whether this practice should be continued at all. It is felt that all these complications have arisen as a result of the Proclamation having been issued without previous consultation with His Highness.

HARIJANS' MEETING

A meeting of the inmates of the Harijan Hotel, Ernakulam, was held on Thursday evening in the Harijan Hostel, under the presidency of Mr. A. Chandrasenan, Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh. A resolution congratulating His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore and Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar and recording thanks for the recent Proclamation was unanimously passed. Mr. Govindan moved the resolution and Mr. Velayudhan seconded it.

TRAVANCORE RULER THANKED

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TRIVANDRUM, Nov. 23.

A well-attended public meeting of the citizens of Trivandrum was held yesterday at the New Theatre building to give public expression to the gratitude of the people evoked by the Proclamation regarding temple-entry. Mr. T. Viraraghavachariar, retired High Court Judge, presided.

Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai recited two beautiful verses composed by himself for the occasion.

The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"The public of Trivandrum in meeting assembled most respectfully express their profound feelings of joy, admiration and gratitude evoked by the recent epoch-making Royal Proclamation, throwing open all temples under Royal and State control to all classes of Hindus and most fervently pray to Sri Padmanabha, Protector of the Universe, to shower on His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore blessings of long life, robust health and eternal glory."

The meeting terminated with the singing of *Vancheesa Mangalam*.

HINDU ASSOCIATION MEETING

Under the auspices of the Young Hindu Association, a public meeting was held at the Law College Hall to express gratitude to the Maharaja for issuing the Temple-Entry Proclamation. Dewan Bahadur V. S. Subramania Aiyar, retired Dewan of Travancore, presided.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: "We the members of the Young Hindu Association most humbly beg leave to express our profoundest feelings of gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja for his unexampled magnanimity in granting temple-entry to all Hindus irrespective of caste."

TINNEVELLY BOARD RESOLUTION

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TINNEVELLY, Nov. 21.

The Tinnevelly District Board at its meeting held this afternoon, adopted a resolution favouring the Travancore Ruler on his proclamation throwing open State temples to all Hindus.

TENKASI

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TENKASI, Nov. 19.

At a special meeting of the Tenkasi Taluk Congress Committee held today near the temple, a resolution was passed tendering felicitations to His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on his proclamation throwing open temples to all Hindus. An appeal was also made to the authorities in other parts of India to follow the Travancore example.

MANDAYAM ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

MADRAS, Nov. 23.

At a meeting of the members of the Young Men's Mandayam Association, Triplicane, Madras, specially convened for the purpose, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"This meeting heartily welcomes the decision of the Travancore Government to permit the entry of Harijans into State managed temples and trusts that the privilege conferred

will not be curtailed by restrictive rules."

"This meeting earnestly hopes that the authorities of temples in other parts of India will forthwith follow the worthy examples set by the Travancore Government."

Messrs. M. A. Rajagopalan, M. R. Sampatkumaran, M. A. Srinivasan and M. A. Krishnamachari spoke supporting the resolutions.

MADURA SANATANISTS' MEETING

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADURA, Nov. 22.

Resolutions expressing alarm felt by the Sanatanists of Madura at the Proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore throwing open temples in the State to the Avarnas and appealing to the Maharaja to so frame the rules as to be in strict accordance with Tantra Agamas were passed at a meeting of Sanatanists held yesterday afternoon at Velliambala Mantapam, under the presidency of Rao Sahab N. Natesa Aiyar, Advocate.

The meeting commenced at about 4 p.m. with over a hundred prominent Sanatanists, Brahmins and non-Brahmins. Mr. N. R. Krishnaswami Iyengar explained the object of the meeting.

Mr. Natesa Aiyar in the course of his speech said that the Proclamation of the Maharaja of Travancore was revolutionary in character. Some of the temples in the State such as that of Sree Padmanabha, Janardhanam and Vaikom were All-India shrines and the Proclamation was bound to affect the rights of the devoted pilgrims who visited those shrines. There was absolutely no justification for the Proclamation and it had been precipitated upon the public.

Mr. U. P. Krishnamachariar moved resolutions expressing alarm at the Proclamation and expressing that no sovereign power had authority to override the provisions of the Agamas laying down the principles of temple worship and holding that the temples would lose their spiritual efficacy and importance and would certainly promote ungodliness in the country. The resolutions were passed. The meeting also appealed to the Maharaja of Travancore to call off the Proclamation or to so frame the rules as to be in strict accordance with Tantra Agamas and allay the feelings of the devotees in and outside Travancore.

Vidwan Krishnamacharya Swami of Baroda State who was present at the meeting said that at the Vidwad Parishad which took place in Allahabad two years ago, which discussed the questions of untouchability and temple-entry by the Harijans, the conclusion reached was that there was nothing in the Sastras, however, added that it would be wrong to imagine that unity could be brought about by temple-entry by unity could come only through the attainment of Gnaana.