

# THE TEMPLE-ENTRY PROCLAMATION

## TRAVANCORE ORDER WELCOMED

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ERNAKULAM, Jan. 4.

Resolutions welcoming the Proclamation of the Maharaja of Travancore throwing open temples to Avarnas and praying the Maharaja of Cochin to issue similar proclamation were passed at a meeting held last evening in the maidan in front of the Public Offices at Ernakulam and the Ernakulam Temple. Brahmastri Kurumoor Manakkal Narayanan Bhattathiripad presided.

The meeting was convened by the Aikamathya Pradarsini Sabha, the Swadharma Pariposhini Sabha, Thiya Sabha, Thiya Yuva Jana Samajam, Cochin Thiya Volunteer Sangham, Ananda Vrindavana Samaj, Ananda Chandrodaya Sabha, Vijnana Sooryodaya Sabha, Gnanodaya Sabha and the Thiya Yuva Jana Sabha, organizations of backward and depressed classes in Ernakulam and the suburban villages. A procession headed by the Pulayas with their *Parisumuttu Keli* and music and portraits of Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Cochin and Travancore placed on elephant, preceded by silk umbrellas and other paraphernalia of royal pageantry started from Palativattam at 1 p. m., and passed through Kaloore and other suburbs arriving at the Self-Respect Reading Room at Trikkannur at 2 p. m. The procession slowly wended its way along Chittoor Road gathering in strength at each successive stage and arrived at 6 p. m. at the meeting place. Placards on which were inscribed slogans regarding the removal of untouchability and the birth-right of every Hindu to worship in the Hindu Temples were carried by volunteers. Mr. C. K. Narayanan welcomed the gathering, and observed that His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore had by his Proclamation saved Hinduism from extinction. Their prayer was that a similar Proclamation be issued in Cochin as well, so that the finger of scorn might not be pointed at Cochin. Cochin was already a progressive State and conditions here were ideal for the introduction of the reform. He hoped that the Avarnas of Cochin would be granted temple-entry right at an early date and that the stigma attached to them in Cochin would be removed soon.

### BLOODLESS REVOLUTION

The President said that he was in complete sympathy with the reform, and he did not want to refuse their request to preside though he knew his limitations. The Temple Entry Proclamation in Travancore was an event of unique importance not only in the annals of Kerala, but also in the history of the whole world. Every sentence in the Proclamation, the language in which it was couched, the ideas and intentions behind it, were most sublime. The Travancore Ruler had removed the inequalities of years without shedding a drop of blood or offending any one.

He said that when they congratulated the Maharaja of Travancore, they should not fail to pay their due tribute to the "half-naked fakir of Gujerat", Mahatma Gandhi, who had struggled for the dumb millions of India for 40 years. It was 16 years ago in 1921 that Mahatma Gandhi gave his consent to the temple entry agitation being started by the late Mr. T. K. Madhavan of revered memory. The Satyagraha campaign at Vaikom and Thiruvapur had Mahatma's *imprimatur* and they might remember that in reply to the interview Mahatma Gandhi had with the Maharani Regent, he was promised that the ban would be lifted as soon as the Maharaja had assumed the direct reins of the administration. He said that their thanks were also largely due to Her Highness Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bai, who had created that wider outlook in His Highness and to Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, who had implemented the wish of His Highness in such a practical and effective manner.

Continuing, he said that except half a dozen reactionary Nambudiris who were opposed to all progress, all were in favour of the Proclamation. The handful of oppositionists were the self-same people who were against the Yogakshema Sabha, against English education against Nambudiris wearing shirts, against anything that was at variance with time-honoured custom and *mamool*. They could not set back the hands of the clock by placating such reactionaries. They had in the present Maharaja of Cochin, a constitutional Ruler, who was ever eager to govern according to the popular will and their Dewan, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetti, was one who had fought against all social inequalities and who was a staunch co-worker of Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker. He expressed the hope that a proclamation throwing open all the Cochin temples to the Avarnas might be issued here on His Highness's birthday which falls on the 11th instant.

### APPEAL TO COCHIN MAHARAJA

Resolutions were then passed *nem con* congratulating His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore and the Dewan, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, on the Proclamation issued, praying that a similar proclamation might be issued by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin on his ensuing birthday and protesting against the opposition raised to the reform by a few Sanathanists.

Mr. K. Aiyappan said that while in the West the struggle was over problems relating to bread, education and better standards of life and health, here they were denied the most elementary requisites of man. After all, temple entry would not bring them economic salvation or self-sufficiency. He had great faith in His Highness lifting the ban on temple-entry as His Highness was a true and constitutional monarch who would not go against his people's wishes. Public opinion was decidedly in favour of the reform and this was clear from the resolutions passed by the Nambudiri Yogakshema Sabha, the Thiya Mahajana Sabha and the organizations of other communities. Christians and Muslims had no objection. The handful of Parasada Brahmins had nothing to do with the Kerala Temples and they had no right of

ownership or Thantric rights nor were they the beneficiaries, granting the trust theory was accepted. The Cochin Legislative Council had passed thrice the resolution recommending the issue of a proclamation abolishing untouchability in the State. The Travancore Council had not passed such a measure. Even the Temple Entry Proclamation would not completely eradicate untouchability. Mr. T. S. Narayana Aiyar, a former Dewan, had assured the Cochin Legislative Council that he would favourably consider the issue of the Proclamation and it was by delaying the consideration of the resolution that Travancore had now taken away the credit due to Cochin legitimately. His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin as a constitutional Ruler, could easily accept the resolution and issue the Proclamation on his ensuing birthday.

Messrs. Kannan Janardhanan, Manakayil Kochunni Panicker, V. V. Padmanabhan and P. K. Dewar addressed the gathering next and urged that the reform was overdue in Cochin.

Mr. K. M. Kumaran Nair sang verses composed by him in praise of the Travancore Proclamation and hoped he would have the privilege of depicting in verse the story of the opening of the temples in Cochin as well, to the Avarnas. Missa-nanda of the Ramakrishna Mission had also written a letter supporting the Proclamation.

### SRI SANKARACHARYA'S VIEWS

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

YELLAMANCHILI, Jan. 2.

A 'Brahmaratham' was performed to-day in honour of His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha.

In reply to a representation from Travancore, His Holiness observed that it would not be spiritually beneficial either for the untouchables or for the other castes to transgress Dharmic and Agamic temple laws.

His Holiness hoped that as pious Hindus, the untouchables—there being more pious souls amongst them than among the other refined communities—would come to the succour of the present crisis, following the ideal of the great Nanda, who retrained from entering the premises of the shrine, even when entreated by the Brahmins.

Among those who came here this week to have darshan of His Holiness are Mr. Kanna Babu, B. A., B. L., District Munsif, Berhampore, Mr. Mohan, M. A., from Calcutta, Mr. Kalambur Viswanatham from Tellicherry and Mr. Venkatrama Sheety from Bankura.

A large number of people bade farewell to the Swamiji as he started for Penugolu and Dharmavaram Agraharam, seven miles from here.