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The late Rao Bahadur J. Dharmaranga Raju.

When the Principal moved a resolution at the last Conference regretting the absence of Rao Bahadur Dharmaranga Raju from the meeting on account of illness and wishing him a speedy recovery, few were prepared for the painful news that the end was so near. The death, from dropsy, of Rao Bahadur Dharmaranga Raju, at the comparatively early age of 49, which occurred at Egmore on 8th November, has deprived the Madras Government of one of its able and zealous officers and the Madras Agricultural Students' Union of one of its prominent workers and esteemed Vice-Presidents, and we beg to express our profound sorrow at the loss we have sustained and convey our heartfelt condolence to his young widow, his old mother, his brothers and children and all the members of his family in their extremely sad bereavement.

The late Mr. Dharmaranga Raju belonged to a well known Raju family of Palamcottā and had his early education at the C. M. S. College there from which he matriculated. He then

joined the College of Agriculture at Saidapet in 1885 and passed out in 1888 with a good first class certificate. He started service as a clerk in the Revenue Department in Tinnevely and, by honest work, industry and force of character, rose, through the several grades of Revenue Inspector, Sub-magistrate and Tahsildar, to the grade of a Deputy Collector in about 15 years. His work as a Revenue Officer and as a Magistrate was of a high order and every Collector and Civilian Officer who worked in that district during the last quarter of a century has testified to it. We will just cite one or two instances to show how his worth was appreciated. During the time that sedition was rife in the Tinnevely District, lives of Europeans were threatened and people, some true and some false, were indiscriminately suspected and, when one of the organised riots culminated in the Municipal Office being set on fire, the late Mr. Raju, in his capacity as Personal Assistant to the Collector, Mr. L. M. Wynch, rendered invaluable service to the Government and the people. Again as Assistant to Mr. D. T. Chadwick, our present Director of Agriculture, who was then in charge of Settlement Operations in the Tinnevely District, the late Mr. Raju's intimate knowledge of the country and its people has been of great value in the assessment of palmyra trees and the announcement of final settlement of that district, while it brought the usual expected increase in the revenue, was not subjected to that adverse criticism in the Press which has sometimes been the case in some other tracts.

Apart from having been a successful Revenue officer and a trusted servant of Government, what marked him out from other officers was that he had a hobby and that hobby was "Agriculture." After all, was it only a hobby? Did he merely preach in Jama-bandy camps for fashion? No. He has all along been carrying on agricultural improvements and making demonstrations and creating object lessons in his own lands. He had fortunately the cordial

help of his two brothers who were as enthusiastic as himself. His heart was overflowing with genuine sympathy for the cultivating classes and, recognising that the ryots had to be educated, started with the help of his brothers, the well known Tamil monthly "The Agriculturist" of Mount Road, Madras. We remember that, when the idea of supplying a monthly journal of 3 forms at a cost of 12 annas per annum, including postage, was expressed by him to us, we told him at the time that the Journal would never pay its way with such a ridiculously small subscription. His prompt reply was, "I do not care if it pays. I am prepared to put by not less than Rs. 50 monthly out of my salary against loss. But, from the manner in which the Journal is proposed to be conducted, the Journal will pay its way within a year or two, although it will not bring and is not expected to bring a profit." Quite recently he told us that his expectations were fulfilled and we hope that Mr. J. R. Ranga Raju, the recognised editor, will continue to conduct the Journal in the spirit in which it was started. His ballads and simple verses on different aspects of agriculture, e. g., improved ploughs, gorrus, economic transplantation, growth of plants etc., were his speciality and he used to sing them, along with school children, as action songs in Elementary schools. He was a genuine, whole-hearted Agricultural Reformer.

After serving as Deputy Collector for some time in the Chinleput District, his services were placed at the disposal of H. H. the Rajah of Pudukota and, as Dewan Peishkar of that Native State, he was responsible for a large amount of organisation in all branches of the service and especially in Agriculture. Reverting to British service last year, he was appointed Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies and was expected to organise the Agricultural Co-operative Societies which are now springing up. The Director of Agriculture, Madras, requesting Government for

Mr. Raju's service as his Personal Assistant, the appointment was gazetted about 3 months ago, but he was unable to join, on account of illness which unfortunately ended in his death. His appointment as Personal Assistant to the Director was hailed with joy by every one in the Department for a number of reasons. First he had formerly served both under the present Commissioner and Director of Agriculture and had earned their complete confidence. Second, he was competent, by his previous experience in the Revenue Department, to help the Director and the officers of the Agricultural Department to steer in the march of progress in suitable directions. Third, he was an enthusiast in agricultural improvements and was of opinion that the help of Revenue officers was essential to bring these improvements to the notice of cultivators; and would have helped in carrying these improvements to the doors of the ryots, if the ryots would not come to see them in the Government Farms. Last, though not least, he was an Agricultural College student. That the officers of the Department deeply mourn his loss is no wonder and they consider it a piece of misfortune that he was not spared, even for a short period, to help in guiding the administration of this Department. We beg to add that we have personally lost an invaluable guide in life, having been the recipient of his affection and regard all along.

The Government, recognising his meritorious services, granted him the title of Rao Bahadur in 1908.

The late Hon'ble Vengail K. Raman Nayanar.

The extremely sudden death which took place in the Legislative Council, of the Hon'ble Mr. Vengail Raman Nayanar deprives the Madras Presidency of one of its level headed public men, the district of Malabar of one of its foremost citizens and the Madras Agricultural Students' Union of one of its first Benefactors.