

# **SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS**

**THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION PROCEEDINGS**



**SALEM  
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## Notes & References

1. P.K. Nambiar, *District Census Hand Book of Kanyakumari*, 1961, Vol. I, and II, Madras, 1966, p.3.
2. *Trivandrum Museum Inscription*, Travancore Archaeological Series, Vol. I, pp. 227-228.
3. D. Daniel, *Struggle for Responsible Government in Travancore*, 1977, p. 4.
4. P. Shungoony Menon, *A History of Travancore from the Earliest Times*, p. 119.
5. R. Mahadeva Iyer, *The Travancore Land Revenue Manual*, Vol. IV, pp. 440 - 446.
6. Ashim Das Gupta, *Malabar in Asian Trade, 1740 -1800*, p. 136.
7. P. Shungoony Menon, *op.cit.*, p. 166.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 166.
9. *Travancore Land Revenue Manual*, p. 93.
10. T. K. Velu Pillai, *The Travancore State Manual*, Vol. II, p. 359.
11. Otti - mortgage.
12. Erayili - service tenure.
13. Devadanam - Grants of land made to temple by Kings or nobles free of tax.
14. Bramadhanom - Gifts of land made to Brahmins by rulers and chiefs.
15. Kudi jenmom - Properties given for the maintenance of certain families.
16. Thirumkam - Lands granted as pension.
17. *Revenue Settlement of Travancore*, Final Report, p.7.
18. Anjali cess - A cess levied on wet land.
19. *Travancore Land Revenue Manual*, Vol. IV, p. 116.
20. Mortgage means *otti*.
21. Panam - A small silver coin of the value of 4 *chackrams* in Travancore.
22. P. Shungoony Menon, *op.cit.*, p. 171.
23. *Important Mathilakam Records*, Vol. I, pp. 285-295.

## TOWARDS THE POONA PACT AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION - TAMIL NADU SCENARIO

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The purpose of the paper is to highlight the political developments in early 1930s which paved the way for the signing of the Poona Pact and subsequent measures of the Congress and Gandhi to ensure the social equality and social recognition to the Depressed Classes in India and Tamil Nadu. The Scheduled Castes who are called as Depressed Classes and Adi-Dravidas in Tamil Nadu represent a significant percentage of population in the State. Certain educated Adi-Dravida leaders and some Associations like the Adi-Dravida Mahajana Sabha had been taking efforts to elevate the status of this class of people, since the last decade of the Nineteenth Century. It resulted in social transformation in early 1930. For a while, the Congress and Gandhi ensured for the transformation of the Depressed Classes by the means Harijan upliftment works and social recognition through

opening Brahmanical temples to the depressed Classes.

The representatives of the various Scheduled Castes Organisations submitted petitions to the Simon Commission demanding more political privileges. People were invited to the Round Table Conference held in London for further discussion about their demands. The first Round Table Conference (Nov. 12, 1930 to June 19, 1931) was held while Gandhi was in jail because of the Civil Disobedience Movement. Gandhi attended Second Round Table Conference (Sept. 7, 1931 to Dec. 7, 1931) in which a committee known as the Minorities Committee was constituted by the members selected from, among the responsible leaders of the various communities including Ambedkar.<sup>2</sup> In this committee meeting Ambedkar demanded separate electorate for the Scheduled Castes. The demand of Ambedkar was

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