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Economic Studies

Vol. 1

Some South Indian

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ECONOMIC STUDIES

VOLUME I

SOME SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGES

University of Madras

ECONOMIC STUDIES

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VOLUME I

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GLOSSARY.

A

- Abishekam* (Sanskrit) anointing, or the act of pouring any liquid over the image of a deity.
- adappan* (*adiyuppan*). Both anthrax and hæmorrhagic septicæmia are given this name.
- adhigari* village headman (otherwise called munsif, monigar, or patel), from *adhigaram* (Sanskrit) authority.
- aggi-jadyam*, literally 'fire disease'. A term applied to the change of colour in paddy from green to red due to an early attack by the paddy stem borer.
- agraharam*, Sanskrit *agra* chief, *hara* a separate allotment. A royal donation of land to Brahmans, or the village or village-site thus given.
- Aiyangar* an honorific title used as a caste name by Tamil Brahmans of the Vaishnavite sect.
- Aiyar* (*Ayyar*, *Iyer*) an honorific title used as a caste name by Tamil Brahmans of the Saivite sect.
- Aliyana Santana v. Marumakkattayam*.
- Ambalavasis*, literally 'dwellers in temples.' A West Coast caste intermediate in status between Nambudri Brahmans and Nayars, whose specific caste occupation is temple service. They follow the 'Marumakkattayam' system of inheritance, i.e., inheritance through the female line of descent.
- Amildar* (Hindustani) = *tabildar* (q.v.), a Revenue officer.
- Ani v. Tamil year*.
- anicut* a weir across a river or water channel to regulate the flow of water for irrigation.
- Arpasi v. Tamil year*.
- arrack* a spirit distilled from toddy (q.v.) or sugar-cane.
- Aruppampuchi*, literally 'harvest insect'. Probably a number of species are included.
- Asaris*. In most parts of the Madras Presidency the term *Asari* may denote any of the five artisan castes (carpenters, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, masons, braziers). On the West Coast the term is confined to carpenters, who can enter the houses of the higher castes without polluting them.
- athalai* wild croton or castor.
- avarai*. In Kanarese this word means the country bean, *Dolichos lablab*. But in Tinnevely the name is given to a wild shrub, the leaves of which somewhat resemble senna and are used as an adulterant of senna, as well as a green manure.
- ayacut* the area of land watered by a given source of irrigation.
- Ayanar* (*Aynar*). The worship of this god is very widely spread over Southern India. He is associated with the horse, and his temple usually consists of a tiny shrine with two horses in front, built of bricks and mortar plastered over with smooth cement. The horses are more than life size; each horse is held by a human attendant less

than life size. In contrast with the village goddesses who are malignant, Aiyandar is a benevolent and protective deity. His cult appears to be very ancient, being part of the religion of the depressed castes. No blood sacrifices are made to him, his offerings being roughly constructed hollow images of horses. In Kumbakonam the statues sacred to him are a horse and elephant of equal sizes, instead of two horses.

B

- Balijas* the chief Telugu trading caste, found all over Madras Presidency. Many are landowners and cultivators. They forbid the remarriage of widows, but not the use of meat or alcohol. Their usual caste name is Nayudu, but sometimes they take that of Chetti.
- bandaikkai* ladies' fingers (*Hibiscus esculentus*). The unripe fruits, which somewhat resemble small cucumbers, are eaten as a vegetable.
- Bants*. The word Bant means soldier, and the Bants are the chief landowning and cultivating caste of South Kanara. Their language is Tulu, but their customs closely resemble those of the Nayars (q.v.). They are fond of out-door sports, and specially addicted to cock-fighting and buffalo racing. The racing buffaloes are yoked in pairs and draw modified levelling boards over a muddy paddy field. Each pair races over the course separately, and the spectators award the prize, marks being given for speed, style, and especially for the height and width of the splash of mud and water.
- Bestas* a Telugu caste whose hereditary occupation is fishing and hunting, but who have largely taken to agriculture.
- Bhagavathar* one who recites the attributes of God. *Bhagavan* (Sanskrit) means dispenser, gracious lord ; and, as applied to the deity, this term connotes six divine attributes. *Bhagavat Gita* = the song of the god.
- Billavas* the Tulu-speaking toddy-drawers of South Kanara, and the most numerous caste of that district.
- Boyas*, or *Bedars*, a caste of hunters and soldiers of Mysore and neighbouring districts, from whom Hyder Ali's armies were largely recruited. Many of the Poligars, local military chieftains of South India, belonged to this caste. They have largely taken to agriculture, but still are frequently skilful hunters. They are also fond of wrestling.

C

- cumbu* = *kambu*, q.v.
- Chakkiliyans* the leather workers of the Tamil districts ; and in these districts the most despised of the depressed castes. They eat meat, even beef, drink alcohol, allow post-puberty marriage and remarriage of widows.
- Chaitra Pournami* full moon in the month of Chitrai, the first month in the Tamil year, beginning about the middle of April.
- chalidomma* black water (also called quarter evil and black leg). An infectious cattle disease accompanied by one or more swellings most frequently occurring on the hind quarter. The course of the disease is rapid and few cases recover.
- chamulu* (*Samulu*), *Samai* (*Panicum miliare*) a variety of millet grown on about a million acres in the Madras Presidency.
- chavadi* a small building used for the office of a village officer, or resting place for travellers.

- chashi* a beetle paddy pest. It appears in the Malabar paddy fields usually about a fortnight before the harvest, and unless blown away by the wind does great damage.
- Cherumas*, called Pulayas in North Malabar, are a numerous caste of agricultural labourers on the West Coast. They were slaves before British rule was established, and continued to be bought and sold openly as such till the Penal Code of 1862 came into force. This made slave dealing punishable with seven years' imprisonment. They are short of stature and dark-skinned. A Cheruma hut near Trichur is shown in illustration. They pollute superior castes at a distance of 30 feet.
- Chettis*. The word Chetti (Tamil) means merchant; and it is both the name of a distinct caste, and also a title used by many people of other castes (e.g., weavers, oil pressers) to indicate that they make their living by trade. Among the true Chettis there are many wealthy money lenders.
- Chitrai v. Tamil year.*
- chodi* the Telugu name for ragi, q.v.
- cholam*, in Hindustani *juari* (*Sorghum vulgare*) the great millet. It is grown over about five million acres in Madras Presidency, and is the most important food crop in the Presidency next to paddy. It is also grown as a fodder crop.
- country plough*. A heavy country plough is shown in the illustration of "Implements used in Gōdāvāri district." This is exceptional; over nearly all southern India the plough used is the light one also shown in the same illustration, and again in "Agricultural implements used in Thettupalli." I have seen a man of medium physique carrying two ploughs without apparent difficulty.

D

- daffadar* (Urdu *dafēdār*), head peon.
- Desamma v. Gangamma.*
- dhall* (dholl) red gram (*Cajanus indicus*), a very important food for vegetarians who adopt a rice diet (e.g., Brahmans) as it remedies the deficiency of rice in proteid.
- dhobi* washerman.
- dikshadar* one to whom land has been granted on specially favourable terms on account of sanctity or learning. There is a settlement of some 3,000 Brahman *dikshadars* at Chidambaram, South Arcot, who own the temple and are considered specially favoured of the gods.
- District* a division of the Presidency in charge of a Collector. The districts of Madras Presidency are :—Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvāri, Kistna, Guntūr, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore, Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Rāmnād, Tinnevely, Malabar, South Kanara, the Nilgiris.
- domma* sometimes a name for anthrax. - In the text hoven or tympany, a form of acute indigestion among cattle accompanied by much fermentation in the large stomach.
- Dommaras* a tribe of tumblers and mountebanks, some of whom wander about the country, while others have become agricultural labourers, and others again make wooden combs. They are great drunkards and of dissolute habits, and eat all sorts of animals.
- donthi* a wooden harrow, with about 20 teeth, about 5 inches long, drawn by hand; used in paddy cultivation.

E

edangali (*edangari*, *edangashi*). One *edangali* = 4 nalis, one Madras measure = 7 nalis. One Madras measure = 108 cubic inches or 62.5 fluid ounces. Hence one *edangali* on the West Coast may be said to be nearly a pint and three quarters. But like all other Indian weights and measures it varies from village to village.

Edigi-Gandlas (*Ganigas*) the oil pressers of the Telugu and Kanarese regions.

Eluwas (*Eshwans*), generally called *Tiyyas*, q.v.

F

Firka a division of a taluk (q.v.) in charge of a Revenue Inspector, comprising 15-25 villages.

G

Gangamma. Village goddesses are worshipped throughout South India under a great variety of names, of which *Gangamma*, *Desamma*, *Poniamman* and *Mariyattal* occur in the text. By some all these names are regarded as names of *Kali*. Whether this view be correct or not, the goddesses all have a similar character. They may be termed goddesses of calamity, as they are worshipped with bloody sacrifices, either periodically, to ward off famine or pestilence, or when these are actually present.

gingelly (*Sesamum indicum*), called *til* in North India. It is the most highly esteemed vegetable oil in South India, and is used in cooking, for food and on the body and hair. The oil pressers and merchants adulterate it largely with ground-nut oil.

gorru a seed drill; v. illustration "Agricultural implements used in Thettupalli" on the right.

gramam a village—not connected etymologically with *agraharam*.

ground-nut the 'monkey nut' of England, and 'pea-nut' of America.

It is a leguminous plant, which requires little rain and is a profitable crop to combine or alternate with a cereal. It very seldom fails. Its cultivation was spreading very rapidly in the Madras Presidency, owing to the introduction of the Mauritius variety, up to the outbreak of war. It was grown for export to Marseilles, where it was pressed in successive processes, first cold, then with heat. The first pressing yields an oil used as a substitute for olive oil, the second an oil used in the manufacture of margarine, the third one used in soap making.

gundasala hæmorrhagic septicæmia, otherwise called buffalo disease, and malignant sore throat. It affects buffaloes more than cattle. Of animals obviously affected 75 to 90 per cent die, but those that recover are immune for life.

guntaka. This word was spelt *guntava* by Mr. Krishnamurti, but altered on advice. But it is doubtful whether these are not two distinct words, as *guntaka* means a sort of broad hoe, drawn by oxen, and *guntava*, as defined and described by Mr. Krishnamurti, is a sort of rake drawn by oxen. It is shown on the left of his photograph "Agricultural implements used in Thettupalli."

guru a teacher.

H

hook worm an intestinal parasite extraordinarily common in South India, especially among the lower castes. Probably the majority of the population of the City of Madras are affected. It ranks next to

malaria as a cause of anæmia and debility. It greatly enhances the death-rate, both by facilitating infection by other diseases, and by reducing the power of resistance. Cure is easy, but seldom availed of.

I

Idayans the great shepherd caste of the Tamil country.

Inam lands lands granted on specially favourable terms to particular individuals, or to persons holding particular offices or performing particular services.

J

Jack a tree needing a wet climate, common on the West Coast. It yields good timber and produces a green fruit about the size of a vegetable marrow, which grows on a thick stem from the trunk or large branches.

jadi madu highly bred ox.

K

Kaikolans an important Tamil caste of weavers, specially numerous in the suburbs of Conjeeveram. According to tradition they are descended from nine heroes who assisted the god Subrahmaniam to destroy certain demons. One girl at least from each Kaikolan family should be dedicated to temple service.

Kailasanathaswami one of the names of Siva.

kainoi foot and mouth disease.

kalai bull.

kalam a measure in common use in the Tanjore delta and adjoining districts. It varies from place to place. In Madura 1 kalam = 48 Madras measures (a kalam of paddy being therefore about 120 lb.), in South Arcot it is, officially, 24 Madras measures, near Palur 36.

Kallans a Tamil caste, traditionally thieves, marauders and cattle lifters or burglars, largely employed in the Madura district as watchmen, and still subsisting in many parts on blackmail and robbery; but in others now agriculturists.

Kallasaris workers in stone, the occupational name in Malabar of a section of the great artisan caste of Kammâlans, q.v.

kambu spiked millet (*Pennisetum typhoideum*); v. also *sazzulu*.

Kamas originally a soldier caste, now landowners and cultivators, and very industrious and intelligent agriculturists.

Kammaralas (*Kammalas*, *Kammalans*). The great artisan caste of the Tamil and Malayalam countries, divided into five sections, Tattans (goldsmiths), Kannâns (braziers), Tachans (carpenters), Kal-Tachans or Kallasaris (stone masons) and Kollans or Karumâns (blacksmiths).

kanaga the bastard rose-wood (*Dalbergia lanceolaria*). An oil is extracted from the fruit which is used as an illuminant and on the hair.

kanjurnoi, Tamil, literally "dry disease." A name given to various plant diseases.

Kapus, or *Reddis*, the largest caste in Madras Presidency, numbering over two millions. They are Telugus but are numerous also in Tamil districts; almost invariably they are landowners or cultivators. The word Kapu is said to mean watchman, and Reddi king.

karuppukittinai, Tamil *karuppu* black, *kitti* approaching, *noi* disease; a plant disease, not specifically identifiable.

karugal a plant disease, involving a blackening of the tissues. Not specifically identifiable.

Karunans (*Karumans*) blacksmiths, a division of the Kammalan caste, q.v. *kashakali*, literally 'story-entertainment.' A form of dramatic entertainment peculiar to the West Coast. The subject is always mythological, and the gods appear in grotesque forms, the actors wearing masks. Similar entertainments are common in Tamil districts, but without the grotesque conventional get up.

kattukuttagai (Tamil, *kattu* tie, *kuttagai* rent) a defined fixed rent, or the letting of land for a defined rent.

kazhichal ordinary diarrhoea.

keppai = *tenai*, q.v.

kilipuchi (Tamil) literally 'parrot insect.' A name given to various insect pests from a fancied resemblance to a parrot's beak; in text, the locust.

kist the word ordinarily used to denote the land revenue payable to Government, but sometimes used also for the rent paid to the landholder under Government.

kol fields are lands on the West Coast which have been partially reclaimed from backwaters for paddy cultivation. During and after the rains they are under water; in the hot dry season they are kept partially dry by pumping.

komari foot and mouth disease.

Komatis the great Telugu trading caste of the Madras Presidency, corresponding to the Tamil Chettis. They are very widely scattered.

kondapurirogam. *Kondapuri* is a Telugu name for a variety of paddy cultivated on high lands, *rogam* is Telugu for disease.

koradappan (Tamil, *korai* throat, *adappan* swelling) hæmorrhagic septicæmia.

korra Italian millet.

kota (*kotah*, *kotai*, *kottai*) the measure of grain commonly used in the extreme south, the districts of Rāmnād and Tinnevely. It may be 90, 96, 112 or 120 Madras measures.

Kshatriyas the kingly and warrior caste according to the Laws of Manu. In South India various people term themselves Kshatriyas, though their descent from any true Kshatriya caste is doubtful.

kudirai-val horse gram (*Dolichos biflorus*), a small-grained pulse grown over about 2,000,000 acres in Madras Presidency, the regular feeding stuff for horses, also used for cattle food and for human consumption.

Kummaras the Telugu and Kanarese caste of potters.

kunaivandu literally 'hunch-back weevil.' In the text the cotton pest referred to is *Atactogaster finitimus*, but the same name is applied generally to weevils having prominent beaks.

kunnal a term used for ordinary fever in cattle, and in some places for black quarter.

Kunparars = *Kummaras*, q.v.

kurama anthrax.

kuruthupuchi, literally 'shoot insect', the stem borer caterpillar, *Chilo simplex*.

kuthakai (*kuttakai*) a lease of land.

L

lingam a phallic symbol found regularly in connexion with Siva temples, usually about 3 feet high, and carved out of very hard and durable stone.

M

- Madras measure* = 108 cubic inches = 8 ollocks ; 8 Madras measures = 1 marakkal = 500 fluid ounces.
- mahimai* (Urdu) a tax for religious or charitable purposes ; village octroi.
- Malayalam* a Dravidian language closely related to Tamil (q.v.) but with a larger accession of Sanskrit words, spoken on the West Coast, in the States of Travancore and Cochin, and the district of Malabar.
- Malayas* a Malabar caste of devil dancers or professional exorcists, who eke out their living by singing and begging.
- malli* coriander. Grown chiefly in Tinnevely for its seeds, but the leaves also are used as a vegetable.
- mamoti* a short handled broad bladed hoe, used instead of a spade, or shovel, and for a great variety of purposes. There is one in the foreground of the illustration "Agricultural implements used in Thettupalli."
- manul* custom, hence a customary payment (as to a village blacksmith), hence a bribe or illicit fee extorted by a village official, minor Government official, or station-master.
- mandapam* (Sanskrit) a porch, hall, or cloister—usually a pillared shelter for pilgrims.
- mandravadi* one who chants *mantrams*.
- manjanathi* morinda tinctoria, a common shrub, used for green manure. The bark of the root yields a yellow dye.
- Mannans (Vannans)* a caste of washermen in Tamil and Malayalam countries. On the West Coast they also act as priests of Bhagavati (a goddess of the Gangamma type) and as devil dancers.
- mantrams* hymns, prayers or spells recited with magical effect.
- Mappilas (Moplahs)* the Muhammadans of the West Coast, originally the descendants of Arab traders and native women, but with their numbers swollen by accession of converts from depressed castes of Hindus, who by conversion escaped from slavery and degradation. They are physically vigorous, but turbulent and disorderly.
- marakkal* usually 8 Madras measures, but 2 in Tanjore and Trichinopoly, 4 in Tinnevely, and 3 in parts of Rāmnād.
- Maravars* a numerous caste in the Southern districts of Madras Presidency, originally robbers and marauders, more recently cattle thieves, village watchmen, and black-mailers, now partially converted to agricultural pursuits.
- margosa*, called also neem, *azadirachta indica*, a very common tree yielding hard, durable timber. The seeds yield oil, the leaves and bark yield a febrifuge.
- Marumakkattayam* the custom of inheritance through the female line, from mother to daughter, that prevails among the Nairs, Bants, Billavas, Tiyyas and other castes on the West Coast. As the property is usually held by large undivided families, and administered by the eldest male, who is succeeded in the management by a brother or nephew, it is called in North Malabar *Aliyanx Santana*, or Sister's son inheritance.
- maund* a variable weight. A railway maund is 82.28 lb., a Madras maund about 25 lb.
- melkanam (melcharth)*. *Mel* means over, above. *Melkanam* is the payment and receipt of an extra *kanam*, or fine on renewing a lease, in excess of that paid by the actual *kanamdar* or leaseholder, to secure a transfer of the lease.

- minnai oil*, commonly called *pinnai* or *punnai* oil, extracted from the fruit of the common poon (*Calophyllum inophyllum*, Linn.), which is also called the Dilo oil tree or Domba oil nut tree.
- mirasidar* (*mirasdar*). In Tanjore, Trichinopoly and North Arcot districts, where the ryotwari lands are generally held by Brahmans, the *pattadar* who holds direct from Government is frequently termed a *mirasidar*. This is an honorific title, and the *mirasidar* is usually very unwilling to do the actual work of cultivation.
- mochai* the country bean, *Dolichos lablab*.
- monigar* = *munsif*.
- munsif* village headman.
- musara* rinderpest.
- Musaris* Malayalam brass and coppersmiths, a division of Kammalans.
- Mysore breed of cattle*. Great attention was paid to the improvement of cattle for draught by Hyder Ali and Tippu Sahib, and they established systematic cattle breeding, using the best of the animals they captured. To their success was due the rapidity of their marches. The well-bred Mysore ox is a good sized, strong and active animal, allowed to run wild when young, and very hardy.

N

- Nachiyar* a non-Brahman lady who through extreme devotion to the worship of Vishnu became a goddess and one of Vishnu's mistresses.
- nali* (*nari*, *nazhi*) a West Coast measure, one-fourth of an edangali, q.v.
- nalupujadyam*. *Nalupu* blackness, *jadyam* sickness. In the text probably refers to malignant oedema.
- Nambiyars* a section of Nayars, q.v.
- Nambudri* (*Nambudiri*) *Brahmans* the Brahmans of the Malabar Coast. They have the highest reputation of all Brahmans for piety and Sanskrit learning.
- Nayadis* a hunting tribe living on the forest-covered hills of the West Coast. They are considered the lowest of the untouchable castes, and pollute a Brahman at a distance of 300 feet. Owing to the operation of the Arms Act and the shrinking of the forests, their occupation is largely gone, and while living mainly on small wild animals and roots, they often serve as watchmen, guarding crops from wild beasts at night, and sometimes do agricultural work, but they rely more on begging for subsistence.
- Nayakars* a Telugu-speaking caste of agriculturists numerous in the Rāmnād, Tinnevely and Madura districts, closely akin to the Nayudus of Tanjore, and to the Kapus or Reddis.
- Nayars* (*Nairs*). The name means a leader or soldier. The military skill and valour of the Nayars was highly praised by various travellers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and by Camoens. It was the ancient custom for their chieftain, the Zamorin, to cut his own throat after reigning 12 years. This was modified at an unknown date, and during the seventeenth century the Zamorin instead held a great 12 days feast every twelfth year, at the close of which young men were invited to fight their way through the Zamorin's guards, and kill him, with the prospect of succeeding to the throne if successful.
- Nayudu* a title assumed by certain Telugu castes. The Nayudus described in the text are Kapus or Reddis.
- Navuri* (*na* tongue) lampas, a swollen condition of the hard palate in cattle, a symptom of various diseases, not a specific disease.

Nellore breed of cattle, also, and more correctly, called the Ongole breed.

They are the largest and heaviest breed in South India, the oxen being slow, but suitable for heavy work, and the cows the best milkers of the native breeds. They are bred in the Guntūr district and adjoining parts of the Nellore district, Ongole being about the centre of the area, and they pass through the town of Nellore on their journey southwards. The soil in the locality is rich in lime, which favours the growth of bone. The cattle are fed on private pastures and certain bulls are dedicated to the gods and set aside for breeding, but these are not necessarily selected for any good quality.

nilams the name given to paddy lands in the Malayalam country.

O

Oddars a Telugu-speaking caste of navvies and earthworkers, who originally came from Orissa. They have relatively good physique, eat meat, are very fond of toddy, and allow polygamy and free divorce. Women are only restricted from changing husbands after having had eighteen. This limit does not apply to men.

Omum the crude drug from which thymol is extracted.

Onam the great annual festival of the Malabar Coast, held early in September or at the end of August, lasting about four days. At this time the god Parasurama, according to some accounts, revisits Malabar; according to other local traditions it is the local god Mahabali, a Dravidian deity, whose visit takes place.

P

Pachalai the green plant bug *Nesara viridula*.

Padiyals from *padi* a measure; one who receives a defined quantity of grain from his master.

Paliath Atchan. 'Paliath' is the name of a tarvad originally supplying hereditary prime ministers to Cochin, and still the richest jenmis in the State. Each member of the tarvad is called 'Atchan,' an honorific term meaning father.

paliki-guntaka, or, perhaps more correctly, *paliki-guntava* (v. *guntaka*), a twelve-toothed rake, drawn by oxen, similar to the six-toothed implement shown in the illustration "Agricultural implements used in Thettupalli."

palikimanu levelling board, more correctly spelt *palakamānu*; *palaka* means plain, level; *mānu* wood.

Pallans the great caste of agricultural labourers of the south of the peninsula, almost entirely engaged in the cultivation of wet lands, and once slaves, and now practically in serfdom, though partially emancipated by conversion to Christianity and the increased demand for their services caused by the need for labourers on Ceylon tea and rubber estates.

Panans a depressed caste of the West Coast, devil dancers and umbrella makers. They have paternal descent (father to son) of property, and are said to practise fraternal polyandry.

Panchamas, literally the fifth caste, a general name for all untouchables, as Pallans, Paraiyans, Cherumas, etc.

anchayat, literally an assembly of five men, actually a small committee of five or more or fewer men, either elected or nominated, to attend to the

- common affairs of a village or caste or other small aggregation of people.
- pandaravaka* from *pandara* Sirkar, government, *vaka* sort or kind (Malayalam).
- Pandarams* a section of the Vellala caste which performs priestly functions.
- pandluminu* a wooden harrow, with about 24 wooden teeth about 3 inches long, drawn by hand.
- Panikkans*. This word means teachers or workers, and is variously applied in the Malayalam country to barbers, fencing masters and craftsmen.
- pannaiyals* serfs, from *pannai*, home farm or demesne land.
- paracheri* the collection of huts occupied by the Paraiyans of a village. While the Paraiyans are not allowed to enter the caste village, Brahmans are not allowed to enter the paracheri, even if willing to do so. The Paraiyans hold that disaster would follow the entry of a Brahman.
- Paraiyans*, commonly termed Pariahs, a large untouchable caste, numbering about two millions, mostly living in the district immediately to the south of Madras. Like the Pallans they are very largely agricultural labourers on wet lands, and practically in serfdom. The domestic servants employed by Europeans in Madras are mostly of this caste.
- parambas* (Malayalam) cultivated lands under any crop other than paddy.
- Parasurama* the god Vishnu in one of his incarnations, in which he created the land between the Western Ghats and the sea (p. 146).
- parivarthanai* (Sanskrit) exchange or barter.
- patel* = *munsif* village headman (Kanarese).
- patta* the title-deed to ryotwari land granted to the peasant individually by the revenue officer.
- pattadar* the holder of a *patta*. His tenure is for life, and on his death the holding is divided among his heirs according to the custom of his community, i.e., if he is a Hindu, equally among his sons, if a Muhammadan, two-thirds of it between the sons, one-third between the daughters. He can mortgage or sell his rights.
- pattu* a horse disease, probably surra. Surra is caused by a protozoon allied to that which causes sleeping sickness, and produces general debility.
- Poligars* marauding chieftains established in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries over many districts of South India, carrying on wars with one another, with the more settled native governments, and, latterly, with the East India Company. The present localization of great numbers of people of Kallan and Maravar and similar castes of criminal traditions is the permanent consequence of this political condition.
- Pongal* a harvest festival held early in January, the first three days of the Tamil month Tai.
- Poniamman* a village goddess of the Gangamma type.
- poramboke* land in a village reserved for purposes other than cultivation.
- pothimushungunoi* (*mushungu* devour, *noi* = disease) not identified.
- Pulayas* a division of the Cheruma caste.
- Punganur breed of cattle*. There was a breed of cattle peculiar to the zamindari village of Punganur, of short stature, not over 36 inches in height, but esteemed for the milking qualities of the cows, and the excellence of the oxen for draught. The pure breed is extinct.
- puravaka* (*pura* outside, *vaka* sort) land in Cochin over which Government's rights have been transferred to private owners, as contrasted with *pandaravaka* 'government sort.'
- putti* (*pothi*) a variable weight, usually about 500 lb.

R

Ragi (*Eleusine coracana*), an important crop, usually a dry crop, but sometimes irrigated. It very seldom grows with anything like the luxuriance shown in the illustration. It is grown on about 2,500,000 acres in Madras Presidency.

Ramayana. The version of the Ramayana of the poet Kamban is the great epic of the Tamil language, and is asserted by some to be far superior in literary quality to the Sanskrit version. A similar claim is made for the Telugu version of the Mahabharata.

S

Saivites worshippers of Siva and followers of Sankaracharya, the religious leader who flourished about A.D. 800, whose teaching superseded Buddhism over most of India. The 'Saivites' and 'Vaishnavites' are the two great Hindu sects. The Saivite symbol is white cowdung ashes smeared on the forehead.

sambal literally 'ashes,' an unidentified plant disease.

samooham Sanskrit for an assembly.

sandai (*shandy*) a village fair or market.

santhadappan hæmorrhagic septicaemia.

Saradambal, or Sarasvati, the Hindu goddess of learning.

sarvamanyam from (Sanskrit) *sarva* entire and *manyam* gift. A gift of land free of rent.

Sastrigal a reciter of Shastras, or sacred hymns, or a Brahman who performs religious ceremonies. The word Sastri is used as a caste name by some Tamil and Telugu Saivite Brahmans.

Sathanis a Telugu caste of temple servants supposed to have originated in the time of the Vaishnavite reformer Ramanujacharya (cir. A.D. 1100).

sassulu the Telugu name for spiked millet, *Pennisetum typhoideum*, called *kambu* in Tamil and *bajra* in Hindustani. Grown on about 3,000,000 acres in the Madras Presidency.

seer by statute one kilogramme; on the railways 80 tolas, a tola being the weight of a rupee (= 2.05 lb.), in Anantapur 21 tolas, in many parts of the Presidency 24 tolas (about 10 oz.).

sendal (*sendalai*) literally 'red leaf,' a reddening of the cholam leaf through the attack of mites. It is sometimes very destructive.

Shanars the great toddy drawing caste of the Tamil country, specially numerous in the extreme south of the Peninsula, where there is a considerable area where the palmyra is the sole means of subsistence. They call themselves Nadars, and claim to be by origin a landowning and soldier caste worsted in war by the Madura monarchs. They have been regarded by some other castes as Panchamas, and their right to enter Hindu temples disputed; and there is a bitter feud between them and the Maravars. Great numbers have become Christians, and they are rapidly rising in education, wealth and social status.

shanhog Kanarese for *karnam*, village accountant.

Smarthas Tamil-speaking Saivite Brahmans.

Siva the supreme god worshipped by Saivite Hindus. Combined with Brahma and Vishnu in the Trimurti, or Hindu trinity, Siva is conceived as embodying the destructive function of the deity. But as the supreme god of the Saivites he is fundamentally the god of life and procreation, his symbol being the lingam. His consort is Parvati, his

sons the elephant-headed Ganesa, and Subrahmaniam, who rides on a peacock.

soap-nuts (concinna) a species of bean. The outer cover of the seed is boiled or pounded into powder, and used to rub over the skin and hair after taking an oil bath to remove the greasiness.

Srad̄d̄ha a day of mourning for a dead father or mother, on which two Brahmins are fed. It is celebrated every month for one year, and afterwards every year on the anniversary of the day of the death.

suruttai curling, rolling up. Any leaf disease or plant blight that curls up the leaf.

Swadesanitr̄an, literally 'friend of one's own country.'

Syrian Christians. According to strong local tradition, disputed but not improbable, this church was founded by St. Thomas the Apostle. Little is known of it up to the arrival of the Portuguese, since when it has had a chequered history, mainly owing to the efforts of the Jesuits to bring it within the Roman fold.

T

Tahsildar the Revenue officer in charge of a taluk.

talaiyari a village watchman.

taluk a division of a district (q.v.) comprising 3 to 5 *firkas*. There are usually 8 to 10 *taluks* in a district.

tamarind a large evergreen tree, the heart wood of which is very durable, and used for the mortars of oil mills, shafts, axles, etc. The fruit is sour and laxative and is regarded as a necessary article of food.

Tamil the most highly cultivated Dravidian language, possessing a large poetic and grammatical literature. It shows the transition from the agglutinative to the inflected stage of development. It has no relative pronoun, instead the use of participles is wonderfully developed. It is extraordinarily difficult for a European to learn, as there is no accent, the words run into one another and the pronunciation is very rapid, the syllables being slurred over. The versification is very elaborate, being based on quantity, and using rhyme and alliteration.

Tamil names. Surnames proper are not used in Tamil. The caste name follows a man's own name and that is preceded by two initials, the first standing for the name of the place where he was born, the second for his father's name. The former of these is sometimes omitted. His own name is usually one of the names of Siva, or of Vishnu, or the incarnations of Vishnu (Rama and Krishna), or Subrahmaniam. *Tiru*, holy, is a frequent prefix, and *Swami*, deity, a common affix.

Tamil year. The Tamil year has twelve months, Chitrai, Vaigasi, Ani, Adi, Avani, Purattasi, Arpasi, Kartigai, Margazhi, Tai, Masi, Panguni. April 12th, 1918, was New Years day, 1st Chitrai, of the Tamil year 1841. The months are solar. Each day (of 24 hours) is divided into 60 'nalgas.' A month does not begin at any particular hour of the day.

taram class. Each field in a village is classified for revenue purposes according to the colour, texture and fertility of the soil, facilities for irrigation, and distance from village-site. The fields so classified fall into a series of classes, or *tarams*, each class being assessed at an appropriate money rate. There is a separate series for 'wet' and 'dry' lands.

Telugu the most widely spread Dravidian language, spoken, according to the Census of 1911, by 22,543,000 people, Tamil being spoken by 17,129,000, Kanarese by 10,526,000 and Malayalam by 6,792,000. 1

contains a larger proportion of Sanskritic words than Tamil, and is less subtle and precise, and there is an even wider severance between the literary and popular forms of the language. It has a considerable poetical literature, the Telugu version of the Mahabharata being asserted to be far superior in literary quality to the Sanskrit version. It is more euphonious than Tamil and has been termed "the Italian of the East."

thada an inflamed condition of the throat in cattle, a symptom, not a specific disease.

thalpuchi (Tamil) *thal* stalk, *puchi* insect.

tharvād (*tarvād*) the undivided family of the Nayars. As inheritance follows the female line, while a man has a right to maintenance during his life from the property of his *tharvad*, he transmits no right to his children. The desire to do so is frequently very strong, and the whole system of *tharvads* and *marumakkattayam*, though it has great advantages, appears likely to fall into decay.

Thattans (*Thattars*, *Tattans*) the goldsmith division of the Kammalan or artisan caste.

thellachida (Telugu) *thella* white, *chida* pest.

Thiyyas (*Tiyyas*) the toddy drawing caste of the southern portion of the Malabar coast, corresponding to Billavas further north, and to Shanars in the south-east. Like the Nayars, Bants and Billavas, they follow the *marumakkattayam* system of inheritance. They are advancing in education, wealth and status.

tirumanjanam, *tiru* (Tamil) holy, *manjanam* (Sanskrit) anointing.

Tirunal (Tamil) *tiru* holy, *nal* day.

toddy is extracted from coconut palms, date palms, and palmyras. It is a sweet juice which ferments immediately unless fermentation is prevented with a view to conversion into jaggery and sugar. It is usually drunk the day after it is gathered, being then a somewhat stupefying intoxicant. The next day it becomes vinegar, and then speedily decomposes.

tola the weight of a rupee, 4114 oz.

Tolkollans leather workers and dyers of the Malabar coast.

tondaipuchi literally "throat insect," the paddy stem borer, *schoenobius bifunctifer*, a serious paddy pest.

Tondaman the family name of the Raja of Pudukkōttai, the head of the Kallan caste, and the name of a sub-caste of limeburners, supposed to be a section of the Kallan caste which migrated to Tinnevely from Pudukkōttai.

U

Uralla, presumably from *ūr* village, and *āl* headman.

V

Vainoi foot-and-mouth disease.

Vaishnavites worshippers of Vishnu, and followers of Ramanuja, the Vaishnavite religious leader and reformer, who flourished about A.D. 1100. The badge of the Vaishnavite is a trident shaped white and red mark on the forehead.

wakil a lawyer, who may act indifferently as a legal adviser or advocate. Lawyers entitled to plead in the High Court are termed High Court Vakils. The title 'Barrister-at-law' can only be acquired by studying in the United Kingdom.

- varagu* kodo millet (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*), a cereal inferior both as food and fodder, but very hardy and a useful famine reserve, grown over nearly two million acres in Madras Presidency.
- varam* share.
- vekkai* (Tamil, hot) rinderpest.
- vellai* (Tamil) *vellai* white, *thal* stalk.
- Vellalas* the great farmer caste of the Tamil country, corresponding more or less to the Telugu Kapus or Reddis, and ranking, among Tamils, next to Brahmans.
- verpulu*, literally "root worm." Any sort of worm or grub that attacks the roots of plants.
- verumpattam* tenancy at will. (*Verum* unqualified or unfavourable, *pattam* lease.)
- vethupu* rinderpest.
- Vettis* the lowest class of village servants, whose duty is to watch the burning-ground set aside for disposal of the dead.
- Vinayaga Chaturti*. *Vinayaga*, another name of Ganesa. *Chaturti* is the fourth day after new moon and full moon.
- Vishnu* the supreme deity worshipped by Vaishnavite Hindus. Vishnu underwent a series of incarnations in animal and human form. As Rama he is the hero of the epic Ramayana, as Krishna he is a character in the Mahabharata, and utters the Bhagavat Gita, the most sacred exposition of Vaishnavite ethics.
- viss* a variable weight. In Madras 1 viss 120 tolas, or about 3 lb., in Ganjam 1 viss 400 tolas.

W

- Wariyar* one section of the Ambalavasis, q.v.

Y

- yetham-bana* the bucket of a picottah.

Z

- Zamindar* (*Zemindar*) a local chieftain or revenue officer recognized by the East India Company in parts of Madras as well as in Bengal as a landed proprietor. The *Zemindari* properties of Madras Presidency are under permanent settlement as in Bengal, but in practice an important difference arises from the fact that they have mostly been brought under the Impartible Estates Act, so that no large class of poor but idle *zemindars* has been created.
- Zamorin* the title of the ruling princes of Malabar, of great importance at the time of the Portuguese arrival in India and later (v. also *Nayars*).

[*Note*.—Thurston's "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" and R. C. Wood's "Note-book of Agricultural Facts and Figures" have been used largely for this Glossary.]

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