

UTTUKULI  
ZEMIN  
AND ITS  
PAST AND PRESENT

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Dewan Bahadur  
**MUTHURAMASWAMI KALINGARAYAR,**  
ZEMINDAR OF UTTUKULI.  
who died at the age of 68

**Late Dewan Bahadur**

**MUTHURAMASWAMI KALINGARAYAR AVL  
POLIGAR OF UTTUKULI.**

(Reprinted from

'The Feudatory & Zemindari India.')

**M**R. Muthuramaswamy Kalingarayar, a very popular and influential Zamindar of Uttukuli, passed away recently at Pollachi at the age of 68. We give below a sketch of the Late Zamindar whose death is an event that cannot fail to rouse up deep feelings in the Presidency. The Late Zamindar endeared himself to all who knew him by his goodness and never failing generosity. He was very philanthropic and a generous patron of Indian Music in South India and a great benefactor to his country. The Zamindar, as a matter of fact was helping all public movements and there was not an institution with which he was not connected. He was the 3rd in descent and the 2nd son of the thirty-first Poli-

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gat. He was born on 24th January 1864. During his boyhood he was placed under various private tutors. He was fond of games and had a great love for animals like horses and dogs which he maintained.

His elder brother died in his twenty-second year and left no heirs, and so he succeeded him in his eighteenth year (1881), when he began to realise his position and responsibilities. He lost no time in placing himself under the tutition of Mr. Wright, a retired European Inspector of Police, who was once a School Master, and diligently set himself to work hard. By constant association with him and his family he learnt to talk and write English well and became conversant with the etiquette of high circles, both English and Indian. He formed the acquaintance of many European and Indian gentlemen and freely mixed in their society. He

made large additions to his ancestral palace which was of antique design, formed a well laid-out garden and a small menagerie, and built a bungalow with playgrounds and a billiard room and called it "The Golden Grove" assisted by one of his employees, Mr. Manu Pillai of Trivandram. The birth of a son and heir to his estate took place on the 12th April 1894, in response to the wishes and prayers of his devout tenantry, and it proved a turning point in the career of his life. He then took personal interest in the management of the estate, regularly set apart hours for his office work, systematised the accounts and brought everything into working order. By his tact and skill he showed an increase of revenue in his estate to the extent of Rs. 2,000. In 1894 Samatur Palayam was encumbered to the extent of thirty thousand rupees, and the then Poligar be-

ing the nearest relation of the Poligar of Uttukuli, entrusted the management of his estate and the care of his minor son to the latter. He removed himself to Uttukuli with his family and was entirely under the support and protection of the Uttukuli Poligar. It was also his express wish that his minor son should marry the Poligar's daughter. At this stage the Poligar of Samatur died on the 14th November 1895. Mr. Bradley, Collector of Coimbatore, recommended to the Government that the management of the estate of the late Poligar of Samatur and Kottampatti should continue in the hands of the Uttukuli Poligar. The Government approved it and the encumbered estate was entrusted to the Poligar. By his prudent management he was able to augment the income of the estate of Samatur by Rs. 5,000 per annum, discharge the whole debt in the course of about eight years

and left a surplus after spending Rs. 3,000 for repairing irrigation works, Rs. 5,000 for improving the Poligar's palace, and Rs. 8,000 for the minor's marriage with his daughter on the 17th November 1901. The estate was formally handed over to him in 1902.

After the demise of the former Zamindar of Mywadi, the estate was placed under the guardianship of the District Judge; and at his request the Poligar of Uttukuli took up its management on the 4th February 1898. The Poligar served for sometime in the District and Taluk Boards and took keen interest in their affairs. He has been an honorary visitor to the Agricultural College and Research Institute at Coimbatore for the last twelve years. His able management of his estate and his interest in public matters procured him the awards of certificates of honour from the Government of Madras on two occasions.

Among his donations and contributions to movements of public utility may be mentioned his subscriptions of Rs. 500 towards the construction of the new hospital at Coimbatore in 1910, Rs. 1,000 for constructing an operation shed in the Veterinary Hospital at Coimbatore, Rs. 300 towards the Edward VII Memorial Fund, and Rs. 250 towards the construction of a building for the Y. M. C. A. at Coimbatore. For the last ten years he has been paying contribution for awarding one gold medal in his name and two silver medals in the name of his eldest son to the successful students of the Veterinary College at Madras. As a parton of learning and literature, he opened in 1912 an elementary School at Uttukuli for the benefit of the children of his estate and gave a donation of Rs. 3,000 for the construction of a School building, and contribution of Rs. 20 for the



maintenance of the school. In the same year, he presented the Municipal Hospital, Coimbatore, with an X-ray apparatus costing about six hundred rupees ; in 1913 he contributed Rs. 1,000 towards the Funds of the Coimbatore College, and paid Rs. 1,000 from his own pocket and collected Rs. 3,000 from his community towards the opening of the Public Park at Coimbatore.

The Poligar was unassuming and simple in his manners. He was known to be a cultured and enlightened gentleman of his community. He was very kind and easily accessible to all. He sympathised with his tenants and helped them as far as possible. The poor and the needy found a patron in him. During the outbreak of plague in and around Uttukuli in August 1910, the poligar assisted his tenants with money and grain as well as building materials. This and similar acts of generosity

have made him popular with the ryots and other classes of people with whom he comes in contact. He was a loyal subject of the British Government and commemorated the political event in a tangible form so as to benefit his tenants at the same time.

Among the conferees of the birthday honours in 1913, the Poligar of Uttukuli was the recipient of the well-merited distinction of Dewan Bahadur. At the public durbar held at Coimbatore on the 21st September 1913, the Collector of the District, presenting the Sannad, observed:—

“I need hardly say much about our friend, Mr. Ramaswami Kalinga Rayar, the Zemindar of Uttukuli. He stands out typical of what we would like the great landholders of this country to be. Though educated, he does not despise agriculture. He is a shrewd and hard-working administrator of his vast estate and

has developed its possibilities to a very high degree; at the same time he is a great friend of his tenants. He has a leading part in all public movements. His public benefactions are many and useful and I need not weary you with a list of them. At the same time, the Zamindar is most modest and retiring. He represented this district at the Delhi Durbar at considerable expense to himself."

He took an active part in the Non-Brahmin Conference that was held at Coimbatore on the 19th and 20th August 1917, the first of its kind in Southern India, and was the Chairman of the Reception Committee.

He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the (now defunct) Madras Zamindars' and Landholders' Association. He was a member of the South Indian Liberal Federation. He was one of the prominent members that were selected to represent the Zemindars and

the Non-Brahmins of the Madras Presidency in the respective deputations that waited upon the Right Honourable E. S. Montague, Secretary of State for India, and His Excellency Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, on the occasion of their visit to Madras in 1917 in connection with the new Reforms Scheme.

His purse was always open to public charities. His philanthropy was widely known that it had attracted the attention of no less a person than the Rajah of Anagondi in the Nizam's Dominions. It gave the Poligar great pleasure to donate liberally towards Sri Vivekavarthany Shabha at the instance of the Rajah.

#### THE NEW POLIGAR.

Sri Agathur Muthu Krishna-swami Kalingarayar, who has now succeeded his father as the Poligar of Uttukuli. He took a leading part in the year



**Sri Agathur Muthu Krishnaswami Kalingarayar,  
THE NEW POLIGAR OF UTTUKULI.**

1919 in the recruitment of men for Field Service in Mesopotamia. He was appointed Honorary Assistant Recruiting Officer for the Pollachi taluq. He recruited the largest number of men from Coimbatore district, especially in the Pollachi taluk. He was awarded a certificate of merit and a medal for the valuable services rendered in the recruitment of men for field service. The following is a copy of the badge and Sannad presented:—

Recruiting badge awarded to M. R. Ry. Agathur Muthu Krishnaswami Kalinga Ravar Avergal, Kumara Zamindar of Uttukuli and member of the District Board, Coimbatore, for services rendered in connection with recruiting during the Great War.

(Sd.) A. H. Bingley.

Major-General,

Secretary to the Government of India,  
10th. December 1919. Army. Dept.

The Sannad is presented to M. R. Ry. Agathur Muthu Krishnaswami Kalinga Rayar Avergal, Kumara Zamindar of Utukuli, by order of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in recognition of services rendered to the

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Indian Army during the Great War and as a mark of approbation.

(Sd.) A. H. Bingley,  
Major-General,

Simla, Secretary to the Government of India  
Dated, 3rd Aug. 1920. Army Dept,

His Excellency the Governor of Madras was so much impressed by the zeal and enthusiasm which the Kumara Poligar evinced in the cause of recruitment during the war that His Excellency was pleased to offer him a temporary commission. But unfortunately the Kumara Poligar could not avail himself of the offer in view of his revered father's retirement from public life and of the burden which he had therefore to bear in the efficient administration of the Poliem.

The Kumara Poligar is taking a leading part in public affairs. He has been appointed as Honorary Magistrate of the Coimbatore Bench and has been elected as a member of the Coimbatore District Board. As a further

recognition of his public services he has been appointed the first Non-Official President of the Taluk Board of Pollachi from the 22nd August 1920.

He is a Free Mason of the "Mount Lodge." He has subscribed Rs. 300 towards its building fund. In November 1919 he was present on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency Lord Chelmsford to Madras and attended all the public functions held in honour of his visit. He also attended the reception held at the Banqueting Hall to meet Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Vicerine and was presented to them. On the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in January 1921, he was present and attended all the various ceremonies and functions that were held in honour of His Royal Highness's visit. He was one of those present at the Senate House on the



occasion of the entertainment given to his Royal Highness by the Zamindars of the Madras Presidency, and also one of those presented to His Royal Highness as a member of the Madras Zamindars' Association. He attended the Masonic Function at the Banqueting Hall held in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In January 1922 the Kumara Poligar of Uttukuli was present at Madras during the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and took part in all the functions connected therewith.

The Kumara Poligar is taking a keen interest in the Non-Brahmin movement. He attend all the Non-Brahmin Conferences held at Madras and was one of the members of the Reception Committee.

His simplicity of manners, easy accessibility to the rich and to

the poor alike, and his popularity in the Taluk, are evinced by the fact that in the recent election held in the Pollachi Taluk Board not only were the members elected without any contest, but also the Vice-President of the Taluk Board and the members to the District Board. Under the present scheme of the Hindu-Endowments Act, he was elected nemcon as the first President of the Hindu Devasathanam Committee, Pollachi. During the visit of H. E. Lord Irwin, Viceroy and the Governor-General of India, to Ootacamund in 1927, the Kumara Poligar was one of the few Zemindars and Rajahs that formed the deputation which waited on His Excellency and presented an address to him.

In November 1927 in recognition of his valuable services rendered as President of the Taluk Board, his portrait was unveiled in the Taluk Board Hall by the Hon. Dr. Subbarayan,

Chief Minister, in 1930. In the same year the Government nominated him as the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Pollachi. It is hoped that the Young Poligar will administer the estate with credit to himself and to the great advantage of his tenants.

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