CHAPTER II

THE BEGINNINGS

Prior to 1908-09 the only college for all the ceded districts was the Wardlaw College at Bellary run by the Wesleyan Mission. The School founded by the Rev. J.S. Wardlaw L.L. of the London Mission in 1846 later developed into Wardlaw College in 1891.

With the introduction of the new University Regulations of 1904, the institution had to be closed due to the inability of the management to comply with the requirements of the university. With the closure of this college, the ceded districts were for some years, left without any facilities for collegiate education.

At the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council held on the 20th November 1914, the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur, P Kesava Pillai drew attention to the absence of facilities in the ceded districts for collegiate education. And the Hon'ble Mr. Seshagiri

2. Ibid. G.O.No.1359 dated 2.12.1914 (Tamilnadu Archives)
Ayyar proposed a recurring grant of ₹10,000/- for college classes to be opened in connection with one of the high schools in the ceded districts, preferably in Bellary. The Finance Committee provisionally accepted the proposal and a sum of ₹10,000/- was accordingly provided in the budget for 1914-15. In the budget debate held in April 1914 the Hon'ble P. Kesava Pillai again referred to the question and urged the necessity for a college in the ceded districts.

During the tour by His Excellency Lord Pentland, the Governor, the local bodies in each district, while thanking the Government for the proposal to open a college, requested that the college should be located at the headquarters of their own districts. His Excellency in reply stated that the location of the college had not been decided upon and that the requests of the various bodies would be duly considered.

In the Memorandum No.1689-1 dated 23.5.1914, the Director of Public Instruction was asked by the Secretary to the Government to submit proposals for the establishment of college classes for the ceded
districts. Subsequently when the Government of Madras made a budget provision for college classes attached to one of the Municipal High Schools in the ceded districts Sir Henry Stone, Director of Public Instruction advocated vigorously the need for a separate Second Grade College owned and run by the Education department. He objected to the practice of treating college education as a mere extension of school education and wanted to delink college education from the control of the Municipality.

The Director of Public Instruction also argued that of the four district headquarters in the Ceded Districts Anantapur had the most powerful claims for being chosen to locate the college. Of the four districts Cuddapah was ruled out, as it was worse in its climate and hygienic conditions than the other towns and less easy of access from the other ceded districts. It was also nearer the existing centres of university education at Madras and Vellore. The Sanitary Commissioner considered that from a hygienic point of


view Kurnool was inferior to the other two places, though it had protected water supply. Bellary, though the largest town in the Ceded districts, was for that very reason ruled out, as a college started there had less chance of becoming residential than a college started elsewhere. The Sanitary Commissioner considered Anantapur the most suitable place for a college from a hygienic point of view and since its liability to cholera may soon be expected to be greatly reduced by a protected water supply.

As regards the location of the college, the Director of Public Instruction after discussing the relative claims of Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur, recommended that the college should be established at Anantapur as it was the most suitable of the three centres. He argued that Anantapur was superior to Bellary from a hygienic point of view. Secondly the building known as Munro's cutchery at Anantapur which was going to be vacated soon, would provide ample space for college classes and hostel accommodation to a considerable number of students. A few structural alterations could be made to the building wherever necessary. Good sites were also available in the
municipal extension for locating a permanent building. The Director of Public Instruction also felt that a college at Anantapur would be more feasible to be residential than one at Bellary. College life at Anantapur would be less subject to distractions than at Bellary and the students would be less exposed to the temptations incidental to independent life in a town. Above all, Anantapur was at the centre of all the ceded districts.

The Government approved the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for the establishment of the Government College in the ceded districts. They also sanctioned the employment, for a period of two years in the first instance, of a Principal on Rs.300/- per month, a lecturer on Rs.250/- and four Assistant Lecturers to be included in the subordinate educational service, collegiate branch. The Government, however, reserved for further consideration the question whether the college is to be located at Bellary or at Anantapur. As regards the question of the college being located at Bellary or at Anantapur, the Government desired to have the views of the District and Taluk Boards and the Municipal Councils in the four districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary
and Anantapur with a special reference to the observations of the Director of Public Instruction in this matter.

Accordingly all the local bodies offered their opinions in this matter. All the eight local bodies in the Bellary district and all the six local bodies in the Anantapur district desired that the college should be established in their respective district headquarters. Those in the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts, with the exception of the Dhone and Rayasotri Taluk Boards which were in favour of Bellary, considered Anantapur to be more suitable of the two places in question. Out of fourteen local bodies in Cuddapah and Kurnool, twelve were for Anantapur while only two favoured Bellary. Thus, of the total 28 local bodies in the four districts, eighteen were for Anantapur and ten for Bellary. The then Municipal Chairman of Anantapur Sri P. Adimurthy Rao not only energetically sponsored but also generously made available the Municipal High School building to house the college. The Government finally decided to locate the Government College at Anantapur and instructed the Director of Public Instruction to start the college from July 1916.

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The Government approved the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to locate the new Government College, Anantapur in the building that was being constructed for the Municipal High School and the High School to be moved into Munro's Kutchery. The Government also approved the proposals of Director of Public Instruction to open the Government College at Anantapur and to make provision in the college for imparting instruction in Part-I (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry) and Part-II (Natural Science) of the Intermediate course and in Group III only of Part III, the subjects to be taken up in that group being Ancient History, Modern History, Logic, Telugu, Sanskrit and Kanarese. And on 28.8.1915 the Director of Public Instruction applied to the University of Madras for granting affiliation to a second grade college. A University Commission which was headed by Prof. Mark Hunter inspected the college on the 26th August 1916 to report on the application for affiliation. Thus came into being a second grade college at Anantapur sanctioned on a temporary basis for a period of two years.

7. Ibid., G.O.No.649 dated 13.6.1916 (Tamil Nadu Archives)
As it was established for the benefit of the ceded districts as a whole, it was designated as the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur 10.

The college was inaugurated on the 8th July 1916 with 41 students in the first and second year intermediate classes. To begin with instruction was provided under Part-II, Group III of the Intermediate Course, Ancient History, Modern History, Logic, Telugu, Kanarese and Sanskrit 11. As for the college library, it contained 1056 volumes at the end of the first year 12. At the beginning of the next academic year, 1917-18, the college had applied for affiliation to the University of Madras in Group-I (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry) of the Intermediate Course. Soon a science block was ready, complete with workshop, dynamo room, battery room, store room, laboratories provided with water and gas connections 13. A sum of Rs.2700/- had been provided in the budget for additional appliances. Government

11. Ibid., G.O.No.1209 dated 17.11.1916 (Tamilnadu Archives)
had sanctioned an expenditure of Rs.8,890/- on extensions and improvements to the college in connection with the installation of water and gas plant. On the 30th October 1917 a University Commission consisting of Messrs. E.W. Ross, E.P. Metcalfe and F.I. Usher visited the college to report on the proposed affiliation in Group I (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry). In due course Government sanctioned further affiliation to the University of Madras in Group I (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry) of the Intermediate Course of study.

The year 1917 is memorable for another reason. The College hostel was started in that year. The strength of the hostel ranged from 32 to 44 during 1917-18. There was a third development during that year in the college history. A temporary secondary grade training class was attached to the college on 16.7.1917. In 1917-18 there were 32 students in the training class. Before the second year drew to a close, the college had by its strength and brilliant record of work convinced all people that it did not


intend to perish. On the 31st March 1918 there were 31 students in the Junior Intermediate classes and 19 in the senior Intermediate class making a total of 50.

Since during the two years of its existence the college was found to meet a definite need of the ceded districts, the Director of Public Instruction in his letter No. 3826 dated 24.4.1918 urged that it should be established on a permanent basis and that it should be raised to the status of a first grade college. In support of the proposals he referred to the paucity of qualified candidates for employment in the ceded districts and the need that existed for increasing the output of graduates belonging to those districts. The Government approved the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction to retain permanently the Ceded Districts College at Anantapur and to raise it to the status of a first grade college. The Government sanctioned the creation of a new post of Principal of the College for a period of two years on a salary of Rs. 500/- per annum.

outside the regular cadre. It also sanctioned three posts of Lecturers in the provincial educational service, four posts of Assistant Lecturers in the subordinate educational service and three posts of Pandits.

A Commission was appointed by the Syndicate consisting of Mr. F.E. Corley, M.A. (Convenor) and Rao Vishib G. Venkataranga Rao, M.A. in response to the letter from Principal of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur supplying for further affiliation of the college in Group V (History) and VI (Telugu) and Sanskrit/Indian History) of the B.A. Degree Courses of study. The Commission visited the college on 31st January 1919. In due course the college was affiliated in Group V (History) and VI (Telugu and Sanskrit/Indian History) of the B.A. Degree Course, the language under the latter group being Telugu with Sanskrit or early South Indian History. The Junior B.A. Class was opened and instruction was provided in Group I (Mathematics and Physics) Group V (History) and Group VI (Telugu

17. Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Education Department, G.O.No.711 dated 6.6.1918 (Tamilnadu Archives)

18. Ibid., G.O.No.380 dated 26.3.1919 (Tamilnadu Archives)
and Sanskrit/Early South Indian History). 4 students were admitted to Group I (Mathematics and Physics), 13 students to Group V (History) and 4 students to Group VI (Telugu and Sanskrit/Indian History). The strength of the college went up to 100. (Class I - 46, Class II - 37 and Class III - 17). The Ceded Districts College thus became a full-fledged first grade college within two years of its birth.

His Excellency Lord Pentland, the far-sighted Governor visited the college on 23rd August 1918. An Address of Welcome was presented to His Excellency and he was requested to declare the college formally open as a first grade college. Opportunity was also taken of Lord Pentland's visit to request His Excellency to unveil a portrait of Sir Henry Stone in the college hall and to announce a number of valuable endowments. On that occasion the Governor announced a number of permanent endowments by which several public spirited gentlemen in the ceded districts proposed to signify their recognition of the importance of the occasion and of the part which the college was called upon to play in the intellectual and educational life of the ceded districts. Mr. Hampayya of Guntakal announced his intention to endow the college with a sum
of Rs.10,000/- to be devoted to scholarships for deserving non-Brahmin students. Khan Sahib Imamuddin Sahib, the Municipal Chairman announced Rs.1000/- to endow a Muhammadan scholarship. Mr. Sanjeeva Reddy of Mudigubba village, Anantapur announced Rs.1000/- to be awarded every alternative year to a student of the Junior Intermediate class who was certified by the Principal to be poor and deserving of help. Finally Rao Sahib, P. Adimurthi Rao the President of the Anantapur Taluk Board announced Rs.500/- to be given as a prize to the best student in English of the senior B.A. Class:

The growing institution naturally faced the problem of inadequate accommodation. So plans for the extension of the college buildings were prepared and submitted for the approval of Government. A sum of Rs.10,000/- was sanctioned on 11th October, 1918 for being utilised for the above purpose. Additional hostel block for about 40 boarders was built, and improvements to the gas and water plants were effected and electricity was installed in the college at a cost of Rs.13,340/-. A sum of Rs.13,000/- was sanctioned for the provision of the additional equipment necessary for the college in

view of its having been raised to the first grade. The
greater part of this amount was spent in the purchase
of books, furniture and gymnastic apparatus. During
the war conditions, it was not possible to procure from
England the apparatus and appliances necessary for
imparting instruction in practical Physics to the
students of Mathematics in the Junior B.A. Class.
These students, four in number, were transferred to the
Presidency College, Madras on 15.11.1918 and the
instruction in Group I (Mathematics and Physics) of the
B.A. Degree course was temporarily suspended.

The results of the Intermediate examination of
1918 were fair. Seventeen students were sent up for
the whole examination and eight passed completely, one
obtaining a first class. Nearly Rs.6000/- were spent
on the library during 1918-19. More than 1000 volumes
were added to the library chiefly in the department of
English and History and the total number of books at
the end of the year was 266820. During the year
1918-19 a compound wall was built for the college. A
college Literacy Union was started during the year
1918-19. A majority of the students had a healthy love
for sports. Hockey, foot-ball, badminton and tennis
were played regularly during the year 1918-19.

20. Ibid.
The college was under the management of the Madras Government and controlled by the Director of Public Instruction. Mr. S.E. Ranganathan who later became the High Commissioner for India in England was the first Principal of the Ceded Districts College.21 Mr. Ranganathan was more a Principal and less a lecturer in English. Later, he was posted as Additional Professor of English in the Presidency College, Madras. He became an I.S. Officer in 1920, then again the Professor of English in the Presidency College. He became the Vice-Chancellor successively of the Annamalai and the Madras Universities and a member of the Legislative Council and then he rose to eminence as the High Commissioner for India. There were four men on the teaching staff, Mr. V. Jegannatha Rao, M.A., L.T., Assistant Lecturer in History, Mr. M. Suryanarayana Sastri, Telugu Pandit, Mr. S.V. Appalechari, Sanskrit Pandit, and Mr. P. Sundara Sastri, Kanna Pandit. Two more posts were added later. Mr. N.K. Venkatesan, M.A., L.T., M.E.S., Assistant Lecturer in English and Mr. S. Kameswara Rao, M.A., L.T. Lecturer in Logic joined in these posts. In this way the college completed the

first three years of its existence, splendidly in many respects but in a humble way in some respects.