CHAPTER IV

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 1930-47.

The Ceded Districts College, as seen above came to be re-affiliated to the University of Madras in July 1930. On re-affiliation studies in Part III of the B.A. Course were grouped into I B (Mathematics), II B (Physics), II C (Chemistry), IV B (Economics) and V (Telugu) and studies in Part III of the Intermediate course were grouped into I (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry), II (Physics, Chemistry and Natural Science) and III (Indian History, Modern History and Logic). In 1930-31 both Intermediate and B.A. classes (II and IV Senior Classes) took the Andhra University examinations of March-April 1931.1

The Director of Public Instruction submitted the proposal for the opening of Honours courses in History in the college. The proposals were placed before the Finance Committee of the University as a Part II Scheme for 1930-31. Apart from Financial considerations, there were serious difficulties from an academic point of view in the way of instituting

Honours courses in History in the Ceded Districts College. The only students likely to join the College were those from the ceded districts only, for it may be assumed that students from the circumscribed districts desirous of obtaining degree from the Madras University degrees were likely to join one or other of the constituent colleges in Madras. The proposal was deferred, as the Registrar reported that the Madras University Syndicate had resolved to defer the consideration of the application for affiliation.

In G.O. Ms. No. 411 W dated 8.2.1930 the Government sanctioned Rs. 10,050/- for the construction of quarters for the deputy warden of the Hostel. The Government also approved an expenditure of Rs. 40,000/- for the construction of the quarters for the Principal.

Mr. Krishnamma being the product of an English University was firmly convinced that a college which was not fully residential in nature hardly deserved

2. Ibid., G.O. Ms. No. 52 dated 15.1.1930 (Andhra Pradesh Archives)

2. Ibid., G.O. No. 1757 dated 4.9.1930 (Andhra Pradesh Archives)

3. Ibid., G.O. Ms. No. 772 dated 8.3.1930 (Andhra Pradesh Archives).
the new hostel which had a capacity to accommodate 96 students was completed in July 1930. Along with the students in the old hostel, 135 students now resided within the college premises. This added so much to the well-being of the college educationally and socially that Mr. Krishnamma began to press for another block of living rooms. There was however no question of the hostel expanding further for a few years as the economic depression had hit the provincial finances hard. Mr. Krishnamma started the Hostel Charity Fund from which five scholarships of Rs.5/- each per month and free food were given to poor students, a night school was started and a manuscript journal was decided to be published. The night school functioned quite efficiently from 1928 to 1931 on the college verandah with an hostel residents taking turns at teaching.

Mr. Krishnamma had an ingeneous method of making the extra-curricular pursuits pay their own expenses. In the year 1930 the college students staged the dramas 'Archers', 'Lydia' and also farce in Telugu and added the proceeds of about Rs.265/- to the Games Fund. The next year Clifford Bax's 'Poetasters of Ispahan' and a play in Telugu were staged and about Rs.220/- added
to the Games Fund. Mr. Krishnamma used to organise variety entertainments twice or thrice a year regularly and though admission was by tickets, the occasions attracted large numbers. Sports and games received fresh impetus in the year 1930 as a result of the compulsory physical education required for the Intermediate classes by the Madras University. Papayya Chetti Hockey Cup tournament was organised under the auspices of the College in October 1930. The cup was won by the college team. T. Kesava Rao's Football cup was organised under the auspices of the college in October 1930 and the cup was won by the college. Both the Hockey and Football teams were sent to Madras to take part in the Presidency College Inter-collegiate tournament, but the teams could not succeed. The new hostel sanctioned in G.O.No.492 dated 1.3.1929 was finished and handed over in July 1930 by the Public Works Department. The Hon'ble Mr. H.G. Stokes, the Finance Member of the Government of Madras opened the new hostel. The Science Association and the Karnataka Sahitya Sangham were newly started in the year 1930.

5. Souvenir of the Silver Jubilee of the ceded districts College, Anantapur, February 1946, p.16.

Consequent on the arrests of national leaders
in the Civil Disobedience and Salt-Satyagraha movements
of 1930, the entire administration was paralysed and
anarchy prevailed throughout the country. Picketing,
protests and hartals were the order of the day.
Anantapur too observed the hartal. As a mark of
solidarity the students boycotted the classes and
joined the procession. A Youth League was started with
Sri I. Sadasivan founder member as General Secretary
and Sri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy as its President. Its
motto was to create political consciousness in the
youth against the British rulers and train them in
social service. The college students joined and
participated in all its activities. By the efforts
of the student members of the Youth League, the freedom
movement spread to the other parts of Rayalaseema. A
secret journal called 'Akasavani' was started in
Anantapur. It injected anti-war feelings and urged
the people to oppose severely the collection of War
Fund and compulsory recruitment for war. The college
students were the only volunteers for the distribution
of the Journal to the various sections among the masses.
The Government arrested Sri I. Sadasivan, Editor of
Akasavani, Sri G. Ramakrishna, local leader and
Sri R. Venkata Naidu, student of the college.

The institution can take legitimate pride in recalling some of its alumni and the greatness they have achieved in several fields. The pride of place goes to the statesmen who came out of the portals of the college. Foremost of them all was Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy our beloved ex-president of India. Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy was a student of Intermediate class in the year 1931. He was very good at playing hockey and was gifted with historicomic talents. He was in every inch a sportsman in the sense that he had in him that innate quality of giving respect for the captain and showing great love and affection for the team mates. The inborn patriotic fervour in him urged him to plunge into freedom struggle in obedience to the irresistible call given to the youth by Bapuji, the Father of the Nation. 7

In the year 1932, 523 books were added to the library. The total number of books in the library as on 31.3.1932 was 10,730. The Kesava Rao's Football Cup Tournament was organised by the college. But,

unfortunately, the only entry in this year was the one from the college. The college therefore retained the cup which it had won in the last previous year. The Inter-university contests between the Madras University and the Lahore, Delhi and Aligarh Universities were held in the year 1932. The Ceded Districts College had the privilege of being represented on the University Hockey team. A Bhaskar Naidu of Senior Intermediate class, played in the position of a centre forward for Madras University Hockey Eleven and distinguished himself useful by scoring almost in every match. The Papayya Chetty Hockey cup was organised by the college in November 1932. Four teams participated. But the cup was finally won by this college. The Kesava Rao Football cup was organised by the college in the same month and the cup was again won by the college. In the year 1932 the Government sanctioned two Government Scholarships, one general and one special for Muhammadans, in Class III and Class I. One Labour Residential Scholarship of 8.25/- per month was awarded


9. The Ceded Districts College Magazine year 1932, p.45
to a student of the Depressed Classes in the I Class.
The University of Madras awarded two Lord Goschen
Memorial Scholarships to Y. Ramanarayan and M. Satyanarayana
Murthi of the III Class. 10

The Syndicate of the University of Madras awarded
the Lord Pentland prize to K. Ramachandra Rao, a student
of the IV Class in 1933-34. For the year 1934-35
Rs.2500/- was allotted to the library. 947 books were
added to the library. The number of books in the library
rose to 12,768. The scheme of compulsory physical
training in the Intermediate classes met with more success. 11
The college entered the Trilokkar Hockey Tournament,
Mandanapalli for the 2nd time in the year 1935. But it did
not succeed. Two teams from the college participated in
the local Crescent Lotus Hockey Tournament. The Senior
team of the college won the cup. The college Literary
Union conducted several activities in the year 1935.
Debates were held on the progress of India, the dowry
system and university education. The college science
Association conducted the Sixth Annual Science Exhibition
on the 13th, 14th and 15th December 1935. It consisted

    Department, G.O.No.1733 dated 25.9.1933 (Andhra
    Pradesh Archives).
11. Ibid., G.O.No.1651 dated 15.8.1935 (Andhra Pradesh
    Archives).
of four sections i.e., Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences. The college Andhra Saraswatha Sangham discussed subjects like women's education, the problem of untouchability and Science and Arts as subjects of study.\(^\text{12}\)

As a result of the efforts made by the old boys of the college on the occasion of the 15th College Day celebrations held on 25th January 1935, the association of the old boys of the college was reorganised with Mr. N.R. Krishnamma, the Principal of the college as the President and Mr. A.K. Balasundaram as the Secretary. Under the auspices of the Old Boys' Association the first Old Boys' Day was celebrated on 15th December 1935 with Mr. N.R. Krishnamma, Principal of the college as the President. Dewan Bahadur S.E. Ranganathan, the first Principal of the college addressed the members of the association. He congratulated the old boys of the college for their evincing enthusiasm and for their sustained loyalty to it. Such deep loyalty was essential for education to be really fruitful and for our moral and spiritual advancement. The inaugural address of the Literary Union was

\(^{12}\text{The Ceded District College Magazine, November 1935, p.3}\)
delivered by Mr. N.R. Krishnamma, Principal of the college on 22.7.1936. The subject of the address was playing the games. The Ceded Districts College Urdu Association was started in the year 1936.\(^\text{13}\) In the same year the name of the association was changed by the General body from 'The Old Boys' Association' to 'The Old Students' Association' to include lady students of the college. The Ceded Districts College Old Students Association was registered in May 1936 under the Societies Act, XXI of 1860 and became an active organisation.\(^\text{14}\) In G.O.No.239 Law (Education) dated 6th February 1936, Government accepted the offer of Mr. N.K. Venkatesam, English Lecturer in the college, to endow a prize named the "N.V. Meenakshi Sundaramma Memorial Potana Prize" for an amount of Rs.500/- in memory of his deceased wife. The University of Madras awarded the Hemingway Memorial Scholarship to K. Thirumala Rao of the II Class. K. Venkatappa Sastry was awarded the Lord Pentland Prize for standing first in Part I English in the B.A. examination of March-April 1935. The College Associations were very fortunate in getting Mr. R. Little Hailes, Vice-

\(^{13}\) Ibid., March 1936, p.3.

\(^{14}\) Ibid., March 1937, p.42
Chancellor of the Madras University to deliver their inaugural address. He gave the Associations a good start by his stimulating talk on 'The Value of College Life'.

On the 20th July 1936, Mr. Krishnamma was transferred to Saidapet Training College and thus ceased to be the Principal of the college. His departure was followed by a period of two years of sadly undistinguished chapter of the college story. There was a rapid succession of three principals within a period of two years. For the first eight months, from July 1936 to February 1937, Sri S. Appaswamy Ayyar worked as the Principal. In the next eight months, from February 1937 to August 1937, Sri T.B. Krishnaswami Mudaliar was the Principal, followed by Sri K.C. Subramanya Ayyar from August 1937 to July 1938. Of these three brief reigns the most remarkable was the period of Mr. T.B. Krishnaswami. A poet, scholar, philosopher and educationist, he was a truly fascinating study in versatility, originality and energy. His term in Anantapur was the career of a meteor. Altogether the absence of a continued and consistent regime as well as

the economic depression all round effected heavily the life and work in the college. From 1932 to 1936 the strength of the college had suffered a steady decline, owing entirely to factors which were beyond the control of individuals, and of course absolutely unrelated to the nature of the administration or instruction in the college. The strength of the college as on the 31st March 1932 was 318. On the 31st March 1933, it was 293, 266 on the 31st March 1934, on the 31st March 1935 it was 230, and on 31st March 1936 it was 247. The strength of the college remained steady in 1937 and rose a little i.e., to 295 in 1938. This somewhat encouraging circumstance was offset by the poor level of the results of the university examinations, on which the Director of Public Instruction in his view of the administration of the college commented in two consecutive years of 1937 and 1938. The percentage of full passes in the March-April examination of 1938 in B.A. was 32 and in Intermediate it was 22.16

Sri R.M. Statham, the Director of Public Instruction submitted a letter dated 6th May 1937 from the Vice-President of the Old Students' Association of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur to the Secretary

to the Government of Madras for change of name from Ceded Districts College to Rayalaseema College. The Director of Public Instruction stated that the present designation of the college was approved by Government in their Order No. Mis.1071 Health and Education dated 9th October 1916 as the college was established for the benefit of the Ceded Districts as a whole. The question of changing the name into the Rayalaseema college was once raised in 1933 and Mr. Erich Smith the then Director of Public Instruction discussed the question with some leading members of public bodies and educationists and he came to the conclusion that the change of name was likely to be objected to by Hindus as well as by Muslims. It is also observed from the account of the Old Students' day celebration held on 24th January 1937 that there was a keen difference of opinion even among the members of the association in respect of the proposed change. "I therefore do not support the proposal".17 The Government was unable to approve the suggestion that the name of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur be changed into the Rayalaseema College.

In G.O.Ms.No.624 Edn. & P.H. dated 12.3.1938

Mr. Ry.C.D. Subramanya Chetti was on reversion from foreign service, appointed to officiate as Principal, Ceded District College, Anantapur. But the order was not given effect to, because on the expiry of the period of his foreign service, Mr. C.D.S. Chetty proceeded on two months leave. After his return from leave Sri C.D. Subramanya Chetty was appointed as Principal of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur. On the 5th July 1938, Mr. C.D.S. Chetty took charge of the college, from Mr. K.C. Subramanya Ayyar. Mr. C.D.S. Chetty brought to his task a long and wide experience of educational organisation, acquired in a variety of capacities as Principal, District Educational Officer, Secretary to a University Commission, Registrar of a University etc. His immense personal charm, his perpetual good humour, his prodigious industry and insight into the student mind, make it inevitable that his success in his new office should be striking. More than all these qualities, he had a deep concern for the welfare of his students. He so completely identified himself with the college that many ignorant outsiders thought that the Ceded Districts College (C.D.College)
was named after Sri C.D. Subramanya Chetty. He was in a period of brisk expansion in all directions, larger and better classes.

The strength of the college when Mr. C.D.S. Chetty took charge of it in July 1938 was about 318. The strength of the college when he relinquished charge of it in July 1942 was 617. The strength of Science classes in Intermediate was raised from 108 to 144 each with special permission from the University to conduct practicals in 4 batches. Tutorial classes were organised and one hour weekly tests were held in all the subjects. For the Intermediate classes, one of the 25 hours of the week was earmarked for this purpose. From the setting of question papers right up to the tabulation of marks, it was a system at once elaborate and efficient. As a means of periodical assessment of progress it helped the teachers and as a continual stimulus to effort it helped the taught no less. The system gained in scale, in scope and in usefulness as the years passed, the total number of tests held during the year rising from 125 in 1939-40 to 138 in 1940-41 and to 152 in 1941-42. Progress reports were issued regularly to the parents during term time so that the parents got a chance of learning the defects of their children in studies. By the unremitting efforts made
by C.D.S. Chetty and of his hard working staff the University examination results steadily increased. The percentage of passos in the year 1936 was 32% of B.A. and 22% of Intermediate. Whereas in 1942 the corresponding percentage were 51% and 82%.  

Mr. C.D.S. Chetty threw an equal degree of emphasis on extra-curricular activities in college life. On 14.12.1938 Co-operative Society for the Ceded Districts College students was registered by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Anantapur and Bellary. The net profits of the Society were being directed to the college Poor Boys' Fund, out of which scholarships were given to poor deserving students. The 18th College Day was celebrated on the 26th February 1938 with great enthusiasm, especially as the college had the rare good luck of having the great Nobel-Prize winner, the Scientist Sri C.V. Raman to preside on the occasion. Sir C.V. Raman delivered an illuminating address on 'ultrasonics' at the meetings of the Old Boys' Association in the college hall. The History and Economics Association was inaugurated on 9.8.1938 with an address by Sri C. Narasimha Rao on "The Construction of History".  

19. Souvenir of the Silver Jubilee of the Ceded District College, Anantapur, February 1946, p.19  
20. Ibid., p.20  
year 1939 the Literary Union sent two representatives to take part in an Inter-collegiate debate at the Intermediate College, Bangalore. Mr. G. Nagabhushana Sarma won the first prize, a Silver Cup in the debate. On the 9th January 1939 V.V. Sreenivasa Aiyangar sometime Judge of the Madras High Court spoke on the 'Divinity in Man'. The Ceded Districts College Ambulance Division was formed and was affiliated to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Madras District on 14.2.1940. The unit of the Ceded Districts College St. John's Ambulance Association was started towards the end of July 1940 in order to provide an opportunity for a few students to have training in First aid, Sanitation and Hygiene. A photographic club was started in the year 1940 by the Physics Department. In the same year the Ceded Districts College parliament was formed. Besides these, there were other new and useful programmes like glass-blowing, practical work in the construction and operation of radio sets, village survey, etc., as a part of extracurricular activities which were fostered by Mr. C.D.S. Chetty.

On 4.8.1939 Mr. W.B.S. Paul, Director of Agriculture Department delivered a lecture on the important

22. Ibid., 1939, p.42.

subject of Agricultural Development in India and Ceylon as a part of the opening address of the History and Economics Associations. On the inaugural day of the Ceded Districts College Science Association Sri K. Ramaswamy Iyengar, Electrical Engineer, delivered a lecture on production and utilisation of power and Faraday's improvement thereupon. Mr. Mohammad Aslam, Lecturer in English, delivered a lecture on the inaugural day of the Urdu Association. The lecturer exhorted the students, especially the Muslims, to improve their proficiency in Urdu. The great need of the community today was the preservation of their culture, which would add to the richness of the cultural life of India. 24

The strength of the college raised from 318 to 365 at the end of the year 1940. The number of girl students in that year was seven, two in Class III, two in Class II and three in Class I. During that year 435 books were added to the library. The total number of books in the library at the end of the year 1940 was 16,004. 25 The inaugural address of the Literary Union was delivered by Mr. A.V. Patro, District Superintendent of Police on 16.7.1940. The subject of the address was


'Friends in Democracy'. The speech started by saying that the concept of democracy varied from generation to generation and from Plato to the modern political pedant. He defined democracy as a Government of the people collected by elected representatives. The first mock parliamentary debate during the year 1940-41 was held on the evening of the 2nd September 1940, the subject was "In the opinion of the House, legislation permitting divorce among the Hindus should be introduced". On the 30th October 1940, His Excellency Capt. Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras visited the college. After the review of the St. John Ambulance Division, His Excellency witnessed the First Aid demonstration by the college students. The 21st Ceded Districts College Day was celebrated on 30th November 1940. Mr. H.C. Papworth, Director of Public Instruction presided over the function. In the course of his speech, he told the students that education should be considered a privilege which we enjoy and not a right that we can demand. There was a debate on 16.10.1940. The subject was "The study of Hindi is indispensable for the unification of India".

26. The Ceded District College Magazine March 1940, p.31

The question of changing the name of the college from Ceded Districts College to Rayalaseema College was once again raised in the year 1940. On 12.10.1940 the following press note was issued: "A suggestion has been made to Government that the name of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur, should be changed to Government College, Anantapur. Before passing orders the Government, would be glad to have the views of associations or individuals belonging to the districts which this college serves". Some individuals like Sri P. Hanumantha Rao, Guntur, Dewan Bhadur T. Bhujanga Rao, Retd., District Judge, Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao of the Servants of India Society, Royapettah suggested the change of the name of the college into Rayalaseema College. The resolution passed by a Public meeting at Proddatur suggested the change of the name of the college into Rayalaseema College. Sri D. Ramalenga Reddy, M.L.A. suggested the change of the name into Western Andhra College, Anantapur. 28

In a press note dated 12.12.1940 the views of associations and individuals belong to the Ceded Districts

were invited on a suggestion that the name of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur might be changed to Government College, Anantapur. None of those who gave their views were in favour of this change. But requests were made that the name of the college should be changed to 'The Rayalaseema College'. Before considering this request the Government desired to have the views of associations and individuals interested in the matter.

The Commissioner, Kurnool Municipality was informed that the proposal to change the name of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur had been dropped. The Government called for an expression of public opinion in the concerned districts in regard to the change of the name 'The Ceded Districts College, Anantapur' into 'The Government College, Anantapur'. The Rayalaseema Mahasabha asked the Government for a change of the name into the Rayalaseema College, Anantapur, but the Government ignored the requests of the Rayalaseema Mahasabha. T.Bhujanga R.C.O (Dewan Bahadur) Retired District Judge, Madras Civil Service and the Servants of India Society, Rayapettah, Madras pleaded that the present college at Anantapur was intended to serve the educational needs of Rayalaseema and therefore it would be appropriate to name the

college as the Rayalaseema College, Anantapur. On the 24th January 1937 the Ceded Districts College Old Students' Association passed a resolution requesting the Government to change the name of the college into Rayalaseema College. The Working Committee of the Rayalaseema Mahasabha, Bellary passed a resolution on 7.4.1939 requesting the Government to change the name of the college into Rayalaseema College. The President of the Karnataka Defence League, Bellary submitted a communication protesting against the acceptance of the resolution of the Rayalaseema Mahasabha. Very few people took interest in the subject in response to the press note. At the end the Government dropped the idea of change of name from Ceded District College, Anantapur to Rayalaseema College.

On 20th November 1941, Mr. R.M. Statham, Director of Public Instruction visited the college and appreciated the work of the college. The strength of the college raised from 449 to 544 at the end of the year 1942. The number of girl students in that year was 15, five in Class I, six in Class II, three in Class III and one in Class IV. During the year 1942, 356 books and maps were added to the library bringing the total number

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of books in the library to 17,178. The College Poor Boys' Fund helped the poor boys by donating an amount of Rs. 600/-. The Hockey, Football and Tennis teams of the college took part in the Inter-collegiate tournaments organised by the Madras University. The college team was defeated in the Zonal matches in Football but in Hockey and Tennis the college team reached the final stage. But it lost to the Loyola College in the Inter-Zonal semi-finals held at Madras. In September 1942 the college participated in the Inter Collegiate Hockey, Football and athletic events held at Bangalore. The college Hockey team distinguished itself by defeating the St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, the Nizam's college, Hyderabad and Agricultural College, Coimbatore.

During the year 1941-42 all the associations functioned satisfactorily. Besides the usual meetings under the joint auspices of the various associations a course of extension lectures on a large variety of subjects were delivered. During the year a Speaker's Club was started as an adjunct to the Union, in order to train young men in the art of public speaking. The traditional forms of extra-mural work and recreation were encouraged by Mr. C.D.S. Chetty with the same zeal. One interesting...

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practice which Mr. C.L.S. Chatty introduced was that of holding the meetings of the associations only at 6 in the evening so that no rival attraction might deplete the pay fields.

On the 6th July 1942, Mr. C.L.S. Chatty stood transferred as Principal of the Government Arts College, Rajahmundry and he was succeeded by Mr. K.P.G. Menon at Anantapur. His powerful personality and dynamic policy have left their indelible imprint everywhere in the college. His term as Principal of this college is remarkable for the initial tragedy which caused a certain degree of dislocation of college work followed by a quick and steady recovery which was more than complete when he left. Within two months, in September, the college sustained a heavy loss due to an outbreak of fire in the Chemistry Laboratory. It happened on the night of Thursday, 10th of September 1942.32

On the incident of the out-break of fire in the Chemistry Laboratory of the Ceded Districts College in Anantapur on 10.9.1942 the Director of Public Instruction, Madras noted thus: "At about 4.15 A.M. in the morning

certain persons managed to get into the college building through, I am convinced, a side door either unintentionally or deliberately left open. They went upstairs to the Chemistry Laboratory and in two rooms, by using some material soaked in petrol, started a fire. Only a few minutes later, the five menials on night duty were woken up including the attendant of the Chemistry Laboratory itself. The attendant and the menials went to various places in the town for help, including the sub-jail, the police station and the District Magistrate. They then returned to college and sent for Mr. Goud, the Lecturer in Chemistry. According to his version he found the Library almirahs on fire but with no extensive damage. It is however estimated that there has been a damage to the equipment of about Rs.9000/- and damage to the building of about Rs.20,000/-. After a very close personal inspection on the spot, I naturally have my own opinions as to the persons who were responsible for the fire, but I am unable to offer an official opinion since a case is proceeding in the court at Anantapur*. The estimated value of the articles of furniture, chemicals, apparatus and appliances and library books destroyed by the fire as reported by the Principal of the college was Rs.14,235.8.0. The Director
of Public Instruction recommended that the Government may be pleased to write off the losses in the books. 33

Mr. K.P.G. Meiton, who had become famous in connection with college arson (laboratory burning) case which was a part of the 1942 Quit India Movement, was the principal of the college at that time. The police had arrested and charge-sheeted a number of important student leaders and two eminent lawyers who were congress leaders in this town, namely Sri K.S. Raghavachar and G.Venkata Reddy. The then most eminent lawyer from Bellary, the great actor, Bellary Raghava was the defence counsel and finally all the accused were acquitted by the Sessions Judge.

The political activities were at their peak in the years 1940-43. During that period the strength of the college was less than five hundred. Late Sri D. Sanjeevaiah was an illustrious student of the college during 1939-43. In the year 1940 the individual Satyagraha was launched by Mahatma Gandhi. Then people were not much enlightened politically. They were so much afraid of the British rule that they hardly had the nerve either to

33. Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Education Department, G.O.No.397 dated 15.3.1943 (Andhra Pradesh Archives)
join the congress or to speak about it. Only a few came out boldly to put up a fight through a secret cyclostyled local journal named 'Akaeavani' published from the Harijan Hostel under the guidance of Sarvasri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, I. Sadasivan, Vidwan Visvan and others. It created a stir particularly among the student population. C. Adiseshaiah Chetty, a student, became very active in political life. Consequently he was expelled from the college by Sri C.D.S. Chetty, the then Principal. During the Quit India movement of 1942, the college students boycotted the classes and went on strike. C. Adiseshaiah Chetty, a student became very active in political life. He was arrested at Tirupati on the night of 14th August 1942, the year of Quit India Movement. Thus, he became the first student to court arrest and to be kept in prison. There was a picketing in the town. The police resorted to lathi charge. Late Mrs. Jeevarathamma a girl student of the college faced boldly the lathi charge. She was beaten up severely by the police. Later she went underground. The people spoke of her as the Joan of Arc of the college. Two lecturers, namely Damerla Venkata Rao and Upamaka Suryanarayana were practically guiding the students in the freedom struggle. In 1943 the students of the college went on strike in sympathy with Gandhiji's fast.
Again the British Government took repressive measures to crush the movement. Sri V.K. Adinarayana Reddy, a student of II B.A. was expelled and when a warrant of arrest was issued he went underground.34

In spite of disturbed conditions, the life of the college was quite normal. Compulsory games were introduced for the women students in the college. The College Day was celebrated in the year 1943 under the presidency of Dr. S. Bhagavantham, who was one of the most eminent physicists and the Principal of the S.V.D. College of Science and Technology, Guntur. The following year, i.e., 1944, saw a rapid and all-round recovery. The total number on the rolls was 528 as against 618 in the previous year. This was because of the result of strict regulation of strength in view of the orders of the university and the reduction in accommodation after the fire. During the year 1943-44 the discipline of the college was of a high order. Students realised that indisciplined acts on their part will be met with suitable action by the Principal under the powers vested in him by the university and the Government. They also realised that all attempts on their

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part to work on constitutional lines will be actively encouraged. A significant feature of the year was the success of a novel enterprise devised by Mr. Menon to gear up the war effort of the college. The War Service Information Bureau of the Ceded Districts College was formed to fill the triple role of a recruiting office, a National Warfront Organisation and a propaganda centre. It forwarded applications for commissioned and other ranks in the fighting forces, exhibited and circulated war publicity material in the college and conducted a Defense Savings Campaign in the college.35 In the year 1944 under the auspices of the Andhra Saraswatha Sringham two debates were held on "The Necessity for an Andhra Rashtram and the necessity for the Co-operation of the people with the Government to solve the food problem." At the inaugural day of the History and Economics association Mr. Ramachandra Rao, District Judge, Anantapur gave a lecture on 'The cult behind the War'.36

The year 1945, the third and final year of Mr. K.P.G. Menon's term as Principal of the College, witnessed the fruition of several schemes of expansion and improve-

35. Souvenir of the Silver Jubilee of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur February 1946, p.22.
36. The Ceded Districts College Magazine 1944, p.80
First came the college University Officers' Training Corps. The college was affiliated to Madras University in Military Science and the Ceded Districts College contingent I (Madras) Battalion U.O.T.C.E.Company, 14th Platoon was formed. The total number on the roll was 451 as against 528 in the previous year. Among them 21 students belonged to the Scheduled Caste, 42 were Muslims, and 13 were women students. In March 1945, 183 students appeared for the Intermediate examinations. Out of them 62 students secured complete passes and 25 students secured first classes. In the same year 95 students appeared for the B.A. Examinations. Out of them 41 students passed completely. In the B.A. examinations A. Rangaswamy stood sixth in the University and secured the R. Akkammaguru Gold Medal of Madras University. The Andhra Saraswatha Sangham met twice in this year to debate the Pakistan Scheme and the Draft Hindu Code. The activities of the Science Association began with an address on 'The earth's atmosphere' by Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao, Professor of Physics, Central College, Bangalore. The Ceded Districts College participated in the Madras University Inter-Collegiate Cricket Tournament. The College defeated

37. Opcit., p.22
Government Arts College, Coimbatore in the finals played at Vellore and earned the shield. In the Madras University Inter-Collegiate Hockey Tournament, the college lost to the Madanapalli Theosophical College. In the Bobbili Hockey Tournament conducted by the Anantapur Athletic Club the college lost to Kurnool.

The most momentous gain registered for the college in Mr. K.P.G. Menon's third year was the affiliation of the college to Madras University to the Physics and Chemistry B.Sc. courses. In 1944, the Government called for plans and estimates for introducing B.Sc. courses in the place of the present B.A. courses in the college. On 2nd April 1945, a University Commission consisting of Messrs. C. Lakshminarayanan, R.N. Selvam and P.C. Ramachandra Ayyar visited the college. The Government directed that the number of admissions into the Science Group of the Junior Intermediate class in the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur be increased from 108 to 144 with effect from the academic year 1945-46. They also sanctioned the opening of B.Sc. courses in the college with the following group in place of the existing B.A. courses in Physics and Chemistry. Physics

(Main) Mathematics and Chemistry (subsidiary), Chemistry (Main) Mathematics and Physics (subsidiary), Chemistry (Main) Physics and Zoology (subsidiary) and sanction was also accorded to the incurring, during 1945-46, of non-curring expenditure not exceeding Rs.5000/- on furniture and laboratory apparatus.\textsuperscript{39}

In April 1945 Government sanctioned the expenditure of Rs.65,000/- on the construction of two rooms extending the central wing and two rooms in the Science block, the one on the ground floor to house an additional Intermediate Physics Laboratory and one on the first floor for an additional Intermediate Chemistry Laboratory, so that each Intermediate class could contain 216 Physics and Chemistry students. On 27.6.1945 Mr. P. Naryana Gowd became Principal of the college.

In the first place since Mr. Gowd was a native of the Anantapur District, the college belonged to him and he belonged to the college. His insight into the peculiar needs of the area which this college serves, his concern for the well being and future of the college were necessarily superior to every other principal's. In the second place, the opening of the B.Sc., courses gave the

\textsuperscript{39} Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Education Department G.O.No.785 dated 21.5.1945 (Andhra Pradesh Archives)
development of the college a more definite bias and it was clear that the further progress of the college will inevitably be in the direction of scientific and technological studies. In the third place, Mr. Gowd was a Lecturer in Chemistry in the college from 1928 to 1945 with an interval during which he was in Rajahmundry as Principal of the Government Training College. His term of Principalship proved a busy era of rapid and all round progress. In hardly seven months since he assumed charge of the college, several vast and important schemes of expansion, pointing to the giant college of tomorrow were afoot. The Government was about to sanction the expenditure of Rs.1,71,000/- on the construction of two large halls on the two floors, the one on the first floor to serve as a lecture hall, for English and Telugu and the one on the ground floor to house the Library and the Reading room and two large rooms on the two floors, extending the History Natural Science wing to provide the Intermediate classes with a larger Natural Science Laboratory downstairs and an additional Mathematics lecture room upstairs. 40

With effect from July 1946 the B.Sc., Chemistry (Main) strength was raised from 25 to 30 and Group II (Physics, Chemistry and Natural Science) of Intermediate from 60 to 90. Two sub hostels were started in rented buildings in the same year. A separate sub hostel for women students was also started in a rented building and a lady member of the staff was appointed as the Deputy Warden. The grandest event of the early days of Mr. Narayana Gowd’s term of office was the celebration of the College Silver Jubilee in February 1946. The Ceded Districts College was born during World War-I (1916). The Ceded Districts College reached the first landmark in its history, the completion of its twenty fifth year during World War-II. A huge pandal, tastefully decorated, formed the venue for lectures by eminent men namely justice Sri K. Rajamanner, Sri O. Pulla Reddy, then Minister for Revenue, Mysore State and Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana. Justice K. Rajamanner laid the foundation stone for the Silver Jubilee Memorial Pillar. On this historic occasion the following endowment scholarships were instituted – Moora Venkataswamy Silver Jubilee Scholarship, Sri O. Pulla Reddy Silver Jubilee Scholarship, Sri A. Kondappa Merit Silver Jubilee Scholarship, The old Boys' Silver Jubilee Scholarship and Srimathi Singanamala
Huligama Scholarship. 41

Yet another event of considerable importance was the constitution of the College Advisory Council with seven members, chosen among the prominent citizens of the district, with the Principal as the convenor, to advise the Principal in matters of admissions to the college, improvements on alterations in buildings, courses and allied matters. The proposal that the name of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur be changed into Rayalseema College had been examined in 1941 through a Press Note inviting the views of Associations and individuals in the matter. As very few people took interest in the subject in response to the Press Note the matter was not further pursued. The name Government College, Anantapur had also been considered previously and dropped as none was in favour of change. On 26.7.1946 the Government directed that the name of the Ceded Districts College, Anantapur be changed into Government Arts College, Anantapur. 42

On 9.1.1947 Her Excellency Lady Nye visited the


college. Her Excellency went round all the classes at work, evinced great interest in the future careers of the students and advised many of them to take to medical profession. The strength of the college at the end of March 1947 was 626. The college had the distinction of contributing one football match player H. Basavanna Gowd and one Hockey player B. Parvathaiah to the Madras University teams to play in the Inter-university tournaments. The socio-political enlightenment in Anantapur District had its own impact on the college. The student leaders carried the torch of the freedom struggle to the nook and corner of Rayasam and kept it alive till the country attained freedom on the 15th August 1947.
