BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

1 Madras Government Annuals/Reports:


Review of Sea-Borne Trade of Madras Presidency, 1870-1920, Madras.

Reports on Administration of Sea and Land Customs Merchandise Marks Act and the Cotton Duties Act for the Years of 1870-1920, Madras.

Reports of the Department of Industries, 1870-1920, Madras.


Report of Tuticorin Municipal Administration, 1866-1920, Tuticorin.


Report on the Administration of the Department of Agriculture, 1870-1920, Madras.


II Madras Government Files:

The proceedings and orders of the Government of Madras from 1870-71 to 1920-21 in the Department of:

Agriculture and Irrigation
Communication
Education
Excise and Registration
Forest
Judicial (Criminal and Civil)
Law
Local and Municipal
Marine
Public Works
Public Health
Public Miscellaneous
Revenue
Sea and Land Customs
Trades, commerce and Industries
III Madras Government Records:


Reports on the Dutch Settlement 1818 by Mr. Hodgson, Foreign Departments Sundries, Madras.


Report on the Joint-Stock Companies in British India and Mysore.


Census Reports of India, 1881 to 1921, Madras.

**IV Records of the Chamber of Commerce:**

Tuticorin chamber of commerce, Tuticorin.

- Annual Reports, 1906 to 1920.
- Original files and Records, 1906 to 1920. (unpublished)
- Golden Jubilee Souvenir.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tuticorin.

- Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 1975

Madras Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

- Annual Reports 1905 to 1920.
- Proceedings and Correspondence, 1905 to 1920.
- Centenary Handbook (1836-1936)
- 150th year Commemorative Directory (1836-1986)

**Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce, Madras.**

**Annual Reports, 1910-1920.**

**Birmingham:** Commercial Year Books-Chamber of Commerce, 1914-1918.

**Bristol:** Year Book of Bristol-Chamber of Commerce, 1913.

**Ceylon:** Annual Reports of Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, 1905-1920.

**Cochin:** Annual Reports of Cochin Chamber of Commerce, 1905-1920.


Nottingham: Year Books of Nottingham - Chamber of Commerce, 1914.


V Central / Madras Government Publications:

Hand Book of Commercial Information by Mr. M.E. Couchman, I.C.S.

Hand Book of Commercial Information for India by Mr. C.W.E. Cotton, I.C.S.


Legislations and orders Relating to the War, Delhi: Government of India, 1916.


Rules Issued under the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

The Indian Companies Act No. VI of 1882.

The Indian Factories Act, 1881 XV of 1881.

The Indian Factories Act, 1911.
Trade statistics of the United Kingdom, London; 1914.

**VI News Papers / Periodicals.**

- Bala Bharata
- Bande Madaram
- Hindu
- India
- Indian Review
- Madras Mail
- Madras Review
- Maharatta
- Prabudha Bharata
- Swadesamitran
- The Bhavani
- Times of India
- Vivekabhanu

**I. Manuals / Gazetteers:**


II. Souvenir


Holy Trinity Church - 250th Anniversary Souvenir (1750-2000), Tuticorin.


Uzhaga Tamil Manadu Souvenir, Chennai 1968.


V. O. Chidambaram Centenary Souvenir, Tuticorin, 1972.
SECONDARY SOURCES:

III Articles:


**IV Books:**

(i) In Tamil:


Subramaniya Iyer, M. S. *Vira Chidambaranar*, Chennai: Published by the Author, 1952.


Venkatasamy, S. M. *Sangakala Tamilaga Varalatil Sila Seydigal* Annamalai Nagar: Annamalai University, 1970.


(ii) In English:


Agur, C. M. *Church History of Travancore*, Madras: S. P. G. Press, 1903.

Alexander, P. C. *The Dutch in Malabar*, Annamalai Nagar: Annamalai University, 1946.


Arunachallam, S. *The History of the Pearl Fishery of the Tamil Coast* Annamalai Nagar: Annamalai University, 1952.


Baldaeus, Philip, *A True Description of the East Indian Coast of Malabar and Coromandel as also of the Isle of Ceylon*, 1672. Translated from Dutch Amsterdam, 1672, New Delhi: Asian Educational Services, 1996.


----- *Reconstruction of India’s Foreign Trade*, Bombay: Oxford University Press, 1946.


Havell, E. B. *The Basis for Artistic and Industrial Revival in India*, Madras: Theosophical Society, 1912.


Howsin, H. M. *The Significance of Indian Nationalism*, Madras: Tagose and Co., 1922.


Krishnaswami Aiyangar, S. *South India and Her Muhommadan Invaders*, Annamalai Nagar: Annamalai University, 1921.


Lushington, F. *Comparative Table of the Provincial Civil Establishment of the Madras Presidency for 1857*, Madras: Madras University Press, 1858.


----- *Foreign Notices of South India*, Madras: Madras University, Historical Series No. 14, 1939.


Oaten, E. F. *European Travellers in India During the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*, London: Oxford University Press, 1909.


Parthasarathy, R. T. Dawn and Achievement of Indian Freedom: Being the Life and Times of C. Vijayaraghavachari, Patriot and Thinker, Salem: Published by the Author, 1953.

Pattabhisitaramayya, B. Indian Nationalism, Masulipatnam: Kistna Swadeshi Press, 1913.


----- *Indian Historical Studies*, London: Longman. Green, 1913.


Reinhart, G. Volkart-Brothers. *In Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Foundation*, Winterthur, 1926.


Sankharder, Dr. B.M. *Pioneers of the Freedom and Social Change in India*, New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University, Deep and Deep Publishers, 1986.


----- From Navroji To Nehru, Delhi: Macmillan, 1975.


Slater, G. Some South Indian Villages, Oxford University Press, 1918.


Srinivasaraghava Iyengar, S. *Memorandum on the Progress of the Madras Presidency During the Last Forty Years of British Administration*, Madras: Government of Madras, 1893.


-----  *The Portuguese Empire in Asia: A Political and Economic History*, London: Oxford University, 1993.


Thomas, P. J. *Mercantilism and East India Trade*, London: P. S. King & Sons Ltd., 1926.


Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Victor Babu Koppula
Faculty
Department of Philosophy
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam -530 003
Andhra Pradesh – India

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Prof. S.Mahendra Dev
Vice Chancellor
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
Mumbai

Prof. Y.C. Simhadri
Vice Chancellor, Patna University
Former Director
Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi &
Formerly Vice Chancellor of
Benaras Hindu University, Andhra University
Nagarjuna University, Patna University

Prof. (Dr.) Sohan Raj Tater
Former Vice Chancellor
Singhania University, Rajasthan

Prof. K.Sree ram Murty
Department of Economics
Andhra University - Visakhapatnam

Prof. K.R.Rajani
Department of Philosophy
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam

Prof. A.B.S.V.Rangarao
Department of Social Work
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam

Prof. S.Prasanna Sree
Department of English
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam

Prof. P.Sivunnaidu
Department of History
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam

Prof. P.D.Satya Paul
Department of Anthropology
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam

Prof. Josef HÖCHTL
Department of Political Economy
University of Vienna, Vienna &
Ex. Member of the Austrian Parliament
Austria

Prof. Alexander Chumakov
Chair of Philosophy Department
Russian Philosophical Society
Moscow, Russia

Prof. Fidel Gutierrez Vivanco
Founder and President
Escuela Virtual de Asesoría Filosófica
Lima Peru

Prof. Igor Kondrashin
The Member of The Russian Philosophical Society
The Russian Humanist Society and Expert of
the UNESCO, Moscow, Russia

Dr. Zoran Vujisjæ
Rector
St. Gregory Nazianzen Orthodox Institute
Universidad Rural de Guatemala, GT, U.S.A

Swami Maheshwarananda
Founder and President
Shree Vishwa Deep Gurukul
Swami Maheshwarananda Ashram Education
& Research Center
Rajasthan, India

Prof. U.Shameem
Department of Zoology
Andhra University Visakhapatnam

Dr. N.V.S.Suryanarayana
Head
Dept. of Education, A.U. Campus
Vizianagaram
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>A Study of Myth and Reality in Simone De Beauvoir’s The Second Sex</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vikas Antil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Displacement of Pandits in Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reyaz Ahmad Khanday and Nisar Ahmad Meer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Weather Radar</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V.Vani Murthy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Telugu Varthapatrikalloni Basha – Tirutennulu</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R.Parvathiswara Sharma and V.V.S.V.Narasimham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Hindi Yatra Sahitya Main Prakruti Chitran</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheikh Afroz Fatema Shaikh Habib</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Masks in Theatre</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.Subbiah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Korkai: A Historical View</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M. Jeyakumari</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>V.O.Chidambaram and Labour Movement in Tuticorin</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Flora</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V.O.CHIDAMBARAM AND LABOUR MOVEMENT IN TUTICORIN

A. Flora
Ph.D., Research Scholar
Department of History, P.G & Research Centre
V.O.C.College, Tuticorin

INTRODUCTION

The British East India Company took over the administration of Tuticorin on 1st June 1825 and the charter act of 1833 abolished the trade monopoly rights of the East India Company. In 1858 the Queen Victoria’s Proclamation abolished British East India Company’s rule in India and established direct British monarchical rule India. Subsequently the free trade policy was also established. The British merchants came to India and started setting up factories. The Harvey brothers – Andrews and Frank from Liverpool for cotton business and established a spinning factory known as ‘Coral Mills’ on the coast of Tuticorin in 1889. Most of the labourers who got into the service of the mills were the country farmers. The foreign management of the mills followed the principle of paying less and extracting more from the workers. As a result profit worked to the tune of 60 percent. Such outright and uninterrupted exploitation went on until V.O.Chidambaram, one of the pioneer freedom fighters in Tamilnadu began to take interest in the lot of the native labour. On 27th February 1908 the workers of Coral Mills struck work demanding increases in wages and weekly lay off and other leave facilities. The leadership of V.O.C for the Coral Mills workers had its political aims also. Attracted by V.O.C’s political ideology, the willful freedom fighters like Subramania Siva and Padmanaba Iyer lent their support to the mill workers on strike.
V.O. CHIDAMBARAM AND THE CORAL MILL LABOUR’S STRIKE

The worker’s strike in the Coral Mills had its political overtones even at the outset. During the strike period, the public meetings were conducted and the tempo of emotional involvement in the political issues such as fight for national liberation was fervently kept up. V.O.C. and Subramania Siva made fiery speeches exhorting the common public of Tuticorin town to rise to the occasion by identifying themselves with the interests of the strikers in as much as by promoting the cause of country’s independence. In this way V.O.C. perfected his Swedeshi ideology of linking the sectional struggle for economic improvement with the national awakening for freedom and progress. During one of his speeches V.O.C. made the bold suggestion that he would try to set up a Swedeshi mill which would be as important as his Swedeshi Steamship Company – his brainchild. Such a mill by the men of Swedeshi movement, V.O.C. argued, would remove the misery of the labourers.

He declared in a public meeting: “the Swedeshi Steam Navigation Company is already established and has caused loss to the British Indian Steam Navigation Company which will die away in due course.” Next to it comes the cotton trade. It is very easy to capture it. I have received letters from several persons from Madurai and Salem intimating that they are willing to invest three – fourths of the capital needed if the Tuticorin people help them with the remaining one – fourth and also supply labour. If you people would assist me, I would open a big mill for the manufacture of thread and cloth of all sorts. Just as the Swedeshi Steam Navigation Company is now established on a firm basis, a mill also will succeed. This indicates how V.O.C. was so deeply committed to the principles of Swedeshi movement and how he was resolutely planning for the enlargement of the Swedeshi economic activities from the Swedeshi Steamship Company to the other equally
important industrial enterprises in rivalry to the British industrial firms in India.

The English management of the Coral Mills tried in all ways to put an end to the strike and according to the press report in The Hindu dated 5.3.1908:—“STRIKERS REFUSE TO REJOIN” — TUTICORIN, March 5th: The strike at the mills shows no sign of ending. Yesterday morning, the Mill Agent, with the Videshi Steamer Company’s employees, went round the town and begged the people to induce the strikers to resume work. The people refused all help. The agent took six maistries by force to the mill premises, confined them there for three hours, and exhorted the others to resume work, misrepresenting that the confined hands had done so. But the strikers refused to return unless their grievances were redressed. The confined men scaled over the back wall and escaped home. Then the Agent sent his broker to negotiate and bring the strikers round. The strikers declined. They were paid one week’s provision from the Relief Fund raised by Mr. Vaakil Venkatarama Aiyar.

The Coral Mills strike was an eye-opener to the British rulers and also a source of encouragement to the local leaders like V.O.C. It was just unthinkable in those days to organize a labour strike. Unlike what is obtained to-day, there were no independent agencies like workers’ Co-operative Stores to feed the labourers during the strike period. Starvation was the common threat to the striking workers of those days. But V.O.C. was able to appeal to the sympathy of the local people who came forward to offer money as donations. He organized community kitchen with the help of such donations and he fed the workers and their families on strike. In emulation of V.O.C.’s example of gathering public funds to feed the striking workers Gandhiji organized such a common feeding centre at Ahemadabad when the latter led the strike by the local textile workers.
Every day the striking workers marched through the streets of Tuticorin and yelled out the slogan of freedom Bande Mataram. Naturally this attracted the attention of the political agents of the foreign governments in India. The Tsarist Russia’s consul Serokin in Bombay sent to Moscow his report on the strike of the Coral Mills at Tuticorin and its political background. In this report he mentioned the daily processions by the labourers shouting slogans against the ruling of British. Further, specific reference was made to the efficiency of the local leadership in organizing this strike.

The Coral Mills strike was fast becoming a spring board of action for the political leaders. Sensing this, the district Collector, Winch directed V.O.C turned down the directive from the district administrator. The former’s associate, Subramania Siva spoke out so eloquently that he was able to convert Tuticorin merchants to the cause of freedom struggle. With the result the local merchants refused to sell food stuffs to the local British population and the latter had to get it from Sri Lanka by ship.

The Hindu reported the news as follows: ‘A BARBER REFUSES TO SHAVE’ – An extraordinary incident of boycott took place yesterday. Mr. Rangasamy Aiyangar, Vakil and nominated Municipal Councillor, who supported the Collector’s proposal to strengthen the local police force, sat before a barber for a shave. The barber had scarcely soaped his hair when he asked Mr. Rangasamy Aiyangar if he supported the Collector’s proposal. The Aiyangar replied it was not his business. The barber said that it was, then not his business to shave him and went away – ‘A SORRY PREDICAMENT’ – The gentleman then sent for other barbers, but all refused. He presented a petition to Mr. Ashe, who declined to interfere. “The jutkawalas and tiffin-suppliers have refused to supply jutkas and tiffin to the same gentleman. He went to the sub-Collector’s bungalow and prostrated before him for police help. Of course he would not interfere.”iii “The European residents in Tuticorin
were afraid to stay there in the nights; they left the place and spent the nights in the office of the British Indian Navigation Company. A police constable was suspended for ten days on the charge that he had allowed some boys to shout Bandemataram before the District Superintendent of Police Mr. Sweeting, when he went on bike”. In those stormy days it was but a common sight to find the natives surrounding the British passers by walking in the streets of that port-city and shouting in a menacing tone the political slogan, Bande Mataram.

SUCCESS OF THE LABOUR STRIKE:

According to V.O.C’s autobiography in Tamil poetry, the mill strike was a great success. The mill management agreed to give 50 per cent increase in the wages, weekly holiday on Sundays and permission to the labourers to go out of the mills in leisure to take their lunch. “On 6th March, the head-clerk of the Coral Mill, Mr.Subramania Pillai met Chidambaram Pillai and told him that the manager was prepared to accept the conditions raised by the employees. Then Chidambaram Pillai met the manager with fifty strikers and in the evening Subramania Pillai told him that the manager had increased the wages, reduced the working hours and declared Sunday holidays. The workers resumed their work on 7th March 1908 in the afternoon”.

This victory for the labour class at Tuticorin had its echoes in Bengal too. The Extremist Writer, Arvind ghose wrote the editorial in his journal Bande Mataram in appreciation of this historical event of the Indian labour. To quote Arvindo: For passive resistance to succeed unity, perseverance and thoroughness are the first requisites. Because this unity, perseverance and thoroughness existed in Tuticorin, the great battle fought over the Coral Mills has ended in a great and indeed absolutely sweeping victory for the people. Every claim made by the strikers has been conceded and British capital has had to submit to the humiliation of an unconditional surrender. Nationalism may well take
pride in the gallant leaders who have by their cool and unflinching courage brought about this splendid vindication of Nationalist teaching. When men like Chidambaram, Padmanabha and Siva are ready to undergo exile or imprisonment so that the handful of mill coolies may get justice and easier conditions of livelihood, a bond has been created between the educated class and the masses, which is the first great step towards Swaraj.

The Tuticorin strike is a perfect example of what an isolated labour revolt should. The operatives must act with one will and speak with one voice, never letting the temptation of individual interest or individual relief get the better of the corporate aim in which lies the whole strength of a labour combination, and the educated community must give both moral and financial support with an ungrudging and untiring enthusiasm till the victory for the nation and every victory for Indian labour is a victory for the nation and every defeat is a defeat to the movement. The Tuticorin leaders must be given the whole credit for the unequalled skill and courage with which the fight was conducted and still more for wardness of the Nationalist gospel which made them to identify the interests of the whole Indian nation with the wrongs and grievances of the labourers in the Coral Mills.\(^\text{vi}\)

Arvindo's editorial of generous appreciation and assessment was the solid proof that what V.O.C. achieved as the victory for the Coral Mills workers on strike was of national appeal attracting the attention of all. The patriotic Tamil daily Swadesamitran reported: "Simply because Mr. Padmanabha Aiyangar took the side of the workmen at the Coral Mills and helped them to get their wages increased against the interests of their employers, who happen to be Whites, the Englishmen in the district, inclusive of the responsible District Magistrate, have begun to tease them in all possible ways. These patriots are prevented from addressing meetings on the subjects of Swadeshi and Swaraj and inculcating to the people the value of union. Why is this? Have we not
got the right of helping their brethren in distress? What crime have they committed unless it be that they exercised these natural rights? How can the people be expected to have a regard for the authorities; if the latter exercise their powers in a spirit of hostility? It appears the District Magistrate insisted on the trio removing to Bombay at once. But our patriots will not be afraid of such threats” vii Some emotionalized the situation by drawing the analogy between this victory for the mill strikers in Tuticorin and that of Japanese in Russo-Japanese war of 1905 on the score that the Asians were gaining an edge over the Europeans and thereby exploding the myth of European supremacy. It was but natural the British government made a correct reading of the situation and took the punitive measures of putting V.O.C. and his associate Subramania Siva to trial and condemned them to 40 years of rigorous imprisonment. All began with the Coral Mills strike ending up the leaders like V.O.C, a follower of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and in the oppression by the British government. V.O.C’s technique of gathering the native strength for organizing economic enterprises for fighting against British economic imperialism was viewed with much serious concern by the British rulers.

CONCLUSION:

No wonder they took up every effort to put down the Coral Mills strike which held out enlarging prospects of political struggle for violent take over the country’s administration by means of acquiring economic teeth with which to jaw out the British economic interests. In other words V.O.C’s strategy was to build up a parallel economic system by the native resources as against the British economic imperialism which would be unrooted eventually thanks to the economically motivated political involvement on the part of the country men in general. The fact remains that the powerful strike in the Coral Mills organized by V.O.C and his associates was a primary source of inspiration to all the trade unionists of the later years.
References:

2. The Hindu - English Daily, Madras, 5th March 1908.
3. Ibid.
5. The Hindu – English Daily, 7th and 8th March 1908.
7. Swadesamitran, Madras, 10th March 1908.