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**“ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS OF SIR C.P. RAMASWAMYAIYAR  
IN MODERN TRAVANCORE”**

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# ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS OF SIR C.P. RAMASWAMY Aiyar IN MODERN TRAVANCORE

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In 1931, while Sri Chitra Chirantal Maharaja was invested with ruling powers, C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar<sup>1</sup> (hereafter only C.P.) was appointed as Legal and Constitutional Adviser to him. Under his initiative, the Maharaja introduced a bicameral legislature in Travancore which ensured sharing of greater powers to the people. But property (payment of tax) the required was still qualification. The newly started legislature had two chambers viz., Sri Mulam Assembly (Lower House) and Sri Chitra State Council (Upper House). However, the Presiding officer of the Assembly and the Council was the Dewan. Understanding the potentiality and imaginative capacity of C.P. as an administrator, the Maharaja was pleased to appoint him Dewan of Travancore on 8 October, 1936, and subsequently his tenure was extended twice up to 21 August, 1947<sup>2</sup>. The Dewanship of C.P. witnessed a period of administrative reforms of outstanding nature, and Travancore registered substantial progress in all directions. Meanwhile his Dewanship also witnessed a period of political unrest. This paper is an attempt to study the social, educational and industrial progress registered by the State during a decade, while he was in power.

As Dewan his first venture was to make the necessary political preparations for generating temple entry to the non-caste Hindus. From very early days, the Hindu society was divided into two main sections, the high Castes and the low Castes<sup>3</sup>. C. Ramani Thampi, a savarna by birth, and a Judge of Travancore high court by profession, was the first to demand the opening of all State owned temples to the Ezhavas at a public meeting held at Quilon in 1918<sup>4</sup>. During 1924-25, when entry into the premises for getting the Varkom Siva Temple was denied, a satyagraha was offered in its premises for getting the rights to the non-Caste Hindus to enter the four roads leading to the temple<sup>5</sup>. In 1926, a similar satyagraha was organised at the Sachiandran Temple to South Travancore (Kanniyakumari District) Tambracherry for gaining the right of entry into the roads around it for the avarnas.