

H. B. Ari Gowder

Rao Bahadur Hubbathalai Bellie Ari Gowder (ari gowda)(December 4, 1893 – June 28, 1971) was a Badaga leader and the first member of the Badaga community to be elected to the Madras Legislative Council

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Birth and early life

Ari Gowder was born to Rao Bahadur H. J. Bellie Gowder at Hubbathalai on December 4, 1893^[1] Bellie Gowder was an engineering contractor from the Badaga community of Nilgiris who constructed the Nilgiri Mountain Railway

Politics and public life

Ari Gowder was educated at the Madras Christian College before entering politics. He became the first Badaga to be elected to the Madras Legislative Council.^[2] He served as a member of the Madras Legislative Council from 1923^[3] to 1926 and from 1930 to 1934 and was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Madras state in the 1940s and 1950s. He was also a President of the Backward Classes League. He also served a President of the Nilgiris District Board.^[1] When prohibition was introduced in 1937, Ari Gowder was instrumental in enforcing prohibition in the Nilgiris district. He led the Indian contingent to the World Scouts Jumboree in Hungary in 1930.

Philanthropic activities

Ari Gowder established the Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society in Ooty, The Nilgiris District and a branch at Mettupalayam in 1941 and served as its President until his death in 1971. The main purpose of the Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society was to guarantee the rights of cultivators from being exploited by middlemen. Recognising his contribution to the Society, as bust of Ari Gowder was unveiled in the hall of NCMS on 25 May 1987.^[4]

Death and legacy

Ari Gowder died on June 28, 1971.^[5] He is highly regarded by members of the Badaga community who regard him as their patriarch. A bridge constructed in 1939 at Masinagudi linking the then Madras Presidency with the kingdom of Mysore was named Ari Gowder Bridge.

<div> <div><div>Rao Bahadur</div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hubbathalai Bellie Gowder Ari Gowder(ari gowda) </div>	
Member of Legislative Assembly of Madras state	
Member of Madras Legislative Council	
In office	1930–1934
Member of Madras Legislative Council	
In office	1923–1926
Personal details	
Born	December 4, 1893 <div>Hubbatale, Madras Presidency</div>
Died	June 28, 1971 (aged 78)
Nationality	Indian
Spouse(s)	Gauri (Jakkadha)
Alma mater	Madras Christian College
Occupation	legislator

The portion of West Mambalam, Chennai which adjoins the Mambalam railway station was gifted to the Government of Tamil Nadu by Ari Gowder and the road which runs parallel to the railway line is named Arya Gowder(gowda)Road in his honor

He was succeeded by his son H. A. Bhojraj who was a golfer and philanthropist. Ari Gowder's first great great grandson was born on October 2017 and is named Ari Vgneshwar.

Notes

1. *Who's who in India, Burma & Ceylon* Who's Who Publishers. 1940. p. 681.
2. Hockings, Paul (1980).*Ancient Hindu Refugees: Badaga Social History 1550-1975*Mouton. p. 178.
ISBN 9027977984, ISBN 978-90-279-7798-4
3. F. Irschick, Eugene (1986).*Tamil Revivalism in the 1930s* p. 233.
4. "Badaga leader's birth anniversary celebrated"(<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/badaga-leaders-birth-anniversary-celebrated/article4165972.ece>)*The Hindu*. 5 December 2012 Retrieved 5 February 2013.
5. *Quinquennial Review / Tamil Nadu Legislative Council*. Legislative Council Dept. 1976. p. 115.

References

- Hockings, Paul; Christiane Pilot-Raichoor (1992)*A Badaga-English Dictionary* Walter de Gruyter. p. 47.
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