

A Trustee for the Public

Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer

Mr. Thangal Kunju Musaliar, founder of this great Institution, Principal of the College, Members of the Governing Body, and Secretary and Office bearers of Literary and Debating Society of the College.

It gives me genuine pleasure to come here and visit this Institution, and especially to address the students, who have proposed to enter the engineering profession. I have known Mr. Musaliar for several years. My contact with Travancore started in an administrative or quasi administrative capacity as early as 1931, and ever since that time I have found in Mr. Musaliar a true friend, one who was never slow in advancing and supporting a good cause, one who was a great business man but at the same time realised the message of his own prophet, that a man is a trustee and essentially a trustee for the public. It may not be known to many of you, who study the present day journals and hear so much about the socialistic pattern of society and of the tendency towards socialism, it may not be

within your knowledge that, perhaps, the greatest socialist who ever lived was Prophet Mohamed. Very specific provisions were made, in Holy Quran that during the life time of a person, a certain definite proportion of his earnings and savings should be devoted to what in Muslim Law is called Zakaath, namely, a kind of fund for charity for the relief of the distressed. Not only was that so, but the idea of Prophet Mohamed was that some property should go to his son, daughters, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, uncle, nephew, and so on and so forth, so that no rich man, however rich he may be, after three generations, would have any big funds at his disposal. Mr. Musaliar in his own life time earned great deal and has spent a great deal wisely. It was really socialism put into very vigorous practice. This institution founded by him is a monument to his liberality as well as to his farsighted philanthropy and I have great pleasure to visit this Institution.

Excerpts from the address delivered on the occasion of the inauguration of the Thangal Kunju Musaliar College Literary and Debating Society, in the Year 1962.