

Unit 5

History of Coimbatore from 1801 to 2000 A.D

18MHI31C

Sir Robert Stanes (13 May 1841 - 6 September 1936) was a British businessman and philanthropist in India who founded United Nilgiri Tea Estates (UNTE) in Coimbatore.

G. D. Naidu (Gopalaswamy Doraiswamy Naidu) (23 March 1893 - 4 January 1974) was an Indian inventor and engineer who is referred to as the "Edison of India" and "the wealth creator of Coimbatore" (112] He is credited with the manufacture of the first electric motor in India. His contributions were primarily industrial but also spanned the fields of electrical, mechanical, agricultural (hybrid cultivation) and automobile engineering (3)(4) Naidu developed an independently internal combustion four stroke engine. He had only primary education but excelled as a versatile genius.

Salem Pagadala Narasimhalu Naidu (or Pagadala Narasimhalu Nayadu) (12 April 1854 - 22 January 1922) was a Tamil Congressman, social worker, publisher and the first person to have written travelogues in Tamil. He gave Coimbatore some of its earliest industries and was instrumental in establishing public institutions.

Tiruppur Angappa Ramalingam Chettiar (b.18 May 1881 - d.1952) was an Indian lawyer, politician, member of parliament and businessman from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Ramalingam Chettiar was one of the pioneers of the co-operative movement in Madras Presidency and was associated with the movement since 1911. He started the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Federation and published a monthly called Kooturavu. He established the Ramalingam Co-operative Training Institute in Coimbatore. He was instrumental in the formation of the Central Co-operative Bank, Urban Bank, Land Development Bank, co-operative milk union and co-operative printing press in Coimbatore.

Textool Balasundaram was born to a wealthy landlord in Coimbatore and did his Intermediate at the Presidency College in Madras. His father K.Damodaraswamy was the Influential Maniyakkara of Avarampalayam and his mother was Lakshmiammal who also hailed from a leading family of those days. He went to England in 1932 and did his BE Electrical Engineering at the Sheffield University.

Thereafter, he joined Metropolitan Vickers, a company, which employed 12000 people, as an apprentice. Vickers had power stations and also made equipment for them. He returned to India in 1939 and joined National Engineering Works as the Chief Engineer and developed the country's first electric motor with 'copper rotor welding technology.

In 1955 Textool made the 5 HP diesel engine for agricultural purposes and this further took up the employee strength by 4000. Balasundaram improved upon the Ambar Charka with 4 spindles designed by Ekambaram of Tirunelveli into a 16 spindle one. However, this did not get popular due to various reasons.

Never did the shortage of pig iron ever deter him. He was a continuous innovator and produced indigenous machinery to produce iron from ore. This made him produce upto 50 tonnes of iron at Textool itself. He was a leading supplier of Escalator tips to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation and his products were more durable and sturdier than their German counterparts.

Balasundaram visited Japan during the year 1960 and began manufacturing Railway signal equipment and also cone winding equipment with Japanese collaboration. He made an indigenous tractor and the same was given to the then Prime Minister in order to be used for the Bihar Flood Relief.

The products made by Balasundaram included crank shafts for diesel engines, plano milling machines, centreless grinding machine, bar turning machine and others. His products were very reliable, sturdy, durable with quality workmanship at an affordable cost.

Later the family began Jaya Automotives and Measureall Engineering Company. Balasundaram was also the President of the Southern India Engineering Manufacturers Association.