



Mr. A. T. Sabaratnam, B. Sc (1963-1965)

Velanai Central College had an efficient line of principals, each gifted and talented. He became the principal of the school on the transfer of **V. THAMPOE, Esq., a born teacher and an able head that Velanai would ever remember**. It was an enviable task for anyone to succeed Mr. Thampoe but he was ably succeeded by Mr. Sabaratnam, Esq., equally capable to the principal's chair but he himself could not continue for long. At the end of three years, he was transferred to a central school in the East.

Though his period of service was short, it was significant. He continued the good work of his predecessor as ably as possible introducing a novel and varied curriculum. He was an experimental minded head and worked for the creation of a comprehensive school at Velanai with due emphasis on Arts, Commerce, Science and English. The teaching of English in the junior grades and improving the tone of science education in the upper forms merited his major attention. It was his desire to raise the school on par with the urban schools. He also wrought many changes in the school hostel for the betterment of its inmates. He set about subject committees each in charge of experienced teachers and ensured quality food supply for the students in the hostels as well

The fence around the school and both hostels was constructed during his period for the safety of the students and avoid people making walk ways through the school campus. He upgraded the Science Labs. He had a plan to educate students not only with academic excellence but also with wide cultural activities. Especially, he held a musical festival in order for the students to learn music as a subject with interest.

In spite of the dearth of competent teachers, the teaching of English as in many schools both urban and rural, needed serious attention in his time. To overcome this vital issue, he hired a special teacher for English and provided tape recorder and cassette to the students to develop their spoken English talent.

Mr. Sabaratnam initiated some wise plans to increase the number of students for the University entrance. He selected intelligent students and put them together in a special division and prepared them to get good score for the University entrance.

His ambitious plans for further development of the school could not be continued as he was soon transferred out of the school.

Though his period of service was short, it was salutary.

By: S. Elancheliyan