



Chapter 8

Lewin Bowring

On departure of Cubbon, Lewin Bowring was appointed Commissioner. But as he could come and take charge only in April 1862. C.B.Saunders, judicial Commissioner of Mysore took charge as Commissioner till Bowring's arrival.

Bowring who was a very good administrator, saw that modernization of Mysore's administration was taken further. "There was scarcely any branch of administration but came under the scrutiny and reforming hand of the untiring and energetic head of the Government. The effect was magical. Prosperity increased. Capital was attracted and coffee planting began on a larger scale and mines came to be developed" says Hayavadana Rao.¹

Lewin Bowring, born on 15th July 1824 as a son of George Bowring, was educated at Exeter, Leipzig and Hailberg, and joined Bengal Civil Service in 1843. He worked as Assistant Resident at Lahore in 1847 and Deputy Commissioner in Punjab from 1849 to 54. Later he worked as private secretary to Governor General Canning from 1858 to 62, which gave him wide experience on political and administrative matters. In 1867 Bowring created C.S.I. He served Mysore State between 1862 to 1870 as Commissioner and was responsible for changing the face of Mysore State administration.

Between 1866-67 Bowring went on leave and Saunders was again officiating as Commissioner. Bowring introduced many radical changes in administration. Mysore was a non-regulation province. In 1862, administration was organised on the model of Punjab system. Reforms were set on foot tending towards the introduction of the regulation system. The State was divided into three Divisions. Each Division was placed under a European Superintendent with enlarged powers. And under the three Divisions were eight districts, each

¹ Hayavadana Rao, II p.2914

Jewels of Administration

district being placed under a Deputy Superintendent. He was assisted by Assistant Superintendent.

The dilapidated Tipu's palace which housed the Secretariat shocked Bowring, more so because the State Treasury was housed there. The Treasury Officer furnished no security "except his reputation of honesty."



West Front Of Tipu's Palace, Bengaluru; Aquatint by James Hunter, 1804

On visiting the Jail, Bowring saw all the jail mates were chained together in the night. If one man wanted to get up, he could not do so without awakening all the inmates in the ward. There was no separate lock-up for women, there being only a separate room the approach to which was the same as that as the rest of the wards.

Bowring increased the number of departments. Besides revising the existing revenue and judicial agencies, a Department of Accounts, a Department of Registration of Documents, an Establishment of Survey and Settlement of Lands and another for Survey of Inam Tenures were created. There were also separate staff of engineers for irrigation and ordinary public works with additional establishment of public works accounts and a department for the conservation of forests. A new police system was introduced and a large medical staff was in charge of jails and hospitals and also to attend to sanitary concerns. Sanitary works in towns were attended by newly formed Municipal bodies. Large educational bodies were founded to diffuse education. The military force was placed under European Officers belonging to the army.

Shama Rao has pointed out that the number of superior grade officers rose from 30 in the days of Cubbon to 135, of which less than 30 sub-ordinate appointments exclusively in the Revenue and Judicial Department were held by natives, while remainder were held by Europeans.² Later Diwan Rangacharlu who was then the Palace Bakshi has severely criticised Bowring for increasing

² Shama Rao, II pp:514-15

the number of departments and bringing in a large number of Europeans who were highly paid as draining the State Exchequer and burdening the Mysore population with heavy taxes. It was also against the spirit of the 1831 decision to run the administration by not using local talent.

Old Central Jail Bengaluru



Later in 1869 the designation of Divisional Superintendent was changed as Commissioner, of the Deputy Superintendent at the district as Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner himself was designated as Chief Commissioner.

Survey and Settlement

“The department of finance underwent.... sweeping reforms”, says Hayavadana Rao as a result of regulation system coming into force. “In place of large discretion previously allowed to officers of all grades in regard to disbursement of moneys, the Indian Budget system of audit and accounts were introduced. Surplus revenue was no longer hoarded, but liberally spent on Public Works.”³

“In 1863, the much needed revenue survey and settlement was commenced for obtaining an accurate land measurement, of regulating the customary land tax and preserving all proprietary and other rights connected with the soil,” says Rice.⁴

Bowring thought of framing a



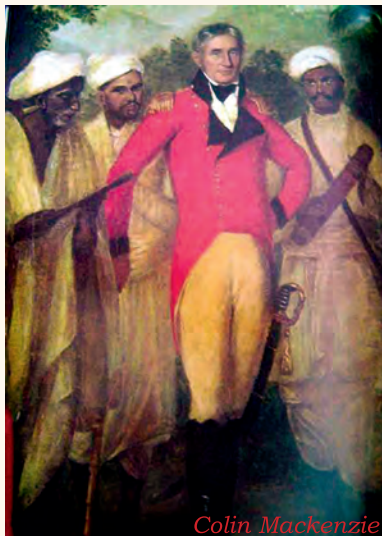
Survey & Settlement Office - Bengaluru

³ Hayavadana Rao, Op.cit. p.2913-14

⁴ Rice, I p.434.

Land Revenue Survey and his opting for Bombay system of settlement has been praised by experts. In November 1863, the Revenue Survey and Settlement Department was organised. In 1864 a comprehensive revenue circular was issued for systematising the revenue procedure. This was soon followed by promulgation based on the Bombay Act of I of 1865 and IV of 1868 with suitable changes. Later in 1868, the Inam Commission began its work.

Surveyors or *Mozanidars* from Bombay State were invited in large number to conduct the survey of lands. Field assessment came to be fixed for a period of 30 years “thus securing the cultivator the full advantage of a lease for that period without burdening him with any condition beyond that of discharging the assessment for the single year to which engagements extent”.



Col. Meckenzie had undertaken a topographical survey of the State in the days of Dewan Purniah. It was only Bowring who observed after several decades the irregularities and defects in the revenue system. Superintendents were asked to conduct investigation in their respective divisions about the anomalies existing in the prevailing system. There were multiplicity of rates of assessment in various regions of the country as the State was formerly ruled by a number of Palegars, according to their customs. Keladi (Nagar) area itself had some sort of system evolved by Shivappa Nayaka in the middle of the 17th century. In many places, the assessment was arbitrary. Hyder used to make Land Revenue Farming to Amildas, as pointed out

in the case of one Arundehala Pandit, whose failure to collect the amount specified, landed him in Jail.

There were no clear boundary marks demarcating the lands and their limits. The Village Shanbhog was the only authority to regulate the payment to be made by the cultivators.

“My reason for preferring the Survey and Settlement pursued in Bombay may be summed up thus”, says Bowring: The Bombay system of survey, classification and settlement are all continuous links of one chain forged under the direction of the same individual whose interest to see that every successive link fits closely into the predecessors: every step also being carefully taken with advertence to the next one. In the Madras system there is no such close connection. The boundaries are fixed by one person, the survey laid down by another and the settlement by a third. The survey, so far as, I can judge, is excellent, but the surveyor had no powers in altering the boundaries if incorrect, unless the completion of the work was taken up by the settlement officer.⁵

When work was started in any taluk, first step was division of lands into

⁵ Quoted by Shama Rao, pp:524-25

fields, and marking the boundaries of the fields by permanent marks and accurate measurement of the area of each field itself by chain and other cross staff. In the division of the lands into fields, the point kept in view was that the fields were generally to be of a size to allow being cultivated by a ryot of limited means of a pair of bullock, so the size of the field also varied according to climate, soil, description of cultivation and methods of husbandry.

However, when a particular holding of small areas, contiguous to other small holdings were taken for survey, they were clubbed together to bring the area within the limit fixed. The modern concept of eliminating sub division or fragmentation of holdings was thus attended to during the survey so that uneconomic holdings were not created. The protraction on paper of the survey made of the village lands by the cross-staff, theodolite and the chain constituted the village maps affording the most minute information as to the position, size and limits of fields, roads, water courses and other particulars like a rock or hill or even a tree.

The next step was the classification of land with the objective of determining the relative value of the field into which the land was divided. All lands were divided into dry, wet and garden lands but with the latter two, in addition to the soil classification the water supply was also taken into consideration. In the case of gardens irrigated by wells, in addition to the classification of soil, the supply depth, the quantity of water in the well, the area of land under each well, the distance of the garden from the village as affecting the cost of manuring and similar details were ascertained.

When all the lands in each village were classified, the taluk became ready for settlement. The villages in the taluk were grouped according to the respective advantage of the climate, markets (nearness or easy possibility of marketing) and the relative value of the field. This is finalised by the classification of the soil, command of water for irrigation and other favourable or unfavourable circumstances, communication, and actual condition of the cultivator and his skill. Past management of the taluk for twenty years and an examination and comparison of previous years was noticed. The maximum rates were deducted from the relative value laid down in the classification scales and rates determined were applied to all descriptions of land according to their classification.

The benefits made from improvements by the ryots during the 30 years tenure were left to them. Survey work was completed in 1890.

The Department abolished the *aya* payment to the Patel or Shanbhog by way of grain by ryots but of money payment (called '*potgi*' – maintenance) was fixed. This was included in the assessment paid to the Government.

The Survey was commenced in Chitradurga district and worked westwards and southwards. By 1870 when Bowring left about 51½ lakh acres of land was measured and about 32½ acres had been classed. The system of *batayi* recognised cultivator as an annual tenant. When the settlement was over, the

ryot was given hereditary right of occupation as long as assessment was paid by the new Settlement.

It may be recalled that all settlement records, especially sketches are in Marathi *modi* letters as the surveyors had come from Bombay. (There is no body in State service who could read them now unfortunately.)

In the hilly taluks of Nagar Division called Malnad, where the holding of ryot was called *varg*, found scattered in different taluks. Now assessment was made taluk-wise depending upon the class of each land. Rules of new settlement were applied. There was *hakkalu* land left for grazing, Hadya with brushwood and small trees used to collect firewood and leaves for nature and *Kan*. For the *Kan* a cess was levied, and cardamom, bagani palm and gum trees were grown in them.

Coffee plantation lands were granted by auction. A title deed was given to the successful bidder with the condition that if he grew any other crop, such fields are liable for assessment on the rates prevalent in the taluk. Plantain, castor-oil plant or fruit trees could be raised to provide shadow to coffee plants. A *halat* of four annas per maund of coffee seeds was levied.

Land for cultivation of cardamom which was a wild growth was auctioned with a maximum of 200 acres and minimum of 10 acres in the Western Ghats for a lease of 20 years. A *halat* of Rs. two per maund of the crop was levied. If any other crop was raised, the area was assessed as per revenue rules.

“It was found necessary to form an Inam Commission to enquire into the validity of the titles of lands held by individuals or religious institutions as real and pretended endowments from the sovereign of the country, considerable alienation of the whole villages having been made during the administration of the Raja” says Rice.⁶

In 1868, the Government of India sanctioned a set of rules for the settlement of Inams. The rules were based on the theory of the reversionary right of the government. The various types of Inam lands were subjected to ascertain the validity of their grant.

Sanads granted by Krishnaraja Wadeyar III or his predecessor, such Inams were treated as inheritable and alienable.

Inams made by any agency without full powers of alienation were made to pay $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the assessment of the tenure as quit rent. Grants for religious duties, for charitable service and village services were to be treated similarly.

If a grant was made by an incompetent authority and is less than 50 year old, a compulsory quit rent of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the assessment was to be levied. But in doubtful cases, when Inam is enjoyed for more than 50 years, $\frac{1}{4}$ th of *quit rent* was to be collected.

Inam holders called *Kerebandis* (to maintain tanks), were freed from their work and were allowed to enjoy the land by paying a *quit rent*.

⁶ Rice, p.435



The Inam Commission appointed in 1866, had one Inam Commissioner, one Special Assistant and three Assistants. Later, in 1872-73, the Department was reorganised. The control of its proceedings was transferred to the Survey Commissioner. But settlement was carried on under directions of an officer called Superintendent of Inam Settlement, aided by three Assistants. The Inam Commission continued to function as there were different types of Inams. For example there were Kayam Gutta Villages. They were brought under the operations of Inam Commission in 1877.

There were also money grants made to various individuals and institutions for services or otherwise just as land grant. In 1862-63, these allowances were brought under the control of the Audit Department, the grants totalling Rs.3 lakhs. They were paid under the head Muzrai. There were 1500 charitable and religious institutions including temples, *mathas*, *chatras* (choultries), etc., numbering 1500 and 10,000 persons who received individual grants. Many a times claims of individuals lapsed on their death. There was confusion over the continuation of such grants. In July 1868 the Supreme Government framed certain rules to continue the money allowances. The rules among other things agreed to continue the grant to charitable and religious institutions provided they were efficiently maintained. When the term of the grant was not specially mentioned in a *sanad* of personal grant, it was to be gradually eliminated in two generations by reduction of one half at the end of each lapse subsequent to the death of first holder. The Commission closed in 1881. Institutional grants were to be made by the Muzrai Department. The head of the Department must be always a Hindu, and this procedure was fixed by the Supreme Government.

Finance

In the year 1861-62, when Bowring assumed administration, the total revenue of the State was a little over 100 lakhs of rupees. In 1865-66, it reached ₹.109 lakhs, of which land revenue was ₹.77.25 lakhs. Circulation of rupee currency was introduced in 1854 (instead of the old Mysore currency) and British Indian currency notes came into circulation from 1864. Bowring not only ordered receipt of payment to government in currency notes, but allowed the encashment of currency notes of ₹.100 and those of lower denomination at government treasuries. This was to instil confidence in the minds of the people regarding paper currency.

Excise revenue from toddy and arrack was realised till 1862 by the government from the individual manufacturers or suppliers who were themselves the wholesale vendors and retailers in several places. From 1862, Abkari revenue was farmed to contractors. Coffee halat which was ₹.68,112 in 1861-62 rose to 1,04,407 in 1867-68.

Judiciary

Bowring revised the Judicial system as judicial work grew heavier, judicial



assistants were appointed, one for each District for disposal of civil suits” says Rice.⁷

A simple code of procedure connected with civil suits based partly on the Punjab rules and partly on the Act VIII of 1859 was compiled and furnished for the guidance of Amildars. The Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure were introduced for the first time by defining offences and the measure of punishment to be awarded. The co-operation of Panchayats was not entirely excluded. From November 1862 (one thousand eight hundred and sixty two), the Institution fee was to be paid through stamp paper, and stamp rules were introduced, and plaints were to be written on stamp paper. The value of the stamp paper corresponded with the sum claimed in a civil suit.

The number of courts were increased from 103 to 125. Huzur Adalat and Courts of Sadar Munsifs were abolished. Eight courts of Deputy Superintendents, 10 of European Assistant Superintendents and 15 of Native Assistant Superintendents were established. Two small causes courts were also founded. A departmental test was introduced to native Assistants. The Superintendents of Divisions were vested with the power of session Judges and the court of the Judicial Commissioner was made the highest court for the purpose of revision and appeal.

“It was during the time of Bowring that for the first time a differentiation came to be maintained between the legislative and executive functions of the Government,” says Shama Rao.⁸ The Legislative enactments of Government of India did not apply automatically to Mysore, a Native State. So any legislative enactment of the Central Legislature or the three Presidency Legislatures were to be applied to Mysore, a special application was to be made to the Governor-General in Council. Bowring did the needful. Thus the following important Acts came to be applied to the State. Shama Rao gives a list of some of the important Acts made applicable to the state.

- (1) Copy Right Act of Books
- (2) Small Causes Court Act
- (3) Railway Act
- (4) Abkari Revenue Act
- (5) Acquisition of Land for Public Purpose Act
- (6) Civil Procedure Code
- (7) Breach of Contract Act
- (8) Indian Penal Code
- (9) Regulation of Police Act
- (10) Criminal Procedure Code
- (11) Indian Stamp Act
- (12) Bills of Exchange Act

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Shama, p.519.



- (13)Arms and Ammunition Act
- (14)Trading Companies Act
- (15)Registration of Assurances Act
- (16)Relation of Printing Presses Act
- (17)Limitation Act
- (18)Court Fees Act
- (19) Indian Coinage Act
- (20)Bombay Act for the Survey
- (21)Demarcation Act
- (22)Assessment and Administration of Lands Act

From 1867, oral hearing and written judgements in appeal cases, enrolment of pleaders was allowed by applying certain rules. Two important changes made in Civil Procedure from 1867 were notable: No decree should even be passed on appeal without giving the parties an opportunity on appearing on an appointed day and decision should invariably be written by the Presiding Judge. No great regularity was observed in hearing appeals on fixed days was the earlier practice. Pleadings were admitted on permission of the judges.

Earlier, in superior courts facts of the case were presented by sub-ordinate officials, and occasionally decisions were also written by them, and the judge only signed it. This was stopped.

Police Reform

Except the Kandachar or the armed militia, a regularly organised police force did not exist in the State. The Military Finance Commission of the Government of India in 1859 suggested the formation of a Civil Police Corps to relieve the Regular Infantry of the Army to certain duties like escorting treasury, furnishing guards to Jails and District Treasuries.

In 1862, for the separation of duties between Revenue and Police peons, a circular was issued by the Commissioner to Divisional Superintendents and reduction was effected in the number of Kandachar peons. On the whole, most inefficient were removed from service, those who were retained had their pay increased. The Police Act V of 1861 was introduced in 1866 in the Bangalore district. An officer of Madras service was appointed in Bangalore district. Though introduction of Madras Police System was contemplated, it was found to be expensive and also defective in some respect, and the idea was dropped.

So the task of remodelling and reconstruction of the Police Force was begun on principles drawn by Justice Mangles, the Judicial Commissioner. Two sets of rules, one for the organization of Village Police and the other for Regular Police were framed as per recommendations of Justice Mangles. The Village police should be resorted to condition of reasonable vigour and efficiency; they must be granted unassessed village lands, and they must be guided

by simple rules. The Kandachar Police should be replaced by Constabulary having the Village Police as its basis. The relations between the two corps be clearly defined.

The Regular Constabulary need not be armed or drilled as the local Barr could do the repressive duties to enforce peace was also a recommendation. The Plans prepared in Bowring's period were implemented during the next decade when a Deputy Inspector General of Police was appointed in 1873 and other steps were also taken.

Local Self-Government.

"The *Kachara Terige* or conservancy tax levied in Mysore city for sanitary purposes and plough tax imposed for the improvement of cross roads in connection with the revision of *mohatarfa* form the basis of Municipal and Local Funds in the State," from 1860 says Hayavadana Rao.⁹

The proceeds of these taxes were not, in the beginning, kept separate from the general revenues; the Municipal and Local Funds, in the strict sense of the term, were not formed till the year 1862. But the Commission thought of its formation and it emerged in 1860 itself.

The principal inhabitants of Bangalore signed a declaration binding themselves to abide by the Municipal Act XXVI of 1850 of Government of India and the declaration was forwarded to Chief Commissioner by the Chief Engineer in 1860.

In March 1862 as an experimental measure, a municipal committee was constituted at Bangalore consisting of nine members who elected a President and Vice-President among themselves. The Executive Engineer, a European Assistant and one European gentlemen of local knowledge and not more than six Indian members, official and non-official were to take active interest in municipal affairs. All projects to be taken must be approved by the Chief Engineer and Commissioner. At the rate of four annas per *ankanam* grant was sanctioned to the finance committee. A similar committee was constituted in Mysore during 1862. "In Bangalore, people learnt to appreciate the advantage of good roads, well kept drains and pure water; a little opposition was encountered when projects of general utility were brought forward", says Hayavadana Rao.¹⁰

In 1864-65 each of the eight District headquarters, the Municipal Committees were founded, and then to taluk headquarters and to large trading centres and villages. These committees first limited themselves to conservancy operations. In these Municipalities during 1871 regularly organised Boards were formed consisting of the most influential European and Indian members. *Ex-officio* members not exceeding 1/3rd of the total members, but representing various departments were formed.

⁹ Hayavadana Rao, IV, p.272.

¹⁰ Ibid., p.273.

In 1869, a notification was issued specifying municipal offences punishable by Amildars, and it was applicable in many taluk headquarters and important towns. In Bangalore, municipal operations were conducted on a large scale. There was a paid president in charge.

Education

The Devereaux Commission headed by the Judicial Commissioner Devereaux in 1854 drew an a education scheme for Mysore and Kodagu. There was a Director for Public Instruction, two Inspectors, four Deputy Inspectors and 20 Sub-Deputy Inspectors. Provision had been made in the scheme about the number of schools to be established and the funds to be made available. Progress made soon after is already observed.

Though Cubbon was disappointed over public response, in 1859-60 there were 15 applications from various places, and in 1864-65 there were 18 Kannada government schools in the State and 30 schools assisted by grant-in-aid. All this cost Rs.1½ lakhs which Government of India sanctioned.

In 1868 the programme proposed by B.L.Rice called Hobli School Scheme was accepted by the Government, and Hayavadana Rao describes 1868 as “the year of importance in the history of education in Mysore”.¹¹

Under the scheme, a school was to be sanctioned to every hobli where the people desired to have one and they provided a school-house. The teachers in indigenous school (*Koolimatha* etc.) after being trained at the Normal School were appointed as teachers, and during training they were paid Rs.five per month and on appointment, Rs.seven per month. Most of these indigenous teachers were ignorant of mathematics and geography and thus needed training. The cost of the schools was to be met by a cess collected on the land revenue (at the rate of one anna per rupee) and education was to be free. Local committees were formed to supervise the schools.

Accordingly by, 1867, in all the schools including those managed by Christian Missionaries there were 28,000 pupils including girls.

“The advantage of having a school in each hobli centre was considered, that the farthest distance from the school would not exceed 4 ½ miles,” says Shama Rao.¹²

The education cess, then collected initially fetched Rs.80,000. Bowring was a great enthusiast over education, and at the end of the year when the scheme was introduced, buildings and teachers were hard to find. Where schools had not come up, text books were sent to Amildars with instructions to sell them in the taluk office.

An interesting remark of Bowring can be quoted here. While speaking about Mysore ryots whom he describes them as people “with good deal of sturdiness”. Over efforts to impart education to them he says, “but he (the ryot) is not

¹¹ Ibid., p.497.

¹² Shama Rao, p.522.

fond of learning, and thinks that children will neglect the plough for books” (Eastern Experience, p.21). The Hobli school system helped to spread school net work in rural areas.

Forest Conservation

“The systematic conservancy of forests began during the regime of Bowring,” says Shama Rao. Forests being state’s wealth was misused by the public and traders. In 1863-64, the Department of Forest Conservation was established. Earlier, three Divisions worked under various arrangements. When an agriculturist wanted wood other than teak and sandalwood he obtained it by paying specified rate to the government. Forest Department prepared two lists of reserved trees, the first list of 15 kinds declared as “absolutely the property” of the government. The second had 27 kinds of trees reserved from the traders, but free to the ryots, but they must be trees from the forests of the same taluk. The traders could cut these trees by paying a fee. In 1869 rules were framed classifying forests as of the District and the State Forests. The District Forests were under the supervision of the Revenue Department, and State Forests were under the management of Forest Department.

Major Hunter was appointed as Conservator of Forests in 1864. The first year of the Department was occupied with gaining knowledge of the extent of forests and their resources, and over the preservation of teak and an alarm over the dwindling numbers was raised. Forest Legislation was undertaken in 1865, and duties of forest officers were prescribed. Several acts injurious to forest were brought within the orbit of law and constituting them into offences. License to fell trees and passport for removing forest products were introduced. Powers of the Forest officers were enhanced in 1869. For offences a fine was collected and it was ₹.50 earlier was raised to ₹.500. Arrangement and rules to conserve forests were tightened. Inspection also became more regular.

There was no let up in taking care of tanks or irrigation works during Bowring’s regime. He speaks at length about the importance of tanks in his work ‘*Eastern Experience*’ under the heading, ‘Tanks of Mysore’. He further encouraged cultivation of coffee, cinchona, mulberry and other commercial crops. Mysore had 21,000 coffee plantation, and of these Europeans held 300, totalling 33,000 acres and 78,000 acres of plantations were held by the natives.¹³ But there was to be fluctuation in crops due to rain conditions and pests and insects. Fluctuation in world market due to competition from other countries was also experienced.

“In the uncertainty as to the ultimate success of growing coffee, some planters have turned their attention to the possibility of rearing cardamom, pepper and cinchona. Pepper vine grows naturally. Plants from the cinchona nursery on the Baba Budan Hills have been distributed in Manjarabad...” says Bowring.¹⁴

¹³ Bowring, W. *Eastern Experience*, p.102.

¹⁴ Ibid.

The State saw all-round progress under Bowring. Railway line to Bangalore was opened in 1864. Building for Secretariat (Athara cutchery) was completed in 1867. (Present High Court building) and Secretariat was shifted to the new building. Bangalore Central Jail was constructed on a wide campus, with well-planned Barracks in 1863, with accommodation for 1000. It had been considered second to none in India. Other centres in the state followed its



Athara cutchery

model.¹⁵ He resigned in 1870 and departed to England.

A public farewell was given to him in which the “Indian community of Bangalore testified to the success of his administration” says Hayavadana Rao. He further adds: “His name is much revered on throughout the State. His courtesy, culture, experience and deep interest in Oriental studies enabled him sympathise readily with Indian Institutions while his great talents and practical energy won him respect of all. The assimilation of the system of government, therefore to that of British Provinces, although it had necessitated the introduction of a large European element than before, was conjoined with the recognition of Indian merit and talent. Two, out of eight Districts were placed under the administration of Indian Deputy Superintendents, appointments which ranked among the highest anywhere, held at that period by their countrymen. Many important judicial and other offices were filled in similar manner, and the way was left for a more extensive employment of Indian agency.”¹⁶

Bowring made Mysore a Regulation province, improved its finances, introduced budget system, undertook the uphill task of Revenue Survey and Settlement, modernised police department, laid foundation for the spread of education by introducing Hobli school system, introduced civic bodies in towns, reorganised judiciary, expanded coffee cultivation, took steps to

¹⁵ Karnataka State Gazetteer, II, p.438.

¹⁶ Hayavadana Rao, II, p.2972.

protect and expand State's forest wealth, expanded sericulture, encouraged cinchona cultivation, undertook public works and helped Mysore to grow as a modern and prosperous state. Agriculture could flourish because the ryots could continue their profession without exploitation of the officials due to the revenue settlement and getting a longer tenure of 30 years. "The thirty years lease gave the cultivators to effectively protect them self against the rapacity of any of the Raja's officials hereafter, and the investigation into rent-free holdings and the grant of title-deed to the possessors will give validity to this kind of property which it never enjoyed before" says Bowring.¹⁷

"There was scarcely a branch of administration but came under scrutiny and reforming hand of the untiring and energetic head of the Government," says Rice. ¹⁸Bowring Hospital, Bowring Institute and Bowringpeth (now Bangarpeth in Kolar district) were named in sweet memory of the Chief Commissioner.

His work entitled, *Eastern Experience*, exuberates his love for Mysore and its people over whom he ruled. There has been severe criticism by later Diwan C.Rangacharlu, the then Palace Bakshi, but a highly respected officer, written with the title '*The British Administration of Mysore*' published in 1874. It was published anonymously from London. He is highly critical of Bowring for many of his policies including bringing in European officers in large number, which was a burden on the State treasury. The whole booklet is presented at the end of the work as Appendix. It helps one to review the rule of the British Commissioners and foresee the policies of a future Dewan in the next volume, though Dewan Rangacharlu's highly fruitful administration was of a very short period.

EXTRACT FROM "EASTERN EXPERIENCE"

In the vicinity of Bangalore, owing to the rapid increase in the population and consequent wealth of the place, land, whether for agricultural or for building purposes, had acquired an enhanced value. The soil is mostly of a rich red colour, like that of Devonshire, and when the rainfall is abundant, is very productive, while the tillage is carefully attended to by the ryots, who are skilful cultivators, ploughing their lands three or four times, and using manure extensively. It is their custom to sow two or three kinds of seeds on parallel rows in the same field, and one consequently sees, growing together, the five-headed ragi, a small species of millet, which, when made into pudding, is the staple food of the people ; ballar, a creeping bean with a sweet-scented white flower ; and jola, a large kind of millet, which grows to a height of several feet. In dry, that is, unirrigated lands, also grown various kinds of pulses- the castor-oil plant, sesamum, and horse gram, which, unlike the gram used in the north of India, is a bean and not a pea. A little cotton sufficient for household consumption is also grown, but the people do not appreciate the foreign species, alleging that they are not so hardy as the indigenous kind.

¹⁷ Bowring, Op.cit. p.16

¹⁸ Rice, p.435.



Some of the Mysore tanks are of great age and of considerable size, that is, probably 300 years old, and 10 miles round. As the country is generally undulating, and intersected by numerous valleys, threaded by natural watercourses, it occurred to the natives, many centuries ago, to dam up the supply thus furnished, in order to irrigate their fields in the dry season, and, in this way, as population increased, and additional land was brought under the plough, a chain of such tanks formed, gradually increasing in size and capacity as the line was prolonged. In many instances, advantage has been taken of gorges in the hills, to throw up colossal embankments, which have withstood, with fair success, the floods of centuries; but, as a general rule, the tanks of Mysore are mutually dependent works, situated in the same catchment basin. This close dependence upon one another admits of every reservoir in the chain receiving the surplus escape water of the tank immediately above it, so that there is no wastage; but, on the other hand, should the annual upkeep be neglected, the larger tanks are subject to great risk from the sudden breaching, during high floods, of those higher up in the line.

From the same cause the railway, which forms, as it were, a vast embankment over the face of the country, and which, if not amply furnished with sufficient waterway at numerous points, has the affect of arresting the free discharge of the accumulated surface drainage, is much endangered in the event of great tanks in its neighbourhood giving way after continues and heavy rain.

The embankments of first-class tanks are more than a mile in length, fifty feet wide, and as much in height, with sluices at either end, and immense escape-weirs, solidly constructed of large stones. The embankment is pierced by a culvert, which in some instances, is of such a size as to admit a man creeping through it, and on either side of the embankment is a sluice, that in the water as in worked with a plug which regulates the discharge, while from that on the other side the irrigation channels are taken which supply water to the fields. A tank when full is said to contain six months' supply, and, taking this as a maximum, the people reckon the water stored after each fall of rain at one, two, or three months' supply, as the case may be, fifteen days being the minimum. When the smaller tanks, wither from want of rain, or from some defect, temporarily run dry, Bengal gram is commonly planted in the bed, Government taking a share of the produce. It often happens, however, that so much silt has been deposited in the tanks, that their repair is impracticable.

At Hosakote, in the Bangalore district, is one of the largest reservoirs in the province, receiving the drainage of many square miles of country, and having below it many hundred kandies of rice-land. A kandy of irrigated land is about two acres in extent, twenty kudus (koodoos), of 500 square yards each, making a kandy. In dry or unirrigated land the kandy is also divided into twenty kudus, but each kudu contains 3,200 square yards, or about two-thirds of an acre. The term *kandi*, or *khanduga* in Kanarese, signifies the extent of ground requiring a kandy-weight of seed to sow it.

Jewels of Administration



A Considerable revenue is raised from sandal-wood in Mysore, it being exported to Bombay, where it is used for carving, and for funeral pyres by luxurious Hindus, while large quantities are sent to China, the Indian wood being much superior to that of the Feejee Islands, where it is also found. Persons felling sandalwood without authority are liable to fine, and the conservation of the trees forms as important a branch of the duties of the forest department as the preservation of the royal forests.

About nine miles north of Periyapatam, near the town of Bettadapur, is a very fine peak called Mallikarjuna, which is a prominent object throughout the western part of Mysore. There is a wearisome flight of steps to the summit, passing through many gateways, and at the top there is a small temple which has attained some notoriety, owing to its having been struck by lightning, which is regarded by the people as a token of the presence of the Divinity, who, in the shape of the god Siva, honoured it by a visit. From this point a splendid view may be had of the Coorg mountains, and of a wide stretch of country on all sides.

Mallikarjuna Peak, Bettadapur



The presence of a large British force speedily attracted to Bangalore the usual surroundings of traders, and a further impetus was given to its growing prosperity by the transfer to it of the civil administration of the province when the government was taken out of the hands of the late Maharaja Krishnaraj in 1831. Again, on the opening of the railway in 1864, the town became the nucleus of trade in the whole country, and the population has increased so largely that it now ranks next to Madras among the cities of Southern India. According to a

census taken two years ago, the population amounted to 1, 32,000, of which the cantonment contained 79,000, and the old town 53,000 inhabitants. The bulk of the population is Hindu, there being only 11,000 Musalmans, 3,900 Europeans (including English soldiers), and 2,500 Eurasians.



kempe gowda tower

According to popular tradition, the city is destined to still further expansion. On some of the eminences in the vicinity are picturesque little temples, called 'Mantapams,' which are assigned as the future limits of the place, two of them being far beyond the inhabited quarters.

The climate seems to be equally suited to Europeans and natives, epidemics being of rare occurrence, and other diseases of a mild character. In proof of its salubrity, it may be observed that, although it is situated in the 13th degree of north latitude, and therefore exposed to a tropical sun, the English soldiers are in the habit of playing cricket on the parade ground for eight months of the year without any ill effects.

Among the more profitable crops grown under tanks is mulberry. The introduction of silkworms into Mysore is attributed to Tippu Sultan, and is one of the few benevolent measures for which he can take credit. During the last eighty years considerable attention has been paid to rearing silkworms by the Musalman population of the Bangalore and Mysore districts, this branch of industry being very remunerative till recently, when some disease which attacked the silkworms of Europe showed itself in those of Mysore, and the out-turn of silk began to decline sensibly. Several attempts to resuscitate it were made by an enterprising Italian firm, who received every encouragement from the State; but, although cartoons of Japanese and Chinese silkworms' eggs were twice imported at considerable cost, and distributed gratis to carious localities, these efforts did not meet with success, and the silk trade still languishes. The Bangalore district used to produce 4,000 *maunds* (24 pounds = 1 *maund*), but the out-turn is now much smaller, nor will the trade revive till a change occurs in those climatic causes which seem to affect the vitality of the silkworm.



Silk Factory - Mysore

A few miles from Mysore is one of the largest establishments in India for refining sugar. The Sugar cane, of which the jaggery is used for the purpose, is grown chiefly near Seringapatam, and is one of the most profitable crops, though it takes fourteen or sixteen months to attain maturity. The jaggery is boiled in water, in which some lime and animal blood are mixed, and, after being

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filtered, is passed through charcoal to discolor it. It is then boiled by steam, when crystallisation takes place. After cooling, the crystals are separated from the treacle, and are assorted into three classes, of which the first is of excellent quality. In connection with the sugar refinery is a distillery, where a superior kind of spirit is produced, which has a large sale, both in Mysore and beyond the frontier. An inferior kind of spirit, made of jaggery, taken from the date palm, is also largely consumed in the country.



Oldest Engine - Fairy Queen (1855 Model)