



Purna Prasad Bungalow, Bengaluru



Chapter 14

● P N.Krishnamurthy

On the retirement of T.R.A. Thamboo Chetty the officiating Dewan, Purnaiah Narasinga Rao, (P.N.)Krishnamurthy succeeded as the Dewan. P.N.Krishnamurthy was a descendant of Dewan Purnaiah and was the Dewan in the days of Regency (from March 1901), 17 months before the Investiture of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, which took place on 8th August 1902, at the hands of Viceroy Lord Curzon. “Put your heart into your work. Be just. Be courageous. Be merciful to the lowly. Be considerate to all. Work as though you were going to live not for 90 years but for 5....” were the words of advice of Lord Curzon at the time of the Investiture to the Maharaja.¹

Achievements of Krishnamurthy

Preparation of *Secretariat Manual*, introduction of modern systems of maintaining files etc. in administration, expansion of the Agricultural Department, establishment of the Cooperative Department, implementing Local Boards Regulation (1883) in 1903, establishment of Mysore City Improvement Trust in 1903, completion of the First Installation of Cauvery Power Project and supply of power to Bangalore city in 1905 were some important developments under Krishnamurthy’s Dewanship.

In the ‘Madras-Mysore’ controversy, Krishnamurthy was the leader of the ‘Mysore party’. Since he belonged to one of the richest noble families of Mysore (Yelandur Jahgir) as well as being the descendant of Purnaiah, Krishnamurthy had put forth his claim to Dewanship as early as in 1882, on the demise of Rangacharlu. As a Council member, he had clashed with Sheshadri Iyer. Though there was opposition to his appointment as Dewan, yet since this was

¹ Shama Rao, Modern Mysore, p.192

the first time a Mysorean was being appointed as Dewan, the local officials closed their ranks and supported his case. They were afraid of any outsider being posted as the Dewan. The Maharani also supported this. D.V.Gundappa points out that Krishnamurthy won over Lord Curzon who had visited Mysore in 1900, and with his blessings became the Dewan.² “The most promising local candidate” was the Viceroy’s view about him. But D.V.Gundappa is somewhat critical about his administration which he describes as lacking in grit and enthusiasm, unlike the earlier Dewans.

“On the accession of Maharaja power, exigencies which existed during the time of Regency to have a Council more or less of an executive character ceased to operate. To the British Government, the Maharaja was solely responsible for maintaining amiable relations with that (British) power and for the efficient administration of his State,” says Shama Rao.³

Maharaja’s Powers ‘Enhanced’

The British did not like some of the policies and attitudes of Rangacharlu and Sheshadri Iyer. The Dewans were more powerful than the rulers. The Maharaja was very young in the days of Rangacharlu and also in the days of Sheshadri Iyer. Rangacharlu was likened to the Prince’s father and even in the days of Sheshadri Iyer, the Prince was not sure of his powers and limitations. Sheshadri Iyer had even threatened to resign and had taken long leave, when his wishes were not heeded. It could be equally so under the Regency and also under Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, who was also very young. “The British policy now was to increase the Maharaja’s powers, and in order to strengthen his position against the Dewan, he was provided with a British Private Secretary, Sir Evan Machonochie,” says Bjorn Hettne. The Private Secretary’s office was opened in the palace and some rooms were reserved for this purpose. The Resident also acted to ‘enhance’ the powers of the Maharaja by giving regular advice.

Machonochie also clearly states, “A succession of strong and able Dewans had gradually gathered an undue share of authority into their own hands. Lord Curzon was anxious that the state of affairs should cease and the Maharaja should be the actual ruler of his people and master of his own house.”⁴

Shama Rao also points out that in the new arrangement, the Council resumed the old character of being a consultative Council. “But at the same time, care was taken to maintain the Council as an effective body with real power, acting not only in co-operation with the Dewan but

² D.V.G., p.65.

³ *Ibid*, p.197.

⁴ Hettne Bjorn, *The Political Economy of Indian Rule* (quotes Machonochie’s *Life in Indian Civil Service*), pp:134-35.

also serving as a check on his action and opinions.”⁵ The Dewan actually lost much of his powers and initiative in the process.

Schedule of Portfolios

A list of schedules was prescribed as had existed in the Regency period, regarding issues to be handled by the Dewan and Councillors and a list of subjects which needed the approval of the Maharaja. Certain subjects were to be submitted by the Secretary of the department to the respective Councillor, who was expected to handle it. The Councillor prepared a note for the Council, and after the Council discussed the subject with the approval of the Dewan, it was referred to the Maharaja for orders. But subjects not falling under the above schedule were to be approved by the Dewan directly. In such cases the concerned Secretary prepared a note and referred it to the concerned Councillor who placed it before the Dewan for approval. “If any material difference became perceptible between a member of the Council and the Dewan, it was left to the discretion of the Dewan to treat the subject as a Council matter or to submit the same for the orders of the Maharaja,” Shama Rao explains.⁶

Notification No.36 issued on 8 August 1902 defines the changes, beginning with the words, “His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to direct the Consultative Council to be styled. The Council of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore shall be formed and that it shall consist of the Dewan and two Members whose duty it will be to advise His Highness in all important matters.” The Notification was issued under the heading *The Change in the Constitution of the Executive Council*. Twelve rules are prescribed for the conduct of the business of the Council. The number of Councillors was reduced to two (instead three) with the Dewan as the chief.

A Revenue Commissioner was appointed with powers specified in the Land Revenue Code and V.P.Madhav Rao, a Member of the Council was posted to the new office. This helped to “exercise better control and secure more sympathetic supervision over the Land Revenue Department and it was deemed expedient to place it under the centralised authority subject to control of the Government,” says Hayavadana Rao.⁷



V.P.Madhav Rao

“In devising the new constitution, the main thought was directed to preserve the efficiency of the Council and enlist the active interest and cooperation of the councillors in all measures of Government, consistently with the position of His Highness as the sole deciding authority in all matters of importance. The continuation, accordingly, of the Executive Council became inconsistent with the constitutional position of His Highness and was therefore changed into a consultative body,” says Hayavadana Rao.⁸

⁵ Shama Rao, p.197.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Mysore Gazetteer*, pp:3016.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp:3013-14.

Summary of the Constitution

After listing all the provisions of the new constitution, Hayavadana Rao summarises the effects of the constitution thus:

- (1) Make the Maharaja the supreme deciding authority in all matters of primary importance.
- (2) Make the Dewan the Chief Minister in the Executive Government of the State.
- (3) Restrict the Dewan's actions and subjects, nevertheless within certain well-defined limits, even in those matters in which he was under the new constitution, vested with the right to interfere with a view to conserve the interests of the state.⁹

Dewan Krishnamurthy after a long wait, secured Dewanship but was totally disappointed with his circumscribed powers. It was the European Secretary of the Maharaja and the Resident (Donald Robertson) who wielded power as the Maharaja was young and inexperienced in the day-to-day details of administration.

“The Dewan, inheritor of an autocratic tradition did not accept the new dispensation without a struggle,” says Bjorn Hettne. He quotes discussions between the Dewan and the Resident, when the proceedings assumed liveliness says Machonochie referring to the conversation between the two.¹⁰

Naturally the Dewan became aware of the Resident and the Secretary being his main hurdles. Machonochie vouches this feeling, as quoted by Hettne from Machonochie¹¹ “..... any reforming zeal which affected the vested interest or ambition of any class of his subjects was attributed by the latter to malign the influence of the Residency or myself and to corresponding weakness on the part of His Highness.”¹²

The intention of the British to curb the Dewan's power was clearly evident. Krishnamurthy reacted to the situation by saying that the Council may be abolished, and a Revenue Board may be replaced, as the Council was also functioning as the highest Revenue Tribunal for the State from 1889. The file *Correspondence Regarding the Reforms in the Council* in the State Archives (1906) shows that the Councillors wrote to the Maharaja pleading for expanding the executive authority of the Council. In 1905, there were suggestions aimed at reducing the Dewan's power further so that the Council could function smoothly with the Dewan conducting the meetings.

The Dewan wrote to the Maharaja that the members' demand was not worth considering, and the position itself was superfluous. “To have our Executive Council of three members is to retain three men for doing what one man can best perform. Both the Councillors appear to think that the present attempt is one intended to concentrate all powers in my hand. Nothing is further from my

⁹ *Ibid.*, p.3016.

¹⁰ Hettne, quoting Machonochie, p.145.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, also p.76.

¹² *Ibid.*, quoting Machonochie, p.76.

purpose or can do greater injustice to my appreciation of the present situation. Various options were imposed on the Dewan since 1902 as compared with the considerable freedom of action that the Dewan had till then.”¹³

Hettne feels the Dewan’s complaint was indirectly indicating that too much power had been vested with the Resident in internal administration.¹⁴ This resulted in checks on the powers of the Dewan and the Council. The Maharaja assumed that his own powers would also have to be curbed as the impression of the Dewan and he writes: “Having formed my personal opinion on the material thus available, I thought it well to consult the Resident privately and unofficially and I found his views coincide very closely with my own”.¹⁵

Resident’s Powers Stay

The Dewan’s recommendations were not accepted by the Maharaja. Hettne feels that “consulting the Resident was, considering his young age and lack of experience decisive for the view he finally took”.¹⁶ The Maharaja was not happy with the Council “as now constituted”. The Dewan could not be given full executive powers as there was no unanimity in the Council. The Maharaja had deeply thought over the matter is clear from his following reply, “I find the difficulties of the past three years have been very largely due to the personalities of those who have held the most important offices and that, Council apart, the existing system has not had our exhaustive trial as would warrant our subjecting it to a radical, and, so far as I am able to judge, unpopular revision. I am averse from using the Mysore administration as a field for further experiment unless and until we have made every possible endeavour to improve its efficiency on existing lines. My feeling is strongly in favour of Council of some kind. As an adviser it has an appreciable value; secondly, it is an institution that accords with ancient Hindu tradition; and lastly, it is a feature of government, to which the people of Mysore have become accustomed, the abolition of which would be regarded with suspicion and distrust.”¹⁷ Hindu tradition required the king to be helped by the *mantrashakti*, or the advice of ministers (*mantries*).

Thus the Dewan was in conflict with the Maharaja. There were efforts to curb the former’s powers in 1905. It is possible that the Maharaja’s remark ‘the personalities of those who have held the most important offices’ were largely responsible for the ‘difficulties of the past three years’ also appeared to be an aspersion on the Dewans.

Offices Modernised

Lord Curzon had advised that the running of the administration had to be on modern lines and on the British pattern. He also advised that some senior officers could be sent to the Supreme Government Control Office at Simla to

¹³ *Ibid*, p.76.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, p.77.

¹⁵ *Correspondence Regarding Reforms in the Council*, State Archives.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p.77.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, *Correspondence*

acquaint them with modern methods and techniques used there. The Register of the Dewan's Office, D.R.Narasimha Rao was deputed to Simla who stayed there and apprised himself of the methods and systems. He recommended the system of maintaining files to arrange state records, classifying them, depending upon the urgency and importance of subject contained in each file, the methods of keeping track of their movement etc. He also prepared a '*Secretariat Manual*' for the guidance of the officials. His report and the *Manual* were accepted and the administration was modernised on line with the British methods.

"On the administrative side, an important measure of reform was introduced at about this time," says Hayavadana Rao.¹⁸ The separation of the General and Revenue Secretariat was decided on April 1904. The Revenue Secretariat had five separate branches which were placed under the control of a Registrar. The five Branches were:

- (I) Revenue Branch
- (II) Financial,
- (III) Legislative and Judicial,
- (IV) Local Boards and Sanitary, and
- (V) General.

I. The Revenue Branch had its jurisdiction over

- (a) Land Revenue
- (b) Survey
- (c) Agriculture
- (d) Forests and
- (e) Revenue Miscellaneous

II. The Financial Branch covered

- (a) General and Finance
- (b) Excise
- (c) Banking
- (d) Civil Accounts and
- (e) Statistics including Census.

III. Legislative and Judicial Branch covered

- (a) Legislation
- (b) Courts
- (c) Prison and Jails
- (d) Registration and Police.

IV. Local Boards and Sanitary Branch included

- (a) Local Boards
- (b) Municipal
- (c) Medical
- (d) Education and
- (e) Examinations

V. General Branch included

- (a) Reports

¹⁸ Mysore Gazetteer, p.3015.

- (b) Press
- (c) General Miscellaneous comprising
 - (i) Meteorology
 - (ii) Archaeology
 - (iii) Patents (iv) Weights and Measures
 - (v) Supply of stores and Stationary and
 - (vi) All matters not falling under any other Branches.¹⁹

The responsibilities of the Revenue Commissioner were withdrawn from the position of Revenue Councillor. As Councillor, there was no time to conduct tours for inspection and supervision of the Revenue Department. As Revenue Councillor, he had to try cases where orders were already passed by the Revenue Commissioner. Thus a separate Revenue Commissioner was appointed who functioned only from the Secretariat. T.Ananda Rao was the Revenue Commissioner appointed and the Accounts Department was fully reorganised. A financial branch was added to the Revenue and General Secretariat.

Co-operative Department

The second important administrative step was the establishment of the Department of Co-operation in 1905. The Agricultural Bank founded by Dewan Sheshadri Iyer had not fulfilled the expectation with which they had been started. Neither agriculture nor industry could progress unless their problem of indebtedness was solved. The Government of India passed the Cooperative Credit Societies Act 1904. Following its footsteps, Mysore Co-operative Societies Regulation was promulgated in June 1905 which introduced certain modifications in the Regulation by making use of the 1904 Act and adopting it to the local situations. 'Furtherance of thrift and providence among all sections of people including farmers, artisans, merchants etc. was its main aim. The newly founded societies were to supply raw material, seeds and manure to the farmers as well as articles of consumption at reasonable rates. A Registrar of Societies was set up to help them register, regulate and guide them. M.Shama Rao was the first Registrar and in the first year itself, seven societies were registered.

Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd was founded in 1905. At Holenarsipur, a society was founded to help weavers to procure raw materials and arrange for sales of their products etc. A member of the Weavers' Society of Saligrama was sent to Baroda to study the improved process of weaving. In 1905, a Grain Bank was started at Kotta in Sira taluk where farmers deposited their extra stock and those in need borrowed grain and paid interest in a specified proportion, in the form of grain. Grain was lent to the needy from the stocks maintained in the Grain Bank. The government helped the society with initial finance. In 1906, the number of societies increased to 15.

¹⁹ *Karnataka Letters, Dewan P.V.Krishna Murthy (Karnataka State Archives) Vol.II, p.150.*

Education

In the field of education, the Maharani's College at Mysore became a full-fledged degree college with affiliation to Madras University in 1902. A controversy over the admission of non-Brahmin girls to the college arose as the students were exclusively from the Brahmin communities. In 1905, 30 widows were awarded scholarships every year in order to encourage adult female education. Scholarships were instituted for two Muslim students from 1902-03 to register at Aligarh College in United Province (present Uttar Pradesh) and pursue special courses of their interest.

Substantial help was promised in 1902 to the proposed Science Institute by the Tatas. In 1905, the setting up of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore was settled, and the Mysore Government committed an annual grant of Rs.50,000 and gifted 370 acres of land.

Importance was given to technical education by the Dewan according to a scheme outlined in 1902 Industrial Education. "The object kept in view was not the imparting of any ideal, theoretical or scientific course but teaching of such industries and trades on improved methods as were adapted to supply the existing wants of the people such as carpentry, weaving, silk-rearing, iron work, rattan work, lacquer-work and to turn out every year a number of pupils fully equipped with the means of earning their livelihood", explains Shama Rao.

²⁰ A school was started at Channapatna and in four other places. These were broadly intended to serve as workshops conducted on business principles. Talented young men interested in arts were provided with scholarship to study at Schools of Arts in Madras and Bombay. Four weaving schools with carpentry attached to it were started.



Tata Silk Farm - Basavanagudi

Selected school teachers were also deputed for training in sericulture at the Tata Silk Farm at Bangalore. They were trained in improved methods of growing mulberry trees, rearing silk worms etc. by Japanese specialists. They in turn, taught sericulture to school students who studied the subject in the schools where sericulture was introduced as a part of the curriculum.

Three students were deputed to United States to the workshop of the General Electric Company for advanced training in electrical engineering. Similarly an officer of the Geological Department was sent to the England for special training in geology and mining.

"In 1903-04, the amended Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes, which had been long under discussion was passed. Thus was made 'up-to-date' and put on par with the British Indian Law," says Hayavadana Rao.²¹

20. Shama Rao, p.213.

21. Mysore Gazetteer, p.3019.



Local Self-Government

The Local Bodies Regulation which had been sent for the approval of the Supreme Government in 1883 was passed in 1902. Under these rules implemented in 1903, eight district boards, 77 taluk boards and 38 unions were constituted. Former Municipalities with less than a population of 3,000 each had unions founded for them. The newly constituted taluk board had 17 members. Four of them were *ex-officio* members (namely, Assistant Commissioner, medical officer, Amildar and a senior officer of the PWD Office), four others were elected members (who were above 21 and owning or holding land assessed at Rs.50 or more or paying house tax of Rs. Five per annum), and one Patel of any village in the taluk. The electorate was made up of people with the same qualifications similar to a candidate for election. One member was to be from the Municipal Board of the taluk headquarters. Three others were to be nominated by the government.

Cauvery Power Project Phase-I Installation was completed in 1903-04 and the Second Installation was nearing completion in 1906 with an additional 2000 H.P. of power generation. Power was also supplied to Bangalore City on 5th August, 1905 and the major cost for arranging the lighting works was Rs. Six lakhs. Sir John Hewett, Member of Viceroy's Council who inaugurated the power network at Bangalore praised the Maharaja for the farsightedness and wisdom that marked the administration of the State.²²

Another important development of the period was the formation of Mysore City Improvement Trust in 1903 with the allocation of Rs. Three lakhs for the improvement of the Mysore. Machonochie in his memories writes, "Shortly, after my arrival a committee was constituted to consider the improvement of Mysore City. It was composed of all leading officials of the State and was too large to be of any practical use. I ventured to suggest that if they would appoint a small sub-committee and place this at the disposal of a competent surveyor to submit definite proposals". The suggestion was accepted.

Civil Surgeon P.S.Achuta Rao, M.Venkatakrishniah (Editor '*Mysore Herald*') and an officer of the PWD, D'Cruz (whom Machonochie describes as 'not only a good all-round engineer and an exceptionally competent surveyor and untiring devoted worker') were members of the sub-committee, alongwith Machonochie. In about six months, D'Cruz "with a diminutive staff trained by himself and at a trifling cost had completed an admirable city survey giving every holding in detail in scale." Machonochie further states, "No senior officer including the Dewan appears to have taken serious interest in the matter. Maharaja's Private Secretary was the main brain behind it."

The proposal was accepted, and the Mysore City Improvement Trust was constituted with a senior executive as the Chairman with senior citizens as members. Slums were cleared, roads were straightened and widened, all surface drains were connected to main sewages and displaced population was provided with quarters. "The city of Mysore, as a consequence, challenges

²² *Ibid*, p.3019.

comparison for beauty and cleanliness and general amenity, with any other capital in the world,” says Shama Rao. ²³

Irrigation and Revenue

A distinction had existed on irrigation tanks - an assessment of Rs.300 and those with Rs.100. For the latter tanks, the government was not depended upon for repairs and the villagers themselves took care of them, and were exempted of irrigation cess. But for the former, the government took care by undertaking masonry and stone work. This distinction was removed in 1904, and under specified conditions (on recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner), all masonry and stonework was undertaken by the government. People’s cooperation was sought in the maintenance of tanks, when the repair and maintenance was undertaken by the PWD.

An experimental farm was started in 1905 at Hebbal near Bangalore and the Agricultural Chemist was put in charge of it. A Mycologist and Entomologist were selected from Canada with a view to investigate plant diseases and pests that impact on the crops.

There was a depression in the coffee export trade, due to the competition from Brazil in the world market. The government deputed V.P.Madhav Rao, the Council Member to meet the North and South Mysore Planters’ Association at Mudugere and Sakleshpur. He met leading planters and discussed their problems. To help the Association to participate in the Luisiana Purchase Exposition held in 1904, a financial grant of Rs.5,000 was sanctioned. A proposal to abolish *halat* or excise on betelnut was made in 1905 and implemented in 1907.



*Administrative building of the university, at
Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra - Hebbal*



The Survey and Settlement begun in 1863 by Bowring as Commissioner was completed in 1895 in the whole State. The first Revision Settlement was started in 1900, beginning with the taluks of Challakere and Molakalmuru. The revised revenue percentage was higher 15 percent to 22 percent. A Revenue Commission was appointed to head the Department in 1902 and the total Revenue of the State of 1.92 crores in 1901-2 rose to Rs.2.42 crores in 1905-06. Of this, the land revenue component was Rs.97.70 lakhs in the former year and Rs.91.02 lakhs in the latter.

The Manual of Village Accounts was published in 1902. The larger portion of the powers and responsibilities were devolved on the Assistant Commissioner in charge of a group of taluks in 1904 and the Shekdari service was provided to look after some *hoblis*. In March 1905, the customary obligations of the farmers with regard to irrigation works was also defined after the introduction of the Revision Settlement.

In 1904, the first Cattle and Agricultural show was held at Hiriyur. Several varieties of manure and its composition were explained at the show. Several types of ploughs were also displayed and their comparative merit was explained. There was a ploughing competition also organised.

Krishnamurthy had to face harsh criticism in the Representative Assembly and in the newspapers. During the plague and the subsequent years 1899, 1900 and 1902, the Representative Assembly did not meet. Even after it started meeting, in 1903 and 1904, the attendance was very thin. Knowing fully well that Krishnamurthy was softer than Sheshadri Iyer, the verbal attacks were strong. Having been disarmed of his major executive powers, the Dewan at times was facing lot of embarrassment, and his answers to Members proposals were in the nature of a postman, like that matter would be conveyed' or 'considered'. This confusion in the definition of the Dewan's powers also added to his lack of initiative. Hettne, studying the problem says, "According to the Maharaja, there were two alternative forms of Government (1) an Executive Council and (2) a Consultative Council. In spite of the first alternative being 'opposed to strict theory' and disliked by the Dewan, he preferred this form." An Executive Council would make it a real working body. Over those actions the Dewan could have still maintain an effective control was Hettne's view.²⁴

In this confused situation, the Dewan could not initiate any new major policy, either to improve the railways, roads, industry and irrigation projects worth the name. All programmes went on as an acceleration that had already been set in motion. All achievements and projects were in full swing and reached their natural physical culmination. Though good natured and cordial in his behaviour, the Dewan had to face adverse Assembly and Press. His dealing with the *Mysore Standard* proved to be a major problem and impacted on his reputation.

²⁴ Hettnee, p.78.

Rough Handling of Media

D.V.Gundappa says that though there had been no major change either in the administration or in public life in the period of Dewan Krishnamurthy, one episode which was adverse to the democratic temperament and freedom of the Press is significant. He calls it as a 'bad accident' (*durghatane*).²⁵ His hostility towards the press was directed against an English weekly *Mysore Standard* from Bangalore, which was edited by M.Srinivasa Iyengar.

R.Ramakrishnan states that in 1897, the paper published an article that the Maharani-Regent had a group of South Indian dancing girls in the palace and that it would have been better if she had not allowed such 'fallen angels' into the palace. In this connection, Sheshadri Iyer had opined that a sovereign in an absolute monarchy could expel an erring journalist outside the State or suppress the periodical concerned. The then Resident, J.A.Crawford suggested that though the necessity for drastic action was rather strong, it was not a good policy to suppress a newspaper. Finally the editor was made to publish an apology in the newspaper.²⁶

D.V.Gundappa further points out that though the newspapers did not show much enthusiasm over Krishnamurthy's Dewanship, the above mentioned *Mysore Standard* and *Nadegannadi*, its sister publication in Kannada wrote bitterly on (*'khaara khaaravagi, hulihuliyagi*; hot and sour) on the administration. This made the Dewan furious.²⁷

Swadeshmitra on 17th October 1905 reported, "On the third day of the meeting of the Representative Assembly, before the proceedings began, the Representative of *Mysore Standard* was ordered to leave the hall where the meeting was being held, as the Mysore Government suspected that this paper writes false matters against them. If the Government of Mysore believed that the paper was writing against it, the only proper course would have been to take legal action against the paper."²⁸

Mysore Star (16th October 1905) reported, "There was nothing seditious in the paper at all. It might have contained some articles containing criticism of the administration of the Dewan. The late Sir.K.Sheshadri Iyer never used to take notice of any adverse criticism, though many papers transgressed the bounds of freedom".²⁹

Suryodaya Prakashika (25th October 1905) reported, "It would have been creditable to the Government to bring an action against the paper in a court of justice. It is³⁰ indeed deplorable that Mysore, the Model State, should have recourse to such arbitrary measures."³¹

"The articles in the *Mysore Standard* were neither obscene nor vituperative but their purpose seems to have been to satirize the autocracy," says

25 D.V.G., pp:69-70.

26 *Quarterly Journal of the Mythic Society (QJMS)*, Vol.74, p.361.

27 D.V.Gundappa, *Op.cit.*, p.69-70.

28 G.S.Halappa, *History of Freedom Movement*, 1966, p.740.

29 *Ibid.*

30 *Ibid.*

31 *Ibid.*

Ramakrishnan.³² D.V.Gundappa points out that due to the criticism of action against the *Mysore Standard* representative in the Assembly, there was lot of adverse reaction (as seen from the above) against the Government. The Government took no legal action. But after some weeks, the office of the newspaper in Bangalore in the Fort area was vandalised at night, a bale of paper was brought to the street and set on fire. Inside the office, the records and papers were destroyed. “It may have been an attempt to find out who were contributing to the paper as the intention of the act,” says D.V.Gundappa. The police took no action in the matter. Either some overenthusiastic supporter of the Dewan might have done it or somebody who wanted to seek favours of those who were in power, was the talk in the streets.”

But this incident “did not add to the image of Krishnamurthy,” says D.V.Gundappa.³³ The experiment of taking away much of the executive powers of the Dewan and the Council in 1902 also curbed the Dewan’s capacities. Hayavandana Rao points this out and to the restoration of some such powers again in 1906.³⁴

In March 1906, P.N.Krishnamurthy resigned and was succeeded by V.P.Madhav Rao as Dewan.



Hardinge circle, Mysore

³² *QJMS, Ibid.*

³³ D.V.Gundappa, p.70.

³⁴ Mysore Gazetteer, p.3020.

Jewels of Administration



Old Photo of Landsdowne Building, Mysore



Landsdowne building, Mysore

