

CHAPTER XII

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

IN the early years, the police system was simple though vigorous. Protection of life and property of the people and the maintenance of law and order in the rural areas were primarily attended to by village officers like *Gaunda* or *Patel*, *Senabova* or *Shanbhogue*, *Talari* and *Kavalgar*. They kept a close watch and, when necessary, assisted civil and military officers in tracking down thieves and other criminals. There were also spies who sent reports to higher authorities. The Governors and *Dandanayakas* were responsible for maintenance of law and order in their areas. Under the Wodeyar rulers of Mysore, *Patnada Chavadi* was the headquarters of the police at the metropolis, which supervised the work of the village watchmen also. This arrangement was continued under Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan also, with addition of a considerable number of spies to gather intelligence of every type.

Later, during the regency of Dewan Purnaiya (1799-1810), the Amildar of each taluk was made also the head of the police in his jurisdiction and he disposed of all minor complaints. To protect the life and property of people, there were armed police officials called *Kandachar* police. In times of emergency, they were taken into the military. This system continued till 1831. In 1834, the British Commission promulgated a code under a special *Hukumnama* which regulated day-to-day duties of *Kandachar* police. This force was meant exclusively for attending to police duties during normal times and to assist the defence forces during times of grave public disorders. This was the position till the end of the period of Sir Mark Cubbon's regime.

The Amildar was also assisted in his police duties by a *Killedar*, a *Naib Killedar* or *Daffedar* and *Hoblidars*. The head of the Police Department was the Commissioner who was assisted by a *Bakshi*. In 1844, the post of *Bakshi* was abolished and Superintendents of Police were appointed with powers to recruit, transfer, promote and discharge all officials under them from the *Killedars* downwards. A separate Judicial Commissioner was

appointed in 1856, and he was made the *ex-officio* Inspector-General of Police. In 1873, a Deputy Inspector-General of Police was appointed. The Deputy Commissioners were made the heads of the Police in the districts. Police Assistants of the rank of Assistant Commissioners were posted in all the districts to assist the Deputy Commissioners in the discharge of their police duties. In 1876-77, the post of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police was abolished. The Judicial Commissioner ceased to exercise the powers of the Inspector-General of Police from 1879, and the Chief Commissioner himself assumed direct control of the police.

After the rendition of the State in 1881, the direction of the police was at first in the hands of the Dewan and the Deputy Commissioners of the districts. In 1885, a new Inspector-General of Police was appointed and he was also the Inspector-General of Forests and Plantations and the Director of Agriculture and Statistics. With the revival of the office of Police Assistant Commissioner, Police Assistant Commissioners were appointed to be in charge of sub-divisions. The Amildars and Deputy Amildars continued to be the heads of police in their jurisdiction and were aided by Police Inspectors and Jamedars. The police force consisted of both the regular police and the village police, who were the hereditary village servants.

In 1901-02, the village police were provided with a uniform and lances. The regular police consisted of officers and men enrolled under Regulation V of 1908. The district police consisted of the taluk police and the district reserve force including the armed emergency reserve. Later, a separate Criminal Investigation Department was organised; districts were grouped into ranges in charge of Deputy Inspectors-General of Police; posts of Deputy Superintendents of Police were created; a separate Railway Police force was also organised, and each village was made responsible for local protection. When the Police Department was further reorganised, Jamedars were replaced by Sub-Inspectors.

When the new Mysore State was formed in 1956, in order to bring about uniformity in police administration throughout the State, the Mysore Police Act, 1963 (Mysore Act No. 4 of 1964), was adopted and it came into force with effect from 2nd April 1965. The functions, powers and set-up of the police are now governed by this Act.

The law and order situation during the decade from 1958 to 1967 was generally normal. In February 1967, during the District-level Tournament, about 2,000 students of the Malnad College of Engineering, Government Polytechnic and First Grade Co'lege, Hassan, held demonstrations. Earlier, on 24th and 25th January 1967, the non-gazetted officers observed a "quit

work day" peacefully after applying for casual leave. The year 1968 was a normal year except for an "anti-Hindi agitation" by the students of local schools and colleges of the Hassan town.

In January 1969, the students of the First Grade College, Hassan, went on a strike protesting against alleged irregularities in granting of scholarships. In April 1969, about 250 labourers of Hassan Coffee Curing Works and Kothari Coffee Curing Works struck work demanding enhancement of pay and claiming arrears of bonus, etc. The dispute was amicably settled. In July 1969, about 80 labourers of the Coffee Plantation of Lingapur Estate in Belur taluk, struck work demanding re-instatement of seven employees who had been dismissed for alleged assaulting an employee. Eight cases were registered at Arehally Police Station. The strike was called off when the demand of the workers was referred to the Labour Court.

During October 1969, there was a demonstration by the Hindulidavara Madhyama Vargada Vyavasayagarara Kshema Abhivridhi Samiti of Virupakshapura in Channarayapatna taluk demanding grant of Amruth Mahal Kaval lands to the landless. When sheds were put up unauthorisedly in those *kavals*, 177 persons were arrested and eight cases were registered and charge-sheeted. In this connection, 136 persons were fined Rs. 300 each and in default to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a week.

During December 1969, the Harijans of Guddenahalli in Hassan taluk held a demonstration protesting against the grant of a fallow land to the Coffee Curing Works. On a complaint from the owners of land, 17 trespassers were arrested. In the same month, there was also a student unrest in Hassan town owing to differences between two groups of students.

In April 1969, there was tension at Sakleshpur owing to the circulation of hand-bills which offended the feelings of a certain section of the people. Timely steps taken by the police resulted in assuaging the feelings and restoration of harmony. At Belur, there was a dispute between two groups over the boundaries of a burial ground.

On all these occasions, the police dealt with the situations with tact and care and averted untoward happenings.

**Cognisable
crimes**

Cognisable offences under the Indian Penal Code have been classified into six separate categories for purposes of investigation, viz., offences against the State, offences against persons, serious offences against persons and property, minor offences against persons, minor offences against persons and property and offences not specified. In 1968, there was a marked increase of offences

under classes I, IV and V. The following table gives the number of crimes registered according to the above classification for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968 :—

Class	Nature of crime	Year		
		1966	1967	1968
1	2	3	4	5
I	Offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety and justice	41	48	76
II	Serious offences against persons ..	210	274	238
III	Serious offences against persons and property or against property ..	319	335	327
IV	Minor offences against persons ..	79	74	93
V	Minor offences against property ..	594	450	613
VI	Other offences not specified before	12	11	11
	Total ..	1,255	1,192	1,358

In respect of grave crimes during 1966, 1967 and 1968, not much difference was noticed in number except in case of house-breaking and thefts. The following statement indicates the number of grave crimes committed in the district during 1966, 1967 and 1968 :—

Nature of crime	Number of cases		
	1966	1967	1968
(1) Murder	21	21	19
(2) Dacoity .. ..	..	1	1
(3) Robbery .. ..	..	..	2
(4) House-breaking and thefts ..	3	6	2
(5) Ordinary thefts	7	5	7
Total ..	31	33	31

The following is the classification of murders according to motives :—

Motive	1966	1967	1968
(1) Sexual jealousy ..	3	3	3
(2) Gain .. ..	..	..	2
(3) Family disputes ..	0	5	7
(4) Factions	1	1	..
(5) Other causes	11	10	7
Total ..	21	21	19

Source of data in the tables : District Superintendent of Police, Hassan.

The number of cases of rioting during 1966, 1967 and 1968 was 34, 41 and 73 respectively.

**Quinquennial
yearly averages**

The following statement shows the quinquennial yearly averages in respect of various categories of crimes committed in the district during the period from 1959 to 1968 :—

Sl. No.	Nature of crime	Quinquennial average	
		1959 to 1963	1964 to 1968
1	2	3	4
1.	Cognisable crimes	817	1,131
2.	Rioting	23	46
3.	Murder	12	20
4.	Kidnapping and abduction..	12	6
5.	Dacoity	2	2
6.	Robbery	8	7
7.	House-breaking and thefts	152	253
8.	Cheating	10	9
9.	Breach of trust	13	17

While the average number of cases of dacoity, robbery and cheating remained more or less the same during the two quinquennia, cases of other nature (except kidnapping and abduction cases) had registered an increase during the quinquennium from 1964 to 1968.

**Un-natural
deaths**

Un-natural deaths have to be reported under the law to the police, so that the real causes of the same can be determined. The police have to send the dead bodies for a thorough post-mortem examination. Inquest proceedings are held when witnesses are called to testify to the facts of the case. After this, the dead bodies are handed over to the relatives. There was an increase in the total number of such cases registered during 1966 and 1967 and there was a decrease in 1968, as compared to 1960. The number of suicidal poisoning cases showed a marked increase in 1968. The suicides were mainly due to dejection in life or family quarrels or ailments. The following table indicates the incidence of un-natural deaths during the years 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 :—

Sl. No.	Category	1960	1966	1967	1968
1.	Accidental drowning ..	33	97	81	62
2.	Suicidal drowning ..	19	18	35	15
3.	Hanging ..	6	9	14	6
4.	Snake bites ..	4	..	..	3
5.	Burns ..	9	10	11	6
6.	Electric shock ..	1	1	1	5
7.	Motor accidents ..	12	18	27	27
8.	Fall from heights ..	6	11	17	10
9.	Suicidal poisoning ..	12	40	38	53
10.	Railway accidents ..	..	1	1	3
11.	Lightning ..	..	2	..	..
12.	Other causes ..	43	49	33	41
	Total ..	145	256	258	235

The number of cases put up for trial by the police in respect of offences under the Motor Vehicles Act in 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 was as follows :—

Sl. No.	Category	1960	1966	1967	1968
1.	Over-speeding ..	88	59	72	10
2.	Use of dazzling lights ..	..	2	6	24
3.	Use of defective lights ..	..	..	..	20
4.	Violation of traffic signals ..	..	..	..	..
5.	Defective vehicles ..	..	..	..	..
6.	Using routes without permit	9	22	10	20
7.	Driving without licence ..	45	255	195	264
8.	Un-authorized carrying of passengers in goods vehicles	10	448	225	275
9.	Over-loading ..	461	30	57	114

It is seen from the above table that there were no cases of violation of traffic signals and defective vehicles during the years and there were only 20 cases during 1968 in respect of use of defective lights. There was a marked increase in the number of cases of use of dazzling lights, using of routes without permit, driving without licence, un-authorized carrying of passengers in goods vehicles and overloading and a marked decrease in the case of over-speeding in 1968.

The subjoined table gives figures of motor accidents for the years 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 :—

<i>Category of vehicles</i>	1960	1966	1967	1968
Motor cars	6	16	22	14
Motor buses	9	14	9	15
Motor lorries	18	38	32	31
Motor cycles	2	2	7	10
Jeeps	2	5	8	2
Other vehicles	1	6	8	10

The numbers of persons killed and injured in road accidents during those years were as follows :—

<i>Particulars</i>	1960	1966	1967	1968
Killed	11	23	32	26
Injured	63	95	93	89

Detection of cognisable crimes

Crime-detection involves perseverance, scientific approach and production of fool-proof evidence. It is natural to assume that not all cases put up by the police end in conviction. The percentage of detection of cognisable crimes during the years 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 is noted below :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1960 ..	47.1
1966 ..	36.1
1967 ..	26.8
1968 ..	31.0

The percentage of detection of grave crimes during 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 are given below :—

<i>Nature of crime</i>	1960	1966	1967	1968
Murder ..	70.0	38.8	31.2	76.2
Dacoity ..	50.0	..	..	50.0
Robbery ..	66.0	..	20.0	55.0
House-breaking and thefts	50.0	57.0	25.5	36.0
Ordinary thefts ..	50.0	50.9	37.0	52.0

The percentage of detection pertaining to murders was considerable, while it cannot be said so in case of other crimes.

Investigation was refused under Section 157(1) of Criminal Procedure Code in respect of 30 cases in 1966, 28 cases in 1967 and 21 cases in 1968.

The position in regard to sessions cases as at the end of 1968 is indicated below:—

No. com- mitted to pending sessions in 1968	Total	Convicted	Percentage of conviction	Acquit- Pending trial	
				8	10
11	23	5	38	8	10

The total value of property lost and recovered after investi- Property lost gations during the years 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 is given and recovered below:—

Year	Value of property		Rs.	Rs.
	Lost	Recovered		
1960	67,102.52	36,804.89	55.2	63.2
1966	2,09,224.00	1,32,432.00	63.2	35.0
1967	2,31,171.00	80,271.00	35.0	58.5
1968	2,53,209.34	1,48,174.85	58.5	..

Disposal of cases.—The nature of disposal of prosecuted cases during the years 1960, 1966, 1967 and 1968 is shown in the following table:—

Particulars		1960	1966	1967	1968
Number of cases decided by courts	392	501	581	700	
Number of cases ended in conviction	193	263	243	274	
Number of cases ending in acquittal or discharge	130	135	225	275	
Number of cases compounded	65	103	113	151	
Number of cases otherwise disposed of	..	..	..	..

Security cases.—The number of security cases put up in the district during 1968 was 76 under Section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code and 35 under Section 110 of the same Code.

The Mysore Restriction of Habitual Offenders Act, 1962 is Habitual in force in the district. Persons sentenced to substantive terms offenders

of imprisonment on not less than three occasions for any of the offences indicated in the Act are classified as habitual offenders. At the beginning of 1968, there were on the district registers, names of 14 habitual offenders. None of them had come to adverse notice during that year. The descriptions of the 'out-of-view' criminals are published in the weekly crime occurrence sheets and criminal intelligence gazettes for the information of the public. The police conduct also raids to spot out the 'out-of-view' criminals. The subordinate police staff are encouraged with rewards to trace these criminals. The total number of rowdy sheets maintained in the district at the end of 1968 was 51.

Prohibition

Prohibition was first introduced in Hassan district with effect from the 1st April 1950 under the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1948. It was discontinued with effect from the 15th October 1967. The District Police were in charge of the enforcement of prohibition in the district. The following tables show the number and nature of prohibition cases booked and fines levied and realised in the district :—

Year	<i>Illicit distillation</i>	<i>Possession of liquor</i>	<i>Drunkeness</i>	<i>Total No. of cases booked</i>
1958	.. 206	406	666	1,278
1959	.. 246	518	716	1,480
1960	.. 435	987	827	2,249
1965	.. 368	2,310	501	3,079
1966	.. 304	2,307	461	3,072
1967 (upto 15th October)	.. 163	1,502	325	1,990

Year	<i>Fines levied</i>	<i>Fines recovered</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
1958	.. 28,696	28,696
1959	.. 37,342	37,008
1960	.. 45,460	45,460
1965	.. 32,219	32,080
1966	.. 33,693	32,133
1967 (upto 15th October)	29,184	29,184

Suppression of immoral traffic

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, is in force in the district. No separate or special staff have been appointed to deal with the offences under this Act. The Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police

are special police officers who deal with such offences. The following statement shows particulars of the cases booked under the Act in the district during the years 1966, 1967 and 1968 :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of cases booked</i>	<i>No. of cases ended in conviction</i>	<i>No. of cases pending trial</i>	<i>No. of cases under investigation</i>
1966	.. Nil	Nil	Nil	..
1967	.. 15	15	..	..
1968	.. 4	3	1	..

The Superintendent of Police, Hassan, is in charge of the police administration of the entire district. He works directly under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range, Mysore, who is responsible to the Inspector-General of Police in Mysore, Bangalore. The Superintendent is also the head of the District Armed Reserve. He is responsible for all matters relating to the Department's internal management and economy, for the maintenance of discipline and regular and punctual performance of all preventive and executive duties in the district. He has to ensure prevention, investigation and detection of crimes. He has to see that the staff posted under him are properly trained and kept efficient.

Organisation of District Police

For purposes of police administration, the district is divided into two sub-divisions, one with headquarters at Hassan and the other at Arsikere. The Hassan Sub-division is under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who is also Personal Assistant to the Superintendent of Police, besides being in charge of three circles, *viz.*, Hassan, Sakleshpur and Holenarsipur. The Arsikere Sub-division is under the direct charge of the District Superintendent of Police.

In 1969, there were four police circles under the charge of Circle Inspectors at Hassan, Holenarsipur, Sakleshpur and Arsikere. One Inspector of Police was attached to the First Class Magistrate's Court at Hassan for prosecution work. The Circle Inspectors of Police are responsible for the administration of their respective circles. They have to guide and supervise the work of the Station House Officers by giving timely instructions. They have to investigate personally grave crimes occurring in their circles. The Sub-Inspectors in charge of police stations are responsible for their efficient working and management. They have to detect crimes and preserve peace in their jurisdictions.

There were in 1969, in all, 22 Sub-Inspectors of Police and the break-up of this number was as follows :

In charge of stations	..	16
Prosecution work	..	3
Special Branch	..	1
Intelligence Section	..	1
Prohibition	..	1
		<hr/>
Total	..	22
		<hr/>

There were 99 Head Constables and 479 Constables and besides, the District Armed Reserve had one Sub-Inspector, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 16 Head Constables and 78 Police Constables, as in 1969. In all, there were 16 police stations in the district. These were located at the following places :—

Hassan Circle.—(1) Hassan town, (2) Hassan rural, (3) Dudda and (4) Alur ;

Sakleshpur Circle.—(1) Sakleshpur, (2) Yeslur, (3) Arehally and (4) Belur ;

Holenarsipur Circle.—(1) Holenarsipur, (2) Arkalgud, (3) Konanur and (4) Channarayapatna ;

Arsikere Circle.—(1) Arsikere town, (2) Arsikere rural, (3) Banavar and (4) Nuggihalli.

Inspection.—The Superintendent of Police has to inspect annually all the offices of the various Circle Inspectors, the Police Stations, the District Armed Reserve Force and the District Police Office, while the Deputy Superintendent of Police has to inspect all the offices of the Circle Inspectors in his sub-division and also the police stations. The Circle Inspectors of Police, in their turn, have to inspect all the police stations in their jurisdiction once in every half-year ending with June and December.

Home Guards

The Home Guards unit at Hassan was started on 1st January 1964. There are four sub-units in the district, one each at Belur, Arsikere, Arkalgud and Holenarsipur other than the one at the headquarters at Hassan. The strength of Home Guards of all the units as on 31st March 1969 was 420. Of them, 240 had completed their basic training and 180 more were undergoing the same. There are four officers-commanding in charge of the sub-units and instructions to impart training. They assist the law and order authorities in maintaining peace and order on occasions like general elections, taluk development board elections, Dasara

festival, annual cattle shows, *Mahamastakabhisheka* at Shravana-belagola, etc.

At Hassan, there is a co-operative society run by some of the District Police officials out of office working hours and this society deals in food-grains and other essential commodities. The strength of the share-holders of the society in 1969 was 302 which included both police and other Government officials. The average monthly turn-over of the society is about Rs. 30,000 and it caters to the needs of nearly 400 families. **Police welfare**

There is a Police Benevolent Fund in the district, which helps the police personnel in various ways. Out of this fund in 1969-70, scholarships were granted to children of the police personnel in deserving cases at the rate of Rs. 10 per month for a college student and Rs. 5 per month for a high school student, the expenditure in this behalf being Rs. 4,930.

There is a Police Welfare Centre at Hassan. It has a tailoring wing which conducts classes in tailoring for the lady members of the police staff. During 1969-70, there were 50 members on its rolls and there were two tailoring instructors, one at Hassan and the other at Arsikere. The cost of this facility provided free of charge is being met out of the Benevolent Fund. A nursery school for the benefit of the children of the police personnel was started on 1st November 1969 and with the help of the Education Department and the Rotary Inner Wheel Club of Hassan, it has been functioning well. The staff of the nursery school consists of two trained teachers and one ayah. The expenditure is being met out of the Benevolent Fund. During the year 1969-70, a sum of Rs. 676 was spent for providing monetary relief to members of families of the police personnel. This help is given in cases of distress caused by prolonged illness or death of a member, etc., as relief out of the Benevolent Fund.

A vegetable garden is maintained at the District Armed Reserve headquarters. The District Armed Reserve men, with the assistance of the local people, have built a temple of goddess Chamundeshwari to serve the religious needs of the locality.

All the police stations in the district have small lock-ups for the safe custody of the suspected persons taken into custody, with separate cells for men and women. **Police Lock-ups**

There is a District Intelligence Bureau at Hassan. It serves as the agency to collect particulars about criminals and crimes and to disseminate the information to police officers in and outside the district. Finger-prints and foot-prints are photographed in house-breaking and other cases and sent promptly to the Central **Intelligence Bureau**

or State Finger-Print Bureau, Bangalore, for necessary development and enlargement. In certain cases, finger and foot-prints of the offenders are also traced. When suspected poisoning cases are reported, the viscera is sent to the Chemical Examiner, Bangalore. In murder cases, the blood appearing on the clothes, weapons, etc., is also sent to the Chemical Examiner.

Remand Home

There is a Remand Home at Hassan with a separate staff, set up with the objective of preventing juvenile delinquency. This Home helps to rehabilitate helpless or socially handicapped young offenders and weans them away from bad means of livelihood. The juveniles are trained in arts and crafts, besides being given elementary general education. (See also Chapter XVII).

For important occasions like the Independence Day, Republic Day and *Nadahabba*, the District Police draw up programmes and train the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Sevadal Volunteers in drill and march-past and a colourful parade is arranged with the co-operation of the public.

Cost of police force.—About a decade ago, *i.e.*, in 1959, the cost of police force was Rs. 5,83,562.62. The total establishment cost for the maintenance of police force in the district during the years from 1962 to 1966 was as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost</i>
	Rs.
1962 ..	18,83,491.50
1963 ..	7,79,775.63
1964 ..	8,32,866.96
1965 ..	10,47,697.28
1966 ..	12,99,105.77

Railway police

The railway police force in Hassan district consists of one Sub-Inspector and one Assistant Sub-Inspector who are stationed at Arsikere railway police station, four head constables and 36 constables. There is one railway police station at Arsikere and a police outpost at Hassan. The duties of the railway police are to maintain law and order in railway premises and trains, perform beat duties in trains, patrol the railway yards to prevent offences against railway property, register and investigate all complaints of cognisable offences, give assistance to railway authorities in the enforcement of the Indian Railway Act, etc.

JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

In Hassan district, there are three judicial lock-ups, one being District Lock-up at the head-quarters town of Hassan and the other two being taluk lock-ups, one each at Holenarsipur and

Belur. The District Lock-up at Hassan was established in 1879 and upto the time of Rendition in 1881, it was under over-all control of the Chief Justice of the Mysore Chief Court (now High Court), who was also the Inspector-General of Prisons. In 1897, the control of the District Lock-up was transferred to the head of the Medical Department. By 1892, revised rules for the efficient up-keep of the lock-ups were approved. While the administration of district lock-ups at the district headquarters was entrusted to District Surgeons, in other places the Amildars of revenue taluks were in charge of the taluk lock-ups. In 1897, the British Indian Act XXVI of 1879, called the Prisons Act, was introduced in Mysore State. At present, the management of lock-ups is regulated by the Lock-up Manual of 1917 reprinted in 1940. After the attainment of Indian Independence, a separate Prisons Department was created with an Inspector-General of Prisons as its head, with the object of paying more attention to welfare and reform of the prisoners. A new uniform Lock-up Manual for the Mysore State is under preparation.

The District Lock-up located at the Shandy Maidan in Hassan town has a capacity for accommodating 50 male and 9 female prisoners at a time. As in June 1969, there were 60 male prisoners and 2 female prisoners. During the independence movement from 1939 to 1947, a good number of political prisoners and detenues were lodged in this lock-up. There are facilities for gardening in the lock-up premises. The receipts from the garden during 1967 and 1968 were Rs. 722.88 and Rs. 900.12 respectively. Expenditure including the cost of prisoners' diet and the establishment during 1967 and 1968 was Rs. 49,389.38 and Rs. 47,716.64 respectively.

It appears that the Taluk Lock-up at Holenarsipur is as old as the taluk office which came into existence in 1866 and to which the lock-up building has been attached since then. To start with there were only four cells and later on four more cells were added on in 1947. The total capacity of the eight cells is 16, each accommodating only two prisoners. No person was detained in this lock-up under the Preventive Detention Act. There were no receipts during 1967-68 and 1968-69, whereas the expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,668.78 and Rs. 6,217.11 during 1967-68 and 1968-69 respectively.

The Belur Taluk Lock-up was established in 1922. There are two wings, one for male and the other for female prisoners, each accommodating four prisoners. During the year 1967-68 the expenditure of the lock-up amounted to Rs. 631.92.

The Inspector-General of Prisons, who has his headquarters at Bangalore, exercises general control over all these lock-ups. The Deputy Commissioner of the district has power of supervision over

all these lock-ups. The District Surgeon, Hassan district, is the officer in charge of the Hassan District Lock-up and he is designated as the District Lock-up Officer for purposes of prison administration. The lock-ups at Holenarsipur and Belur are administered by the Sheristedars of respective taluk offices who are designated as the Lock-up Officers for the purpose.

In these lock-ups, the prisoners are lodged in groups in the available cells. At day-break, the wards are unlocked and the inmates are let out in the open and the cells are cleaned. After their usual wash, the convicts are sent to the work-spots for doing manual labour. Under-trial prisoners are not given any manual work. Only short-term convicts are lodged in these lock-ups, while long-term prisoners are sent to the Central Jail at Bangalore. Usually only 'C' class prisoners are confined in them. Women convicts are lodged in separate cells under the care of women warders. The prisoners cook their own food and necessary rations are supplied according to a prescribed scale. They have their morning and evening meals at about 11 A.M. and 5 P.M. The male convicts are supplied with two long shirts, two knickers, one cap and one under-wear and the women convicts are given two sarees and two jackets. The under-trial and civil prisoners are allowed to wear their own clothes

Amenities to prisoners

The prisoners are given special meals on important national and festival days. Those who are accustomed to oil bath are allowed to take it once in a fortnight. On Sundays and festival days, they are allowed hot water baths. They are permitted to have postal stationery for carrying on correspondence with their lawyers and relatives. A prison panchayat system has been introduced for helping to settle petty grievances of prisoners and for providing amenities as per rules. The convicts are given incentive wages, ranging from 25 paise to 50 paise per day, and the wages so earned are credited to their account. Newspapers and magazines are provided apart from books in the jail library. Medical attention is provided by Medical Officers who visit the lock-ups periodically to examine the health of the prisoners and the sanitation of the lock-ups. There are no facilities for religious teaching or general education since the lock-ups are meant for confining mainly short-term prisoners. There is a board of visitors consisting of four non-official members for each of the lock-ups.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

In the olden days, the king was the supreme court of justice who intervened in highly important cases. There are instances of an upright ruler acting most impartially even in cases in which his own relatives were involved. The aggrieved parties in momentous and serious cases could appeal to him and he heard them and

the respondents and dispensed justice in an open court. The king appointed high judicial officers such as "Dharmadhyaksha" and "Rajyadhyaksha". They were to adjudge morals as well as to decide cases of civil and criminal nature. It was also their duty to see to the proper administration of charitable endowments and to check disloyalty to the throne in their capacity as 'Droha-gharattas'. The 'Dandanayakas' and the chiefs of the *nadus* also exercised magisterial and judicial powers of control and meted out punishments. Some of the officers were designated as 'Dharmadhikarana' or 'Dharmakaranika', who enquired into revenue, land and other property disputes and criminal cases and administered justice.

It is gathered from some inscriptions of the Ganga period that the right of the widow and her daughter to the property on the death of the man without a male issue was recognised, while it is seen from other inscriptions that the right of the widow was ignored and the claims of the brothers of the deceased were granted. No great distinction was observed between civil and criminal cases. There were very few civil cases to be settled by the king's court or the chief judicial officers. In practice, the responsibility of settlement of disputes devolved primarily on the village assemblies and corporations of towns. Their function in this respect was adjudication in nature. Disputes and questions had to be decided generally by or on the evidence of the leading men of the locality. When important disputes about boundaries of lands arose, the officers of the *nadu* and leading citizens inspected the property, heard evidence and gave decisions in the matter. The matters were deliberated upon until a consensus or a compromise was reached. The decisions were recorded by the *Senabova* (village accountant) and it was incumbent on the parties concerned to accept the award. In all disputed matters, at local level, the *kula* (clan or community), the *shreni* (trade guild), the *puga* (corporations of different castes and occupations) and leading residents of the place used to act as local courts. The officers of the king were superior to these local courts. In the administration of justice, local customs and privileges of castes, corporations etc., were also taken into consideration and any infringement of a recognised law or usage was visited with heavy penalties. In trials concerning heinous offences such as treachery, disloyalty to throne, assault or other violent acts, sometimes ordeals were resorted to. Criminal justice was dispensed sometimes in a rough and ready manner.

The Hoysalas followed mostly the system of administration of justice handed down by the Gangas and Chalukyas. The *Mahajanas* forming the entire group of the families in any village performed several public duties of which the adjudication of civil and criminal cases pertaining to the area of their jurisdiction was also one. The Governors who had control over provinces were in charge of maintaining peace in their respective areas. During the times of the Vijayanagar kings, the imperial court was assisted by *Pradvivekas*

and *Sabhyas*. Governors, *Amatyas* and *Dharmadhikaris* administered justice which was based on traditional regulations as set forth by the ancient law-givers. Penalties imposed on guilty persons were severe and deterrent in nature. Very few thieves could flourish in the country particularly during the time of Krishnadevaraya.

Civil justice :
District Court,
Hassan

The present pattern of civil justice in the district is evolved out of many changes, which were introduced from time to time, having regard to the requirements of the public. For the first time, a new District and Sessions Court was established at Hassan with effect from the 1st November 1965 having jurisdiction over the entire revenue district of Hassan. The District and Sessions Judge is the highest judicial authority in the district, and the District Court is the principal civil court of original jurisdiction within the limits of the area. The District and Sessions Judge, Hassan, exercises control over the Civil Judge's Court, Hassan, Munsiff's Court, Hassan, Magistrate's Court, Hassan, and Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts at Holenarsipur, Arsikere and Channarayapatna. Under the Mysore Civil Courts Act, 1964, the District Court is the principal civil court of original jurisdiction in the district. The Civil Judge has also got unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction, and original suits and proceedings of a civil nature above the value of Rs. 10,000 are filed in the Civil Judge's Court. The District Court entertains and hears appeals from the decrees and orders passed by the Civil Judge on the original side, the value of which does not exceed Rs. 20,000. In other cases, appeals from the Civil Judge's Court lie direct to the High Court. The District Judge also entertains and tries civil cases under some special enactments. He is the controlling officer on the administrative side also in respect of all courts in the district. The District Judges are appointed by the Government of the State in consultation with the High Court.

At the beginning of 1967-68, there were 40 cases of all types pending in the District Court and 79 suits were filed during the year making a total of 119 cases, of which 83 cases were disposed of leaving a pendency of 36 cases at the end of the year. The receipts of the court for that year amounted to Rs. 1,911 while the expenditure to Rs. 81,481.67.

Civil Judge's
Court, Hassan

The Civil Judge's Court, Hassan, established on 1st June 1956, has jurisdiction over all the taluks comprised in the district and has appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of the Munsiffs functioning at Hassan, Holenarsipur, Arsikere and Channarayapatna, in suits and proceedings of a civil nature. This court has unlimited original jurisdiction for suits, the value of which exceeds Rs. 10,000. It has also jurisdiction to hear cases under the Land Acquisition Act, Hindu Marriage Act and the Guardian and Wards Act. The

Civil Judges are appointed by the High Court by promotion from the cadre of Munsiffs.

The number of several types of suits pending in the Civil Judge's court at the beginning of 1967-68 was 174 and the number of suits filed during the year was 502 making a total of 676 for disposal; 461 suits were disposed of during the year leaving a balance of 215 suits at the end of the year. The receipts of the court for the year 1967-68 amounted to Rs. 39,652.30 and the expenditure to Rs. 49,784.49.

The Munsiff's Court, Hassan, was established during the year 1924. This court exercises jurisdiction over the taluks of Hassan, Sakleshpur, Alur and Belur. It has powers to entertain all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature upto the value of Rs. 10,000. Cases under the Land Reforms Act, 1961, are also being filed in this court. This court at Hassan handles only civil cases, there being a separate Magistrate's Court at Hassan for trying criminal cases. At the beginning of the year 1967-68, 256 cases were pending in this court and 848 new cases were filed during the year, making a total of 1,104. Out of these, 875 cases were disposed of leaving a balance of 229. The receipts of this court for the year 1967-68 amounted to Rs. 27,650.65, while the expenditure was Rs. 89,185.47. The Munsiffs are appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the Mysore Munsiffs' (Recruitment) Rules, 1958, in consultation with the State Public Service Commission and the High Court.

There are three Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts in Hassan district, one in each of the three taluk headquarters at Holenarsipur, Arsikere and Channarayapatna. The Munsiff-Magistrates decide both civil and criminal cases as specified in the respective codes. They have civil powers upto the value of Rs. 10,000. On the criminal side, they exercise powers of a I Class Magistrate under the Criminal Procedure Code within their territorial jurisdiction. They are responsible to the District and Sessions Judge in all administrative matters.

The court at Holenarasipur, which was established in the year 1887, is the oldest court in the district. It has now jurisdiction over two taluks, viz., Holenarasipur and Arkalgud. There were 442 cases pending at the beginning of 1967-68 and 571 suits were filed during the year, making a total of 1,013 and 705 cases were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 308 at the end of that year. In 1968-69, 727 civil cases of all types were pending in the beginning, 1,539 cases were instituted and 1,286 cases were disposed of during the year, leaving a balance of 1,180 cases at the end of the year. There were 980 cases pending at the beginning of the year 1969-70 and 1,113 cases were filed during the year; 998 cases

being disposed of during the year, there was a balance of 1,095 cases at the end of the year.

On the criminal side, 141 cases were pending at the beginning of 1968-69, 603 cases were instituted during the year, 606 cases were disposed of and the balance at the end of the year was 135. In the subsequent year, *i.e.*, during 1969-70, 138 cases were pending, 896 cases were instituted and 790 cases were disposed of leaving a balance of 244 cases at the end of the year. The receipts and charges of the court for the years from 1967-68 to 1969-70 were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Charges</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
1967-68 ..	30,662.90	68,723.79
1968-69 ..	28,343.66	68,646.45
1969-70 ..	36,967.32	75,704.83

**Court at
Arsikere**

The court at Arsikere was established on 1st August 1960. There were 489 suits pending at the beginning of 1967-68 and 621 suits were filed during the year making a total of 1,110. During that year 638 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 472 at the end of the year. The receipts and expenditure for 1967-68 were Rs. 57,522.93 and Rs. 88,982.87 respectively.

**Court at
Channarayana-
patna**

The court at Channarayapatna was established with effect from the 1st April 1966. The following figures show the various types of cases handled in the court from 1967-68 to 1969-70 :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. pending at the beginning</i>	<i>No. filed during the year</i>	<i>No. disposed of during the year</i>	<i>No. pending at the end</i>
1967-68 ..	Nil	48	20	28
1968-69 (Civil) ..	463	757	790	430
(Criminal)	117	895	962	50
1969-70 (Civil) ..	429	6,012	544	5,897
(Criminal)	50	723	677	96

The receipts and charges for these years were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Charges</i>
	Rs.	Rs.
1967-68 ..	22,394.85	54,812.82
1968-69 ..	40,572.12	53,898.27
1969-70 ..	24,282.92	49,226.94

There was formerly a II Class Magistrate's Court at Hassan, which was upgraded to that of I Class Magistrate with effect from 27th November 1954. The I Class Magistrate has jurisdiction to try all criminal cases under the Indian Penal Code and other laws arising in his territorial areas, viz., the revenue taluks of Hassan, Alur, Sakleshpur and Belur. At the beginning of 1968-69, there were 207 cases pending in his court and 1,508 cases were instituted and 1,484 cases were disposed of during the year leaving a pendency of 231 cases at the end of that year. In 1969-70, there were 231 cases pending in the beginning, 2,647 cases were instituted during that year and 2,586 cases were disposed of, leaving a pendency of 292 cases. The receipts and charges of this court during 1969-70 were Rs. 25,750.96 and Rs. 30,013.96 respectively, as against Rs. 16,685.27 and Rs. 21,719.98 during the year 1968-69.

The Land Tribunal which was established in 1967 deals with cases under the Land Reforms Act. During the year 1967-68, 97 cases were filed and 2,182 cases were refiled, making a total of 2,279. During that year, only 28 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 2,251 cases at the end of the year. The receipts and expenditure of this Tribunal during 1967-68 were Rs. 1,780 and Rs. 9,326.76 respectively.

The administration and control over all the Magistrates' Courts in the district had vested till the 1st June 1956 in the District Magistrate (who was also the Deputy Commissioner). But from that date separation of the judiciary from the executive was brought into force and the Magistrates' Courts were brought under the control of Judicial District Magistrates, who also exercised general administrative supervision over them; the Civil Judges were being appointed as Judicial District Magistrates by the State Government. The Sessions Judge inspected the court of the Judicial District Magistrate as a nominee of the High Court. The functions of the Judicial Magistrates and Executive Magistrates have been separately shown in the schedule attached to the Government Order dated the 29th May 1956, by which the scheme of separation of the judiciary from the executive was introduced.

The scheme of separation of the judiciary from the executive, when it was first introduced in 1956, was designed within the frame-work of the Criminal Procedure Code. It was an arrangement whereby all the functions of a Magistrate were divided between two sets of magistrates namely judicial magistrates and executive magistrates. The judicial functions were entrusted to the judicial magistrates, while the executive functions were entrusted to the Deputy Commissioners and their subordinate revenue officers. Later on, the scheme of separation of the judiciary from the executive was incorporated in the Criminal Procedure Code

itself by State amendments under the Code of Criminal Procedure (Mysore Amendment) Act, 1965. Under the present Criminal Procedure Code as applicable to the State there is no separate Judicial District Magistrate, his functions having been now vested in the Sessions Judge himself.

**Sessions
Court, Hassan**

Before the Sessions Court was established at Hassan, the Sessions Judge, Mysore, was having jurisdiction over the Hassan district also. He used to try the sessions cases relating to Hassan district at his Hassan camp. Since the establishment of a separate Sessions Court at Hassan with effect from 1st November, 1965, the Sessions Judge, Hassan, is trying all the sessions cases and hearing all the criminal appeals and revision cases arising in Hassan district. When the Civil Judge's Court was established at Hassan on 1st June 1956, the Civil Judge was also appointed as First Class Magistrate and District Magistrate on the judicial side. After the introduction of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Mysore Amendment) Act, 1965, from the 1st November 1965, the Civil Judge ceased to be the Judicial District Magistrate and was relieved of criminal work.

**Executive
Magistrates**

The Deputy Commissioner, Hassan district, is the District Magistrate. The Headquarters Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner is the Additional District Magistrate who can also exercise all the powers of the District Magistrate under the Criminal Procedure Code and any other law for the time being in force. There are two Assistant Commissioners in the district in charge of Hassan and Sakleshpur Revenue Sub-Divisions, who are Sub-divisional Magistrates. The Tahsildars of taluks are Taluk Magistrates. These subordinate officers are subject to the general control of the District Magistrate. The main duties of these Executive Magistrates are to maintain law and order and to exercise the powers vested in and delegated to them under the Criminal Procedure Code or any other law for the time being in force.

**Bar
Associations**

There are three Bar Associations functioning in the district at Hassan, Holenarsipur and Arsikere. In all, there were about 110 legal practitioners practising at these places. Each Association has facilities of library and study room. As on 31st March 1969, the Bar Association of Hassan (registered in 1954) had 72 members on its roll—59 residential and 13 non-residential members. It received Government grants of Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 2,000 during the years 1966-67 and 1968-69 respectively for improvement of the library and other facilities.