

CHAPTER XIII.

Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.

Improvement of administrative efficiency—(continued).

Anche or Local Post—Life Insurance—Civil Service examination—Status of village servants—Offer of Imperial Service Troops—Revision of the State Council.

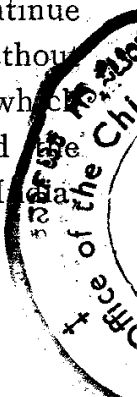
Among the measures adopted during this period for the improvement of administrative efficiency were two which elicited much comment. The first one related to the Anche or local post and the second was the institution of a Civil Service examination open to the whole of India. The Anche, no doubt, needed much improvement and two alternative proposals were received from the Director-General of Post Offices in India. The first proposal was that the complete control of the postal arrangements in Mysore should be surrendered by the Durbar to the Imperial Postal Department, that that department was to take over the whole of the postal establishments existing in Mysore, pay them from imperial revenues and treat Mysore in all postal matters exactly as if it were a British Province, the service correspondence of the State being carried at the cheap official rates as in British India prepaid by service stamps. The proposal was regarded in some quarters as advantageous to Mysore as it would secure centralisation and uniformity of rules and organisation, remedy that public inconvenience which naturally resulted from Mysore being isolated from the rest of India in postal matters and would save the Maharaja's Government the trouble and cost of maintaining a local postal department which at best imitated the imperial system in a manner necessarily imperfect. It involved, it was further said, no interference, administrative or political, though the liability of the State in respect of mail robberies would increase as the British postal system expanded. The alternative proposal was:—

1. That Mysore was to adopt all British rules and rates of postage using British postage stamps over-printed

'Mysore' which were to be supplied to it for the mere cost of manufacture ;

2. That all paid inland correspondence, official or non-official, transferred from Mysore to British post offices or *vice versa* was to be delivered free, each post office keeping whatever it collected in stamps or on bearing letters ;
3. That Mysore was to introduce the Money-Order, Insurance, Value-payable Parcel, Postal-Note and other systems peculiar to British Indian post office retaining any fees it earned on account of them. This alternative proposal while securing complete reciprocity to the State in all postal matters was regarded as throwing great responsibility upon the State and also as involving it in additional expenditure for the improvement of the then existing establishment.

The whole subject was discussed at the meeting of the Representative Assembly in 1885. The representatives unanimously expressed their opinion that the department should be retained by the Durbar and worked even at a loss if it was unavoidable. The Government of Mysore thereupon intimated to the Director-General that the second alternative was agreeable to them, but a reply was received that that alternative proposal had led to some practical inconvenience in the States to which it had been applied and that it could not be introduced elsewhere until more experience was gained. After much correspondence, the Anche was at last amalgamated with the British postal system from the beginning of April 1889. The change was financially a gain to Mysore to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ a lakh of rupees per annum. The Dewan when he next met the members of the Representative Assembly had, however, to adopt an apologetic tone in justifying this transfer. Surrounded on every side by British territory and its highly developed postal system, the isolation of the local post, said the Dewan, could not long continue without causing marked inconvenience to trade and without impeding general progress. With the railways and roads which were so rapidly opening out every part of the country and the growth of commercial relations with the other parts of India



Mysore was expected to keep pace with the requirements of the times and requisitions had indeed been made from various quarters for the insurance of parcels, money orders, telegraph offices and other new wants such as were elsewhere met by the Postal Department. It was however apparent that such an elaborate system could not usefully be attempted by a purely local post, for the essential condition of success in every postal system was centralised control and absolute uniformity of rules and organisation. As there were some difficulties in improving the local Anche, His Highness' Government decided to amalgamate the local with the imperial post. This explanation of the Dewan to the Representative Assembly was felt as somewhat of a *volte-face* by the side of what had been said in the earlier year regarding the retention of the department in the hands of the Durbar and the introduction of all the conveniences found in the British postal system. Though the transfer has become an accomplished fact, the desire in the minds of the people for its retention has not even now been wholly extinguished, especially as its origin was associated with so distinguished a ruler of Mysore as Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar, the contemporary of Aurangzebe.

After the Rendition, various attempts had been made from time to time to improve the efficiency of the subordinate public service by prescribing the minimum general qualifications that were required for the various grades of appointments. Till 1892 no attention, however, had been paid to the upper service. In 1874, as we have seen, an attempt had been made to improve the tone of the public service by direct appointments to it of young men of education and good antecedents. The scheme however had not been systematically followed, and especially with the large reductions carried out consequent on the famine the appointments to the service became somewhat haphazard, with the result that it became increasingly difficult, it was said, to find men of requisite qualifications to fill vacancies in the higher ranks of the service.

The new scheme prescribed the holding of a periodical competitive examination open to the whole of India and that those who passed in this examination were to be admitted as probationary Assistant Commissioners, an equal number being admitted by nominations

from among the members of old Mysore families and from among the distinguished officers of the subordinate service. Strong objection was taken at the time to placing the young men of Mysore under such odds as would be involved when they were required to undergo an examination in which they had to sit side by side with candidates drawn from, as was said, the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. The European officers who had served in Mysore had borne testimony to the equal capacity of the Mysorean with his brethren outside the State. A competitive examination confined as it generally was to persons of talent placed the Mysorean in point of numbers under a great disadvantage, especially a test by the number of marks scored involved an element of chance also according to the temperaments of the examiners. Vigorous protests against such a disability imposed on the Mysore graduates were made both in the Representative Assembly as well as outside. But the grievance was not remedied till after a number of years.

A measure brought into effect to help the employees in the public service was the introduction of a system of Life Insurance from 1st December 1891. This subject had engaged the consideration of the Government of India some years earlier, but it was abandoned on the ground of the difficulty of managing the business and the fear that the native community might not avail itself of its advantages as largely as was necessary. His Highness' Government, however, now made bold to extend this boon of insurance to its own servants over and above the existing privileges of pensions and gratuities. The system aimed at offering a ready and safe investment for the small savings of the official class and at securing for them and their families a certain and substantial provision in the future in return for small payments spread over a series of years which were not likely to be felt as burdensome. The Government made no profit out of the business. The measure was calculated not only to benefit the families of the public servants left in want but also to improve the general tone of the public service and to promote its independence and purity of character. The salient points of the scheme were that every person who entered the service

of Government after a particular date on a monthly pay of Rs. 10/- and upwards upto a limit of Rs. 500/- was to be required to insure his life with the Government for a bonus which was to be payable to him on his attaining the age of 55 or to his family in the event of his dying before that age in return for a premium of 10 per cent on the salary. The officials already in the service were also given the option of insuring their lives, if their age did not exceed 45 years. To avoid undue risk to Government, a limit of Rs. 50/- was prescribed as the maximum premium payable by all officials even when their salaries exceeded Rs. 500.

Another measure which engaged the attention of Government in the early period of Chamaraja Wodeyar's reign was the improvement of the status of village officers. Subsequently, however, it was found that no tangible improvement was possible. But the remarks made by the Dewan in 1883 in his speech to the Representative Assembly are of some interest, though the reasoning is not quite convincing. "The village establishments remain to be revised, not with the object of effecting any immediate reduction in the remuneration now paid to them but for the purpose of improving their status and of avoiding in the future a needless, heavy expenditure. The Survey and Settlement abolished the levy of *mirasi* by Shanbagues and Patels and fixed their remuneration on a liberal scale. It is not desirable to alter this scale, but the remuneration according to it must be paid not by cash payments from the treasury which are not valued but in the shape of service inam lands which confer upon their holders a position and status in the eyes of village communities and which for that reason are highly prized. Money remuneration has the effect of converting them into paid Government officials of the lowest rank and of affecting their traditional influence as heads of villages. Moreover, the amount which has to be paid from the treasury on this account is annually increasing. In 1878-79 it was Rs. 80,000. It has since gradually increased and is now about Rs. 2½ lakhs. Unless the whole system is altered as above indicated, it may amount to nearly 7 lakhs by the time the Revenue Settlement of the Province is complete. Under such circumstances, the conversion of the money payments into land

emoluments is a step which should not be longer delayed. If carried out with proper precaution, it ought not to entail any appreciable decrease in the land revenue, for assignments of land as service inams must necessarily include a fair proportion of arable, unoccupied land and will to a large extent be counterbalanced by increased cultivation.....”

In the year 1889 the Dewan announced the forest policy of the Maharaja's Government which was to conserve all forest tracts and to husband their resources to aid natural reproduction by artificial means, to replace indiscriminate felling by systematic operations, to allow the agricultural classes facilities for grazing and for meeting their essential wants and to ensure an unfailing supply of sandalwood.

We have seen how the efficiency of the Silledar cavalry underwent considerable deterioration during the days of the British Commission. There was in the State excellent military material from which a very efficient force could readily be raised. In physique the Mysorean was far superior to the average man of the plains and he was specially noted for his endurance and hard work in distant countries and under the most trying conditions of climate and fatigue. The Bedar Infantry and the Mysore Cavalry so well known for their valour were all drawn from warlike classes who were indigenous to the country and who furnished excellent recruits for an army. The climate of Mysore placed the inhabitants in a better position than most other provinces for maintaining an excellent cavalry and the Amrit Mahal cattle of Mysore also provided an exceptional advantage in the matter of transport. The limitations under which the Durbar was placed in regard to military matters offered no effective means of readily devising measures to raise the efficiency of the Mysore troops. In 1883, however, a cavalry officer of the British Service was appointed as Staff Officer for the purpose of drilling the Silledars and bringing them up to a higher standard of efficiency. In 1885 the three regiments of Silledars stationed at Bangalore, Mysore and Shimoga with detachments at other district headquarters were all stationed

either at Bangalore or Mysore for greater convenience of management, furnishing detachments where required. About this period a change in the military policy of the Imperial Government towards the Indian States became markedly visible. The policy of isolation and mistrust pursued in the earlier period of British rule towards Indian Princes gradually gave place to one of union and friendship with them. As an illustration of the policy of the earlier period, it may be stated that in 1788 when the Raja of Travancore applied to the Governor of Madras to lend as a matter of favour and friendship four officers and twelve sergeants well acquainted with the exercise and discipline of troops for employment in his State, the Governor replied that it was contrary to the system of the Company to lend their officers to command any troops except such as were actually in their own pay and under their authority. In 1885 when war seemed imminent with Russia on the other side of the north-west frontier of India, the Indian Princes in a body approached the Viceroy with offers of the whole resources of their States to supplement those of the Supreme Government. Again, in 1887 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, many rulers of Indian States offered to contribute in a very liberal way to the defence of the empire. But the Government of India did not think it necessary or in all respects desirable to accept from the Native States the pecuniary assistance which they so freely tendered. In 1888 Lord Dufferin the Viceroy in a speech at Patiala in November of that year suggested that the Princes who had specially good fighting material in their armies might raise a portion of their armies to such a pitch of general efficiency as would make them fit to go into action side by side with the Imperial troops.

Chamaraja Wodeyar influenced by the traditions of his family was one of the first to accept this suggestion by offering to reorganise and improve the military forces of Mysore and to place them at the disposal of the Imperial Government for active service with the regular armies of the empire. Other Princes also, especially those of Hyderabad, Kashmir, Patiala, Indore and Bikanir, had made similar offers and all these were received by the Supreme Government in the spirit in which they were made. In

his speech to the Representative Assembly in 1889 the Dewan was able to announce that Major Mellis who had been deputed by the Government of India to reorganise and improve the existing armies of various States had already completed his work in Kashmir, the Punjab and the Rajputana States and was expected to visit Mysore in connection with his important mission. Major Mellis commenced his work in Mysore in 1890 and completed it in the following year. The two regiments of Silledars were broken up into two corps, one for imperial and the other for local service. In order to permit of the former being brigaded with the troops of the British Government and kept in a constant state of efficiency for active service, it was stationed at Bangalore. It was armed with breech loading carbines, provided with camp equipage and a standing Pony Transport so as to be ready for immediate active service whenever called upon for the purpose, and in matters of pay, discipline and equipment it was made similar to the native cavalry in the British Service. This new plan, as stated by Sir William Lee-Warner, secured in comparison with the former establishments of Native States both efficiency and economy—efficiency, because the officers lent to the States ensured the uniformity and harmony of organisation and equipment required by the general system of Imperial defence and economy, because larger bodies of inefficient levies were disbanded.

In 1887 the subject of reconstituting the State Council came up before the Maharaja, as the Dewan felt the necessity of having as one of the councillors an officer with revenue experience who could be deputed for the inspection of the ordinary revenue work in the districts. Nothing however was done till Krishna Rao died in 1888, when Colonel Grant, Superintendent of the Revenue Survey was proposed to be appointed as a member of the Council. The Government of India, however, considered it inadvisable that a European officer should be a member of His Highness' Council and the proposal fell through. In April 1889 Sabhapathi Mudalia was allowed to retire and P. Chentsal Rao, a retired member of the Madras Service, was appointed a member of the Council. In May of the same year an addition was made to the Council subjects by prescribing that all matters coming before Hi

Highness' Government either in appeal or in revision under Section 217 of the Mysore Land Revenue Code were to be heard and decided by a committee consisting of not less than two members of the Council, except in certain specified cases. In July 1891 Chentsal Rao was placed in charge of the Land Revenue Department in addition to the charge of Local Fund and Municipal Departments.