

CHAPTER II.

Fresh arrangements connected with the Palace.

The demise of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in March 1868 a little over a year after his adopted son was recognised as the heir to the throne of Mysore caused anguish and disappointment in the minds of all those who were associated with His Highness in the struggle for the restoration of the country. Bakshi Narasappa was the principal agent and co-adjutor of the deceased Maharaja in this struggle and his acute intellect, diplomatic cleverness and capacity for organization were of no inconsiderable service to the Maharaja. It was also a feature of this struggle that several of the European and Indian officers in the service of the State as well as others lent their hearty co-operation to the Maharaja in what they considered his righteous cause.

Bowring who was Commissioner was fully aware of this attitude on the part of some of his subordinate officers but considered it prudent to assume an air of indifference about the matter to avoid giving rise to any possible trouble by any hasty action of his. He mistrusted especially the officials of the Hebbar Sri Vaishnava class, "the wily Iyengar clan" as he called them and who were in his eyes as able as they were unscrupulous. A high official named B. Krishna Iyengar was regarded by him as head of this party and to get him out of his way Bowring had promoted him some years before to the charge of an outlying district. Krishna Iyengar however was not, as Bowring found later, a man to be easily suppressed and he continued to carry on as before correspondence from Kolar where he was placed and with an affectation of confidence showed to Bowring himself several letters he had received from Colonel Macqueen and other Europeans interested in the Maharaja's cause. Narasappa also specially laid himself open to the suspicion of Bowring as he had been the principal channel of access to the Maharaja and had control over the Palace purse.

To assist Major Elliot to wind up the late Maharaja's affairs Bowring regarded that the services of a native officer were essential and, in the circumstances above described, that officer he thought

should be one imported from outside the State and quite unconnected with Mysore. Accordingly Bowring obtained the sanction of the Government of India for the appointment of a native assistant to Major Elliot and obtained from the Madras Government the service of C. V. Rangacharlu, a Deputy Collector in the Madras Service, who subsequently became the first Dewan of Mysore when Chamaraja Wodeyar was entrusted with the Government of the State. Rangacharlu was a pupil of E. B. Powell the famous educationist of Southern India and at the time he joined the Mysore Service was 37 years old. Rangacharlu began his service as a clerk in 1849 and in 1856 he wrote a bold and outspoken paper on bribery and condemned it in strong terms as a vice not to be tolerated among public officials. He joined the Mysore Service in April 1868 and Bowring at the very first interview he had with him found him not only a man of undoubted ability but also as a man possessed of somewhat uncommon ambition. Rangacharlu had an intimate knowledge of revenue matters and accounts, combined with unusual sagacity and shrewdness, though his manners were peculiar and not attractive at first sight.

Major Elliot and Rangacharlu were engaged for over 6 months in the laborious task of overhauling the Palace affairs and reorganising the establishments there. There were at the time of Krishnaraja Wodeyar's death 7 departments in the Palace under the designations of—1. Aramanay. 2. Barr Cutcherry. 3. Body-Guard. 4. Zillo Cutcherry. 5. Killey Cutcherry. 6. Shagird Peshu Cutcherry and 7. Khazana. The total number of employees was 10,119 at a monthly cost of Rs. 78,000/-. Among the religious and charitable institutions to which grants were confirmed were included, taking into consideration the catholicity of Krishnaraja Wodeyar's mind, the Civil Orphan Asylum at Madras and the Roman Catholic Church at Mysore. The Maharaja had also established four chatrams or feeding-houses and some temples, the chatrams being situated on the four important roads leading out of the Mysore town within a radius of about 4 miles and two more being situated in the town itself. Major Elliot's proposal to abolish these feeding-houses and to utilise the funds for establishing one large chatram as well as poor-house at Mysore in memory of His

Highness was not accepted by the Government of India. On the other hand, they suggested that one good chatram might in addition to the existing ones be established at Mysore. Reference has already been made to the English School and the hospital maintained by His Highness. These two institutions were transferred to the Education and Medical departments respectively and fees for tuition were introduced in the former, orphan boys however being admitted without payment. The services of a conductor were obtained from the military department of the Madras Government and all the guns in the Mysore fort which were not absolutely required were destroyed and large quantities of shot and cartridges were broken up and rendered unserviceable.

The Palace enquiry was conducted under three heads—debts of the late Maharaja, scrutiny into property of all kinds, and remodelling and reduction of existing establishments. The revision of the establishments demanded the exercise of great discretion, firmness and patience and it was done on a liberal basis. After revision, three thousand one hundred and ninety-six persons were retained at a monthly cost of a little above Rs. 19,000 and the remainder of the employees were either absorbed in the Government departments or given gratuities and pensions on a special scale so as to minimise all hardship. The establishments were divided into three cutcherries and eight minor branches with a general office of management. Cutcherries—(i) Aramanay Dufter; (ii) Killey Dufter; (iii) Zillo Dufter. Minor Branches—(i) Religious or Chamundi Thotti; (ii) Out-door servants or Avasarada Hobly; (iii) In-door servants—Samukada Ooligai Khas; (iv) In-door servants—Zenana; (v) Stables—Aswasala and Gajasala; (vi) Cows—Karohutty; (vii) Maramat; (viii) Gardens or Bagayat. There were also attached to the general office Tosheekhane or treasury, Correspondence and Accounts, and Supplies or Motikhane. The term 'cutcherry' was confined to the three principal departments which were prominently connected with the state and dignity of the Palace and over which the leading members of the Maharaja's relations were continued as honorary Bakshis. The remaining establishments which were of a more private and personal character were styled Ilakhas and were superintended by

one or more paid servants under the name of Gurkars. The Aramanay Dufter Cutcherry was a general office of record for the Palace, to which all the papers requiring to be preserved were transferred from time to time by the several Ilakhas. To this office were also entrusted the duties of keeping the genealogy of the Maharaja and his relations, rules of precedence, customs and other matters. The Killely cutcherry dealt with the sepoy establishment retained for providing guards for the fort and palace and escorts of body-guard. The Zillo cutcherry was intended to regulate and undertake all arrangements connected with escorts and processions and comprised the whole of the Rachaiwar and Bahlé forces. The Rachaiwars were chiefly employed as trustworthy guards in the interior apartments of the palace where admission was not allowed to the more miscellaneous classes of sepoys. The Bahlé or spearmen provided some of the outside guards and were also largely employed as escorts for the Maharaja and his relations. They represented a class of the Bedar peons so famous in the former Carnatic warfare—a class addicted to hunting and noted for their great daring, hardy habits, and strong attachment to their masters.

To provide for the reasonable ambition of old and distinguished servants of the Palace the class of Moosahibs was also retained who corresponded to privy councillors and attended durbars and other State occasions in which they were allowed certain rights of precedence. After Rangacharlu was employed for regulating Palace affairs, Bakshi Narasappa was placed in the class of Moosahibs.

During the late Maharaja's time the salaries of Palace establishments were counted in Canteroi Pagodas and fanams and now they were ordered to be disbursed in British currency as was the case in all the offices under the Commissioner. It was specially enjoined on the Commissioner that while care was to be taken to avoid all extravagant expenditure, at the same time the dignity and comfort of the Maharaja were to receive scrupulous attention. Major Elliot and Rangacharlu performed the work entrusted to them with great promptitude, tact and judgment, the duties on which they

were employed involving as they did an inquiry into confused and intricate accounts and needed firmness and discretion.

As regards one-fifth share of the net revenues of the State which were being paid to the late Maharaja under the Subsidiary Treaty of 1799, the same was closed under the authority of the Secretary of State for India. The Secretary of State at the same time impressed upon the Governor-General the need of administering in trust the revenues of Mysore and for making adequate provision for the support of the Maharaja, his family and dependents during the period of minority, the unappropriated balances being accumulated for the future benefit of the Maharaja and of the State of Mysore.

In April 1868 Bowring proposed to the Government of India that the young Maharaja should take his residence in the palace in the fort at Bangalore. But the Government of India overruled the proposal as it was open to misconstruction and the Secretary of State subsequently concurred in this decision. The attempted removal of the family from the present home, said the Secretary of State, was open to be regarded with suspicion by all the inmates of the Palace and probably with consternation by the ladies of the family.

In October 1868 the Secretary of State sanctioned the appointment of a Guardian to the young Maharaja and approved of the nomination of Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory Haines who was formerly Superintendent of the Bangalore Division. Krishnaraja Wodeyar while he was alive had proposed this appointment in April 1867. His words contained in a Khareetha addressed to the Viceroy at the time may be taken as even now retaining the freshness of the significance which they possessed at the time they were written. "I am very desirous," said His Highness, "that my son Chamarajendra Wodeyar who by the blessing of God has now entered on his fifth year should receive greater advantages of education and training than I myself enjoyed in my childhood and youth, and as it is no longer possible for me to delay the matter and as it is the best time calculated for the purpose, I have to inform your Excellency that

with this view I have selected as his Guardian Lt.-Col. Gregory Haines, late Superintendent of the Bangalore Division, an officer well-known and respected in this country and who has received from Earl Canning an acknowledgment of his services to the State.....

“Although there may be a difference of opinion between your Excellency and myself as to the actual position and rights of this dear child, I feel sure there will be no difference of opinion between us as to the value of education to the princes and nobles of India. I am equally sure that whatever may be the destiny of my son and heir and whatever duties may devolve upon him, your Excellency and your Excellency's successors will never forget that he is by birth a member of this ancient royal family and that he is by Hindu law the son of the Raja of Mysore, ‘the oldest’ and ‘the staunchest’ although the humblest ally of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and India.” Colonel Gregory Haines' appointment however was made after the death of Krishnaraja Wodeyar on account of the delay caused in connection with the correspondence between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State. After his arrival in India, Colonel Haines was placed in subordination to the Commissioner and was also given the assistance of Rangacharlu who was appointed to the newly created post of Controller of the Palace and was expected to make himself useful in regulating and controlling the officers of the Palace household.

The Government of India also pointed out that the education to be imparted to the young Maharaja was to embrace a sound knowledge of the English language and literature as well as of the languages most prevalent in Mysore, besides provision for good physical and moral training. It was further prescribed that the young Maharaja should be taught to ride, to swim, to play cricket and to handle firearms and he was also to be encouraged to devote himself successively to those strengthening exercises which were suited to his country, position and age, and that by precept as well as by example his views were to be constantly directed to the discharge of the regal and administrative functions which his high office would one day demand. It was also expressly laid down that while truthfulness and sound morality were to be inculcated, at the

same time there was to be no interference whatever with his religion or his forms of worship.

Lt.-Col. Haines continued only for a few months in Mysore and he was obliged to resign his appointment as he was too old and had also differences of opinion with the Chief Commissioner. In June 1869 the Government of India appointed Colonel G. B. Malleson as his successor. He was an officer of the Indian army and possessed a reputation for ability, experience, varied information and good judgment and was 44 years of age at the time when he entered on his new duties.