

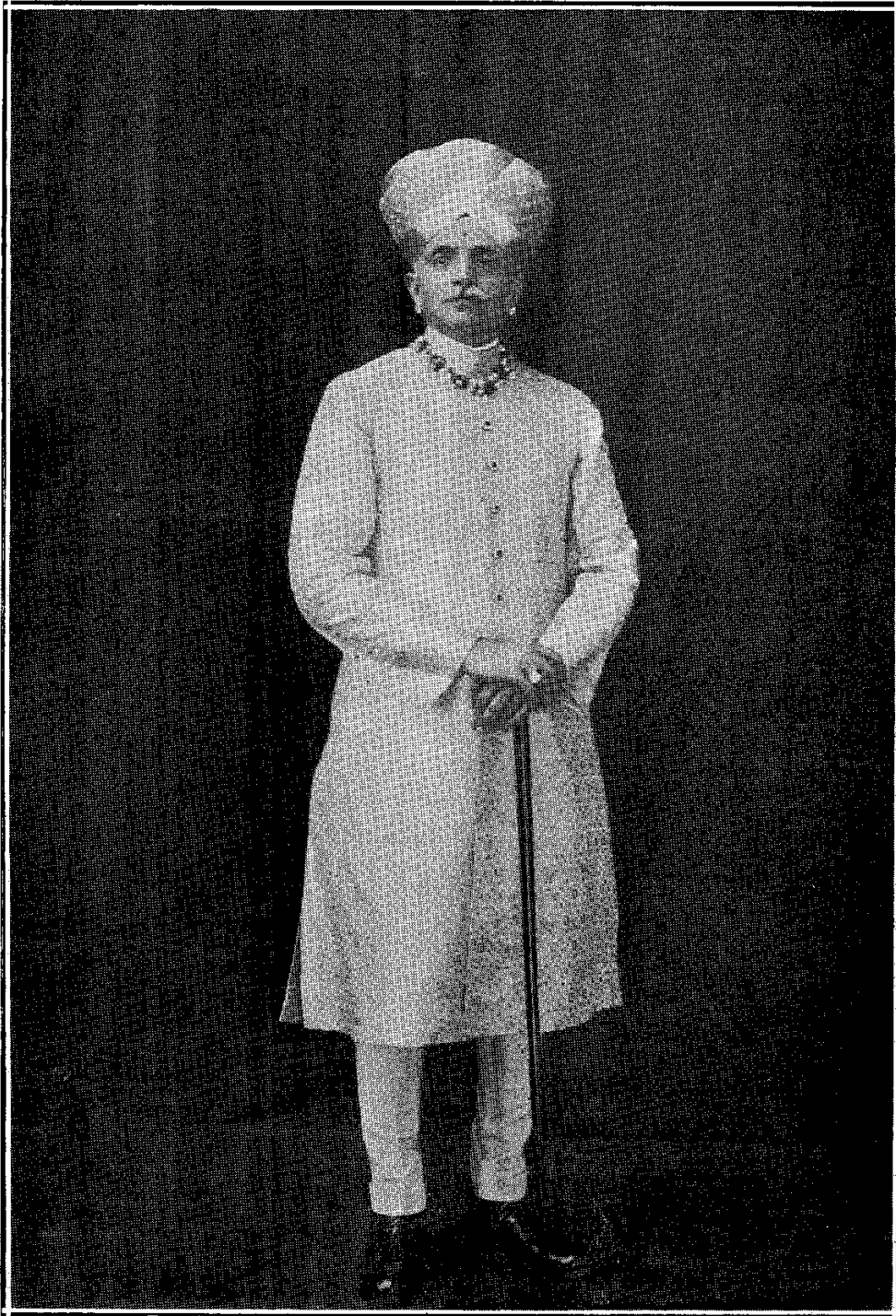
## CHAPTER XXIII.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

#### **Termination of the Regency—Investiture with power of H. H. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV—Edward VII's Coronation in England.**

In 1902 the young Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV reached the age of 18 years and was considered both by his education and the administrative training he had received quite competent to assume the responsibility of ruling his State. Almost in the first year of her lonely life the Maharani-Regent had readily given her consent to an arrangement by which Mr. S. M. Fraser (afterwards Sir) of the Bombay Civil Service was appointed Tutor and Guardian of the young Maharaja. Before he came to Mysore, he had held a similar position in Kolhapur and had earned a name for having very successfully trained up the ruler of that State. It was considered at the time by a large number of people that it was cruel to separate the son from the mother. Her Highness, however, saw the wisdom of the arrangement and suppressing her natural feelings yielded to the sense of duty she owed to her son. Fortunately Mr. Fraser's tact, conciliatory disposition and abilities were such as to cause no regret on the part of the Maharani for the approval she had given to the arrangement for the education of her son.

Under the guidance of Mr. Fraser, a systematic and sustained effort was made to prepare His Highness for the duties of his exalted office, which was ultimately attended with great success. The curricula of studies were framed with a view to giving the Maharaja an intelligent knowledge both of the theory and practice of government. The reading of modern history and science was combined with a study of the principles of jurisprudence and methods of revenue administration. This book learning was supplemented by extensive tours in every part of the State by which the Maharaja was brought into contact with all classes of officials and gained a first-hand knowledge of the nature and resources of the country which he was to govern. In the last tour made before assuming the government of the State, His Highness



*H. H. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.*

in several places took the opportunity to visit taluk and other offices to examine the accounts and papers of village officials and to speak to the people by his own mouth and thus was introduced to the practical working of the machinery of the districts. To familiarise himself with legal procedure, His Highness more than once attended the law courts and sat upon the bench with the presiding judges and magistrates. On some occasions His Highness attended the meetings of the State Council and followed the discussions with intelligent appreciation of the points raised. It was the opinion of those responsible at the time for the Maharaja's training that His Highness had made excellent use of the opportunities afforded to him. The Maharaja's health during his minority was uniformly good. He had regular and varied outdoor exercises which developed his physical strength and endurance. His Highness learnt to play tennis and racquets well and was able to acquire proficiency in horsemanship.

The investiture ceremony took place on the 8th August 1902 at Mysore and it was performed by the Viceroy Lord Curzon. A deputation from Mysore consisting of Mr. C. L. S. Russel, first assistant to the British Resident, Bakshi Bassappaji Urs a nobleman of the State and related to the Royal Family and V. P. Madhava Rao, Member of the State Council, welcomed the Viceregal party at Hindupur on behalf of the Maharani-Regent and accompanied the party to Bangalore, arriving there on the 4th August. The Viceroy made a stay of two days at Bangalore. On the afternoon of the first day he drove to the Imperial Service Cavalry and Transport Lines and witnessed some 200 Imperial Service Lancers under the command of Captain Macquiod execute various manoeuvres. On the arrival of the Viceroy at the Imperial Service Lines, he was received by Dewan Krishna Murthi and conducted to a position near the saluting flag. After the horses of the entire regiment had lain down on the word of command so as to form covers for their riders in action, the regiment formed mass and the men dismounted and left their horses entirely alone with the rein passed through the girths. Rockets, carbine discharges and other noises were then made to test the training of the horses and except one or two horses which broke away, the remainder kept

perfectly steady and unconcerned. After galloping past and advancing in review order, the Lancers cheered His Excellency. The Viceroy remarked that the display he had seen proved the excellence of the training of the horses and the special attention paid to the matter by Colonel Desaraj Urs and Captain Macquiod. The manœuvres subsequent to special show in connection with the horses reflected great credit, said His Excellency, on the regiment. On the night of the next day, the Viceroy and party attended a reception given by the Dewan P. N. Krishna Murthi at the latter's palatial residence 'Purna Prasada.' On the 6th August the electric works at Sivasamudram were visited and Mysore was reached on the morning of the 7th, where the Viceroy was received with all the ceremonies usual on such occasions.

On Friday the 8th August 1902 a grand durbar was held in the pavilion attached to the Jagan Mohan Palace. The civil and military officers of the Government and others who had been invited for the occasion were in their seats before the arrival of the Viceroy. A deputation consisting of the Dewan and three principal officers of the State waited on His Excellency at 9-15 a.m. for the purpose of conducting him to the durbar hall. His Excellency left his residence at 9-30 a.m. attended by the Private and Military Secretaries and the Under-Secretary in the Foreign Department and was escorted by a wing of a regiment of British cavalry and a battery of Royal Field Artillery. His Highness the Maharaja accompanied by Colonel Donald Robertson the British Resident and four principal nobles and officers of the State received the Viceroy as he alighted from his carriage. A guard of honour furnished by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment with band and colours which had been drawn up outside the durbar hall saluted the Viceroy on arrival. The band played a slow march as the procession approached the door of the durbar hall and at the entrance a second guard of honour of British troops presented arms. A royal salute of 31 guns was fired from the ramparts of the fort and the band played the British National Anthem. All present rose on the entrance of the procession and remained standing till His Excellency the Viceroy took his seat on the dais. The Maharaja

took his seat on the right hand and on the left of the Viceroy were seated the Resident, the Foreign Secretary and other British officers. The other European guests were seated in an other group at some distance apart. On the right of the Maharaja sat the Dewan, the nobles and other native officers and guests in the order of their rank and precedence in different rows. After all were seated, the Foreign Secretary declared the Durbar open.

His Excellency the Viceroy then rose and addressed His Highness the Maharaja in these words:—"Your Highness and Gentlemen—This is the first time since I have been in India that I have been called upon personally to instal a Ruling Chief. It gives me the greatest pleasure that the Chief in whose case I am about to discharge these agreeable functions should be one whose career I have had such close opportunities of watching and for whom I entertain so sincere a regard as the young Maharaja of Mysore. Indeed, I think I may add that I should not have come all the way from Simla at this season of the year had I not felt the keenest personal interest both in this State and in its future Ruler. About the latter I shall have a word to say presently. But first let me explain how it is that the fortunes of the Mysore State occupy such a place in the concern and regard of the Government of India.

"We can never forget that for 50 years this State was under British administration during which time it enjoyed the full benefits of the discipline and method and experience that are associated with the British system. At the end of that period a great experiment was made. The famous Rendition took place and the State was given back to its native rulers. It is interesting to recollect that the statesman who was mainly responsible for that act was the veteran Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, who only three weeks ago resigned the helm of affairs in England after half a century of unsurpassed service to the State. It was a just and magnanimous act, but it was also, as I have said, a great experiment; for if the result had been failure, then a cruel rebuff would have been administered to the generosity which dictated the proceeding and the cause of Native States and of Native Administration throughout India must have suffered a lasting recoil.

The eyes of every one therefore were directed upon Mysore to see how the venture would result and how far the State would justify the confidence reposed in it. I will not pretend that there have never been shades in the picture or that an unassailable standard has everywhere been maintained. In this world we talk about ideals more often than we realise them. But this I can unhesitatingly say—the State has been well served by the members of its Ruling Family and by faithful and patriotic ministers. The first Dewan Rangacharlu did not long survive the Rendition. But his successor Sir Seshadri Iyer for 18 years wielded an authority that was a reflex of his powerful character and abilities and that left its mark upon every branch of the administration. The late Maharaja whose amiability and excellence of disposition endeared him to all was unfortunately removed by a premature death while still in the prime of life. And since then Sir Seshadri Iyer has died also. Thus the old order has passed away and we stand on the threshold of a new era.

“For nearly eight years there has been a minority during which the Regency has been in the hands of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent assisted by a Dewan and Council and relying upon the firm and constant support of the British Resident. As the head of the Government of India, I have pleasure in stating that the smooth progress of events during the minority has been largely due to the unfailing tact and discretion of Her Highness. If I may be allowed to say so, she has set an example of public and domestic virtue which has been of equal value to her people and to her family and which has earned for her the admiration and respect of all. It gives me pleasure to announce that in recognition of these services I had submitted to His Majesty the King-Emperor the request that he would allow Her Highness the salute of 19 guns to be continued to her for life and that His Majesty has gladly consented to bestow upon Her Highness this exceptional mark of favour. It is our hope now that she is retiring from the responsible position which she has so long and successfully filled that she may observe the fruits of her sagacious example and may meet with the rewards of her motherly devotion in the conduct and career of her son.

“ I am thus brought to the circumstances that have led up to the ceremony of to-day. The young Maharaja whom I am about to instal has recently attained his eighteenth birthday. He has passed through a minority of nearly eight years. They have not been idle or vapid years spent in enjoyment or dissipated in idleness. They have been years of careful preparation for the duties that lie before him and of laborious training for his exalted state. It is no light thing to assume the charge of 5,000,000 of people and it is no perfunctory training that is required for such a task. In Mr. Fraser we were fortunate enough to discover a Tutor and Governor thoroughly alive to the duties of his onerous position and well qualified to win the confidence as well as waken the energies of his pupil. In Colonel Robertson the young Chief has met with a mentor as sympathetic as he was wise, and under this combined influence, associated by those happy domestic associations to which I have before referred, we have seen the natural good judgment and sound sense of the Maharaja develop by steady degrees until we felt satisfied of his capacity to assume the full and final responsibility of the government of men. He has made frequent tours among his people. He has studied their wants and needs at first hand. He has thereby acquired the knowledge which will enable him to understand the problems with which he will be confronted. Fortified by this knowledge, his naturally business-like habits and his instinctive self-reliance should enable him to steer a straight course. He will be assisted by a Dewan who has already earned confirmation in his responsible office and by two capable Councillors of State. He will have the advice of a Private Secretary whose abilities have specially recommended him for the selection. The time, I hope, will never come when the Maharaja may be unable to rely upon the support and counsel of the British Resident to whom he should turn, not as to a schoolmaster but as a protector and friend.”

Then turning towards the Maharaja, Lord Curzon continued :—

“ Pray do not think that I am going to read you a lecture. Rulers are not made virtuous by installation homilies but by the instincts of their nature, by a diligent training and by a willingness to profit by the wisdom and experience of others. There was a learned

French priest named Fenelon who was specially engaged to give lectures in the art of rule to the grandson of Louis XIV of France. But I am sorry to say that the young man was no better at the end than at the beginning. Similarly we know that all the precepts of the wisest of men, King Solomon, left no impression upon his son. I am not going, therefore, to give you a text-book of moral maxims. I will only ask you to remember this—the young man of 18 who becomes a Ruler not only enjoys one of the noblest opportunities but also bears one of the greatest responsibilities in the world. Upon you to a large extent will depend the happiness and comfort of several millions of your fellow creatures who already look up to you with reverence, who if you rule well, will regard you with devotion but if you rule badly, with indifference and despair. You are put in this place not for your own sake; to think that is the greatest of all human errors, but for theirs. If you act conscientiously and dutifully, you may leave a name that will live for generations in the memory of your people. If you throw away your chances and become a sluggard or worse, your name will be written in water and your memory will pass like a puff of smoke from the minds of men. Therefore I beg of you at this turning-point in your life to remember these things. 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; for duty, believe me, cannot afford to loiter and there ought to be no blank spaces in a Ruler's diary....."

The Maharaja was after the conclusion of the speech formally led up the dais by the Viceroy and installed in one of the two State chairs. The Foreign Secretary having read the titles of the Maharaja, the Viceroy declared that the Maharaja was invested with full powers of administration. The event was immediately signalled by a salute of 21 guns from the fort, while the band played the National Anthem. The Viceroy's khillats were then brought in and conferred on the Maharaja.

The Maharaja then rose and made a reply to the Viceroy's speech in these words:—"It is with feelings of no mere conventional loyalty and gratitude—loyalty to His Majesty the King.



Emperor and gratitude to yourself his representative—that I acknowledge the great honour conferred upon me in receiving at Your Excellency's hands the charge of my State this day. The history of Mysore with the romantic fortunes of our ancient dynasty must ever inspire in its Ruler a feeling of gratitude to the British throne, which adds, I think, a special quality to the allegiance which it is my first duty to publicly tender to the person of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. The restoration of His Majesty to health by God's goodness is nowhere in the British Empire hailed with more heartfelt thankfulness than in the loyal State of Mysore. To Your Excellency I owe something more than ordinary thanks. In common with the rest of the Chiefs of India, I am indebted to Your Excellency for the many acts by which you have proved yourself to be our friend, most of all perhaps for the ennobling ideal of duty ever held up before us, and the words of weighty advice which Your Excellency has now addressed to me will, believe me, sink the deeper into my mind from the example and authority of the illustrious Viceroy who has uttered them. But more than this, I am under a particular and personal obligation to Your Excellency for the distinction bestowed upon me by this second visit to Mysore.

“In gratefully acknowledging the sacrifice entailed on Your Excellency, I would venture to assure Your Excellency that I shall never forget the honour done me on this the most important day of my career. How important are the responsibilities which now devolve upon me I fully realise and this it is my ambition to prove by performance rather than by words. The inheritance to which I succeed is no ordinary one and I appreciate what Mysore owes to wise statesmen and the care of the British Government under the Regency of my revered mother. But at the same time, I know full well that I cannot rest on the laurels won by others and that my utmost efforts are needed not only to maintain for my subjects the benefits they already enjoy but to press onward to a yet higher standard of efficiency. How far I may be granted the ability to cope with the problems before me the future only can show, but it is a comfort to me to feel that I shall for some time at any rate enjoy the assistance of my well proved friend the Honourable

Colonel Donald Robertson as Resident of the State. And speaking with all deference, I am able to say that I begin my task with some knowledge of its difficulties, thanks to the education I have received from Mr. Fraser to whom I hope to prove that his labours for the past six years have not been without fruit. This much at any rate can confidently be affirmed that the desire and the effort to succeed shall not be lacking. I have now seen a great deal of my State with its beautiful scenery and its loyal people and it would be a poor heart indeed that was not filled with pride and love for such an inheritance. May Heaven grant me the ability as well as the ambition to make a full and wise use of the great opportunities of my position and to govern without fear or favour for the lasting happiness of my people."

In the afternoon the Maharaja received addresses from various bodies and made separate suitable replies. To the members of the Madhva Siddhantonnahini Sabha, a religious body representing the followers of Sri Madhva's Dwaitha philosophy, His Highness conveyed the assurance that all institutions which had for their object the development of reverence and godliness in man deserved encouragement and as such the Sabha had his sympathy. To the representatives of the London and Wesleyan Missions in the Mysore State, His Highness said that their efforts to spread education and to foster qualities of good citizenship needed no commendation at his hands, that it was a matter of pride and pleasure to him that they spoke in such appreciative terms of his late lamented father and of his revered mother, and striving after the same high ideals as they entertained, he would continue to promote the welfare of all classes and creeds among his subjects. To the members of the Mahomedan community, the Maharaja replied in Urdu and assured them that it was his great wish that his Muslim subjects in Mysore should progress in the arts, science and literature like the other communities. To the representatives of the North and South Planters' Associations, His Highness said that it was gratifying to him to note their reference to the broad-minded and enlightened principles that had guided the administration of his illustrious father and of his esteemed mother and to assure them that he would be guided by the same principles.

A number of other addresses also were presented to His Highness, among them being one from the inhabitants of the French Settlement of Pondicherry, another from the members of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association of Mysore and Coorg, and a third from the people of Coorg. Among the deputations that had arrived to offer their congratulations to the young Maharaja was one from Kapurthala in the Punjab.

The happy recovery of the King-Emperor Edward VII and His Majesty's Coronation in England on the day succeeding the installation of the Maharaja were events of common rejoicing throughout the British Empire. On this day an open air Coronation parade service was held in Mysore on the old polo ground adjoining the Government House at which both the Viceroy and the Maharaja were present. Lord Curzon after spending a few days in the jungles of Mysore in the Gundlupet taluk engaged in bison shooting and other shikar, finally left Mysore on the morning of the 13th August and proceeded to Ootacamund.