

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

#### Various Administrative Improvements—1902—1906.

##### Finance.

During the period closing the early part of the year 1906 various measures of internal improvement were inaugurated. The earliest administrative event of the new Maharaja's reign was the completion of the examination of the State accounts by Mr. Kiernander, a retired financial officer of the Government of India. In the year 1881 the ordinary revenue of the State was Rs. 107½ lakhs, while in 1902-03 the first year of the Maharaja's reign it stood at Rs. 180 lakhs. What were regarded as permanent charges in which little scope existed for curtailment in a time of necessity amounted to about Rs. 95½ lakhs, while in 1881 it was about Rs. 58 lakhs. The increase in expenditure was partly due to the enhancement of the Subsidy. The total expenditure under other administrative heads where reduction was possible in a time of need was about Rs. 88 lakhs as compared with Rs. 39 lakhs in 1881 the year of the Rendition. It was found, however, that the most appreciable increases related to such useful departments as Medical, Education, Public Works, Police, Law and Justice. Mr. Kiernander recorded his testimony to the prosperous condition of the finances of the State notwithstanding the heavy drain on its resources due to enhanced Subsidy, cost of reconstruction of a number of administrative departments, the Kaveri Electric scheme and other items.

Sir Donald Robertson, the British Resident who vacated his office in November 1903, apart from the service he rendered in the framing of the Mysore Constitution was also helpful in placing the financial control of the State on a more satisfactory footing. He suggested the appointment of a trained audit officer as Comptroller of the State finances and this suggestion was accepted by the Durbar. He also expressed the opinion that this officer should have adequate freedom to express his views on matters involving any

substantial expenditure or departure from financial rules as well as the right of direct access to His Highness in the last resort. Application was made to the Government of India for the services of a qualified officer and one was borrowed from the Finance Department of that Government. Both this officer as well as his successor, however, did not perceive the difference between British India and a Native State and made no attempt to apply the audit rules of British India in a flexible manner to the Mysore State. In British India, it is believed that the financial officers are accustomed generally to have the Secretary of State at their back and in the case of any difference with the Government have the privilege of the last word expressed with considerable latitude. In a Native State, on the other hand, the Government for the time being and the Maharaja as matters stand at present should have the final word.

#### **Educational Progress.**

Notwithstanding the progress that was achieved in the general education of the people since the Rendition in 1881, there was still a vast field of popular ignorance which the light of knowledge had not touched. Out of a population of nearly  $5\frac{1}{2}$  millions, only 4.8 per cent were returned at the census of 1901 as literate, or in other words 95.2 per cent of the population were unlettered. If the two sexes were viewed separately, the percentage of males literate was 8.8 of their population and that of females 0.6 per cent to their total number. Similarly the percentage of male pupils under instruction was 23.09 and that of females 4.15 or an average of 13.62 for the children of both sexes together to the school-going population. The percentage of number of schools to the number of towns and villages was 23.29. It was regarded at this time as a serious problem how within a reasonable time further facilities could be created to diminish this appalling mass of popular ignorance.

In the year 1902 when the Maharaja began to rule his State, there were 2231 public schools, their total attendance being 1,11,624. The percentages of boys and girls to those of school-going age were respectively 23 and 4. In this year some schools were opened specially for the backward class of Lambanies. The

total expenditure on education was Rs. 11,44,352. A number of private benefactions now began to come in for educational and other purposes. Of these, the offer of Sowcar Doddanna Setty of Bangalore to construct and endow a free English school up to the Lower Secondary standard at a large cost and the gift by Sowcar Padma Setty of a substantial building named Vani Vilas Pathasala after H. H. the Maharani-Regent at Sravanabelagola, the great pilgrim centre of the Jains, were noteworthy. The same Sowcar gave also an endowment for scholarships.

Various other measures were also adopted to give an impetus to all kinds of education. In 1902-03 two scholarships were for the first time awarded to Mahomedan students to study in the famous college at Aligarh established by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. In the same year the Maharani's Girls' School at Mysore was raised to the grade of a college and affiliated to the Madras University, and one young lady passed in two and another in one of the branches of the B.A. Degree examination and a third in the First in Arts examination, and from this time the college began to admit girls of respectable parentage of all communities. In 1905 a further impetus was given to adult female education by instituting 30 scholarships for the education of widows, in addition to the scholarships given from a fund called the Devaraja Bahadur Fund.

In 1902 an offer of substantial help was made by the Mysore Government to the provisional committee for the Institute of Science projected by J. N. Tata of Bombay on the understanding that it was to be located at Bangalore. It took some time for the provisional committee in consultation with the Government of India to accept this offer. In 1905, however, it was settled that the institute was to be established in Bangalore and the annual grant from the Mysore Government was fixed at Rs. 50,000.

In the social and economic conditions of the country as they stood at this time, it was considered that any scheme of technical education which involved a large outlay or the co-operation of a large number of people would end in disappointment, if not total failure. It was therefore regarded safer to embark on humbler

schemes of technical or industrial education. The object kept in view was not the imparting of any ideal, theoretical or scientific course of instruction but the teaching of such industries and trades on improved methods as were adapted to supply the existing wants of the people such as carpentry, weaving, silk-rearing, iron-work, rattan-work, lacquer-work and to turn out every year a number of pupils fully equipped with the means of earning their livelihood. As a first step, schools were established at Chennapatna and four others places and these were intended more or less as workshops also conducted on business principles. In the case of industries for training in which facilities did not exist in the Mysore State, a number of scholarships was instituted to enable Mysore pupils to undergo training in the School of Arts, Madras or Bombay, or other institutions where such industries were taught. In connection with the weaving industry, weaving schools with a carpentry class attached in which elementary drawing was also taught were established at Hole-Narsipur and three other places.

As an experimental measure, a few selected schoolmasters were deputed to Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore for training for a period of three months in improved methods of growing mulberry trees, rearing silk worms and reeling, the ultimate object being to train up a number of schoolmasters who like the special inspectors in Japan were to help in the constant maintenance of a healthy breed of worms.

Apart from increasing the efficiency of the artisans and of their mechanical appliances, it was also considered necessary to give dignity to the various callings which they greatly lacked at the time and which therefore precluded the higher classes from engaging themselves in them as freely as they otherwise would have done. As a means to achieve this object, it was considered desirable to teach some of the handicrafts to the high school and college students. It was also considered necessary in order to increase the level of the knowledge of the technical arts among the higher classes to depute a number of students to foreign countries for the purpose of studying selected industries in those countries. Accordingly three students were deputed to America to learn

electrical engineering in the workshops of the General Electric Company at Schenectaddy. An officer of the Geological Department was sent to England to undergo an advanced course of training in Geology.

### ✓ **Local Self-Government.**

The Local Boards Regulation which was long in incubation from 1883 at last received the approval of the Government of India and was passed into law by the Durbar in 1902, and the rules required under this enactment were issued in September 1903. Under these rules were constituted eight District Boards corresponding to the 8 revenue districts, 77 Taluk Boards one for each taluk or sub-taluk and 38 Unions. These Unions were formerly Minor Municipalities and they were converted into Unions as they contained a population of less than 3000 each. The strength of the members of a Union was to be fixed in each case by Government and the chairman of the Panchayet or the governing body was to be appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioners. Each Taluk Board was to consist of 12 members, four ex-officio—the Assistant Commissioner, the Amildar, the medical officer and the senior officer of the Public Works Department, 4 elected members being men of the full age of 21 years able to read and write and either holding or owning in the taluk land assessed at not less than Rs. 50 per annum, or officiating as Patel of any village in the taluk, or paying a house-tax of not less than Rs. 5 per annum. The electors were to be men with the same qualifications, the educational qualification being however regarded as not indispensable. One member of the taluk head-quarter Municipal Board was to be elected by its members from among their own body and the remaining three were to be nominated by Government. The District Board was to consist of (a) ex-officio members—the Deputy Commissioner as President, Assistant Commissioners in revenue charge of the taluks as well as the Assistant Commissioner if any at the headquarters not placed in revenue charge of a taluk, and the chief or senior officer for the district in each of the departments of Medical Relief, Engineering and Education; (b) one non-official representative from each of the taluks in the district to be elected by the members of the Taluk

Board from among their body; and (c) such number as would make up the strength of the Board, which strength in the case of the Mysore District was to be 30 and in the case of the other districts 25, to be appointed by Government on the recommendation of the the Deputy Commissioner. The Vice-President of the District Board was to be one appointed by the Government or one elected by the members when so authorised by Government. The members of the Local Boards other than the ex-officio members were to hold office for three years. Questions coming before the Local Boards were to be decided by a majority of votes.

The income under Local Funds consisted chiefly of the one anna local cess collected on a number of items of revenue. 76 per cent of the cess on land revenue in each district was credited to the District Board of that district and was expended within the district through the agency of District and Taluk Boards and Unions. The balance of 24 per cent, together with the 33 per cent of the local cess on Excise and other items of revenue, went to form a fund called the Village School Fund which was spent entirely on primary education in rural parts.

#### **Mysore City Improvement Trust.**

In 1903 an annual sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was allotted for the improvement of the Mysore City and a Trust Board to carry out improvements was also formed. Sir Evan Machonochie has given in his book "Life in the Indian Civil Service" a description of the work done by this Board:—"Shortly after my arrival, a committee was constituted to consider the improvement of the Mysore City. It was composed of all the leading officials of the State and was too large to be of any practical use. I ventured to suggest that if they would appoint a small sub-committee and place at its disposal a competent surveyor, it would be possible to submit definite proposals. This was agreed to and we got to work. The committee included the Civil Surgeon (P. S. Achuta Rao), a Mysorean who besides possessing high professional qualifications was the most genial and kindly of men..... Another (M. Venkatkrishnaiya) was the editor of the 'Mysore Herald' which was the organ of the local opposition. He devoted much ink and eloquence

to attacks on our early efforts towards a new efficiency and preached 'Mysore for Mysorean' with much vigour. But his intentions were good and we got on amicably. We were fortunate in the officer of the Public Works Department placed at our disposal. J. E. A. D'Cruz was not only a good all-round engineer and an exceptionally competent surveyor but also an untiring and devoted worker. The committee went over every part of the town,—a not very appetising business before breakfast,—for though the late Maharaja had effected immense improvements in the way of magnificent roads and had opened new quarters laid out on the grand scale, much of the town was congested and some portions were no better than slums. In something like six months Mr. D'Cruz with a diminutive staff mostly trained by himself and at trifling cost had completed an admirable city survey giving every holding in detail to scale..... We submitted our proposals and suggested the formation of an 'Improvement Trust' to carry them out with a substantial allotment from Government funds. The proposal was accepted and the Trust was constituted, composed of a few officials and some leading citizens with a senior executive engineer as chairman. We got to work, cleared out the slums, straightened and widened the roads, put in a surface drainage system leading into main sewers that discharged into septic tanks, provided new quarters for the displaced population and tidied up generally. The city of Mysore, as a consequence, challenges comparison for beauty, cleanliness and general amenity with any capital of its size in the world."

#### **Irrigation.**

The large number of tanks in the Mysore State inherited from the past always was, as we have already seen, a matter of much solicitude to the Government. A distinction was maintained between tanks paying an assessment of Rs. 300 and under and those paying Rs. 100 and under. For the latter the Government was incurring no expenditure, while for the former it undertook to do the masonry and stonework provided the ryots did the earth-work. This distinction was abolished in 1904 and all masonry and stonework was undertaken to be executed by Government under

As has been already stated, the Agricultural Banks started for the relief of rural indebtedness had not fulfilled the expectations formed of them. The problems relating to the indebtedness of the agriculturists and the industrialists were regarded as too important to be left to themselves and as a consequence, it became necessary to devise better methods. Fortunately the Government of India had passed a measure in 1904 called the Co-operative Credit Societies Act and the Durbar taking advantage of the wider

#### Co-operative Societies.

far-seeing wisdom that marked the administration of the State.

The Electric Power Scheme continued to yield considerable profit, and power began to be applied for purposes of illumination, besides that of mining. On the 3rd August 1905 the electric lighting scheme for the Bangalore City was completed, the inaugural ceremony being performed by the Hon'ble Sir John Hewett, Member of the Viceroy's Council. In declaring that Bangalore was the first city in India to be lighted by electricity, Sir John Hewett complimented His Highness Government for the

#### Electric Lighting of Bangalore.

An Ethnological Survey was inaugurated by the Government of India soon after the census of 1901 and the Mysore Government also followed their example shortly after. The survey included not only a systematic enquiry into the ethnography of each of the major castes but also a detailed examination, from an anthropometric point of view, of their physical characters. The ethnographic portion of the survey in Mysore was entrusted to the late H. V. Nanjundaia who was Secretary to Government at the time.

#### Ethnological Survey.

certain specified conditions. In special cases, however, when the amount of earthwork imposed an unreasonable burden on the ryots, discretion was given to the Deputy Commissioners to allow some relaxation. By this measure it was hoped that the people would accord their full co-operation in preserving from deterioration the great heritage of tanks, the usefulness of which could not be over-rated.

knowledge and larger experience of the Supreme Government adopted the same Act for the Mysore State in June 1905 with certain modifications suited to local conditions. This Regulation was intended to be helpful to all classes of people for the furtherance of thrift and providence among them. To the agriculturists and artisans especially, the Regulation was intended to be an easy means of combination by which they could obtain the credit they needed for their business and derive benefit in other ways also. The societies were also meant to act in behalf of the members for the supply to them of raw material, seed or manure, articles of consumption or other requisites. There existed also a provision in the Regulation to authorise the Registrar who was the supervising officer of all societies to himself settle disputes relating to their business or to refer them to arbitration.

In the first year of the introduction of this new scheme, seven societies were started at different places. The society at Bangalore was purely an urban society and the one at Hole-Narsipur was mainly intended for the benefit of the weavers of that taluk. The society at Kotta in the Sira taluk was a grain bank in which the capital subscribed by the members and the loans issued were in the shape of grain. His Highness the Maharaja manifested keen interest in the development of these societies and placed a large sum of money from his own purse at the disposal of the Registrar for popularising this movement. His Highness' Government also gave exemption from stamp and registration fees and issued well-considered rules for the settlement of disputes by arbitration. They also granted advances of money to the societies in the early years of their working. In the second year, the number of societies started was 15 and the society at Saligram in the Krishnarajanagar taluk deputed one of its members to Baroda to study the improved processes of weaving introduced there.

**The economic conditions of the country as they stood in the opening years of the Maharaja's rule.**

The total area of Government lands under occupation before the Rendition was the largest in 1875-76, viz., 42,31,826 acres.

There was a falling off in the subsequent years in the occupied area in consequence of famine. In 1881-82 the extent under occupation excluding area under coffee was 42,13,505 acres. The extent of cultivated area steadily increased from that year and in 1903 the total area was a little over 66 lakhs of acres, showing an increase of more than 56 per cent from the year of the Rendition. The area under dry crop rose from 35,20,687 acres to 55,57,331; that under wet crop from 5,54,554 acres to 7,97,904 and that under garden crop from 1,38,264 acres to 2,43,866. The net value of the produce of an acre of dry cultivation was calculated at Rs. 12/-, of wet at Rs. 50/- and of garden at Rs. 80/-. Taking these estimates which were considered moderate, the total value of the yield in 1903 which was an average year was calculated to amount to a little over Rs. 12½ crores. The nature of the cultivation underwent little improvement in the interval and the increase could more or less be attributed only to the extended area brought under cultivation. Applying the standards of 1903, the total value of the produce of 1881 may be considered to have amounted to a little over Rs. 8 crores, the error if any being in favour of 1881 when prices were low as compared with those of the later year. The average area of a holding increased from 4.8 acres in the period from 1893-97 to 7.22 in the next five years, the assessment also similarly rising from Rs. 6.3 to Rs. 9.6 for each estate.

An Agricultural Chemist had been employed for some years before the Maharaja assumed power. But most of his time had been taken up in acquainting himself with the agricultural and industrial conditions of the country and with the fitting up of a chemical laboratory. He was now directed to devote his attention only to those points that would be of help to the agriculturists. His efforts were required particularly to be directed to a systematic examination of soils in all parts of the State, the ascertainment of the appropriate manures required for particular soils, the adoption of measures for the removal of insects and other pests, the introduction of improved methods of cultivation generally and other allied purposes. An Entomologist was also appointed to assist the Agricultural Chemist in the investigation of the insect pests that attacked the crops.

The introduction of the Survey and Settlement was completed in 1895 in all parts of the State and the first revision settlement was begun in the year 1900 and the first taluks taken up were Challakere and Molakalmuru. It was noteworthy that there was no necessity in any case whatever for again classifying the soil, the original classification having been found quite satisfactory. The maximum enhancement of assessment on account of revision was about 22 per cent on the original settlement and the minimum was 15 per cent, it being understood that the Government was entitled to a maximum limit of enhancement of 33 per cent. The most noticeable effect of the new revision was upon the garden rate which underwent considerable diminution. The average rate was reduced in Davangere from Rs. 4-6-11 to 2-13-9 and in the Chitaldrug taluk from Rs. 3-14-5 to Rs. 2-8-2, there having been a corresponding decrease in the other taluks also. This reduction was partly due to the large extent of dry lands about 2616 acres which had been converted since the first settlement into garden by means of well irrigation without any aid from Government water.

The depression in the coffee trade owing to the competition from Brazil and other causes much retarded the growth of that industry throughout India. The Durbar, therefore, with great willingness complied at this period with the request made by the North and South Mysore Planters' Associations for a conference on the subject. V. P. Madhava Rao, Member of Council, who was deputed on behalf of Government met Graham Anderson and other leading planters and conferred with them on the state of the industry at Mudigere and Sakalespur, the two important centres of coffee growth. Some of the important subjects considered were the registration of titles, levy of coffee cess, measures for preventing adulteration of coffee. The question of introducing the Coffee Stealing Act and the Labour Law were also touched upon. The fullest assurance of sympathy and help on the part of Government was given to this enterprising body of gentlemen whose industry was of so much benefit to the country. Later, a contribution from the State of Rs. 5000 was sanctioned to enable the Planting Associations to exhibit Mysore coffee and cardamoms at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in 1904.

and on which only dry rates were levied. In the Chitaldrug District it was found that there was an increase of prices all round of 35 to 40 per cent since the original settlement. The facilities of communication had also improved and the opening of the railway had not only improved the market for its produce but had also helped in the development of its resources.

The establishment of an experimental farm near the Hebbal village in the Bangalore taluk was taken in hand by the Agricultural Chemist in 1905. A Mycologist and Entomologist for the investigation of insect pests and plant diseases was selected in Canada.

The procedure of inviting objections if any to the grouping of villages and to the maximum rates of assessment within two months before a revision settlement became final was found to give to the land-holders no clear ideas as to how their holdings were individually affected, and facilities were now therefore created for appeals being preferred within three months from the introduction of the revised settlement.

While development of communications in the shape of roads and railways had tended to bring about an expansion of the area of the land under cultivation and a consequent increase in the produce derived from it, the same cause had had a somewhat detrimental effect on the manufactures of the country. The artisans as in other parts of India generally carried on their occupations in their own homes and found a market in their own neighbourhood or, at best, at short distances from their places of business. The facilities of transport now created while opening a market for grain and other raw produce of the country, at the same time opened also a door for the influx of cheap foreign goods which necessarily caused a shrinkage in the manufacturing industries of the State. The statistics of the railborne trade during the ten years from 1890 to 1900 showed a large export trade in grain and pulse, hides and skins, horns, oil seeds, raw silk and similar produce, while the imports were mostly such as manufactured leather, cotton goods, European liquors, oils, salt and other articles. The economic

position of the Mysore artisan from his own choice continued to be one of isolation and like the agriculturist, he was unable to enter into any large combination for a common purpose. The same industries as were in existence in the early years of the Rendition such as metal industry, pottery, carpentry, textile fabrics continued without much change. No doubt in the early years of the Rendition a few factories came into existence such as the Woollen Manufactory, the Cotton Mill, the Tile Works and the Sugar Manufactory at Goribidnur. But most of these were under European management and afforded no evidence of progress of either technical knowledge or co-operative spirit among the people of the country. Attempts to encourage the manufacture of paper, the establishment of iron industry on a large scale, the spinning and weaving of silk by machinery did not produce any appreciable results.

To give an incentive to industries, a separate Mysore Section was organised in December 1904 in connection with the Bombay Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held there. A number of exhibitors and artisans from some of the chief centres of manufacture were sent to Bombay to study the exhibits and the working of some of the industrial institutions there. A few influential ryots were also sent to acquaint themselves with the several improved patterns of agricultural implements exhibited there. In this year a commencement was made of holding rural exhibitions by organising a Cattle and Agricultural Show at Hiriyur on the occasion of the annual jatra or congregation of people to pay homage to the presiding deity of the place. Besides the local cattle and articles produced in the district, products from other parts of the State were also exhibited. There was also a collection of several varieties of manure, the composition and nature of which the exhibitors explained to the visitors. In the ploughing competitions, there were different kinds of ploughs at work to demonstrate their comparative merits.