

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

#### Various Administrative Improvements—1906-12.

Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi laid down the office of Dewan on the 30th March 1906 and he was succeeded by V. P. Madhava Rao who continued in office for three years. This latter officer had retired from the Mysore Service in 1904 and was at the time he came back to Mysore holding the place of Dewan of Travancore. With Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi retired also his two colleagues who were Members of the State Council, *viz.*, C. Srinivasa Iyengar and C. Madiah, their places being taken by T. Ananda Rao who was Revenue Commissioner at the time and Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty (afterwards Sir) who was a Deputy Commissioner. Ananda Rao was a son of Sir T. Madhava Rao, a famous Indian statesman of the bygone days, and had entered the Mysore Service as a probationer in November 1873 during the days of the British Commission. He was appointed Dewan in succession to Madhava Rao in March 1909. Mr. Puttanna Chetty had entered the Mysore Service in 1875 as a clerk in one of the Government offices and had been a Deputy Commissioner for some years, when he was chosen to fill the vacancy on the State Council. He was all along known as a strenuous worker and a man of upright conduct.

The new Dewan, Madhava Rao, took a somewhat pessimistic view of the finances of the State as they appeared to him at the time, although the Kaveri Power Scheme and the Bethamangala Water Works had both begun to yield incomes, the former from 1902-03 and the latter from 1906-07. Madhava Rao justified his view by stating that in the seven years from 1898-99 to 1904-05 the liabilities of the State had considerably increased under Savings Bank deposits and the Insurance Fund, while simultaneously the cash and invested reserves had considerably decreased from Rs. 140 lakhs in the beginning of 1898 to Rs. 43½ lakhs in 1905-06. He accordingly introduced certain remedial measures which, he considered, would set right the situation. Prior to the

year 1899, Savings Bank deposits were being received in the Government treasuries up to a maximum limit of Rs. 5000 on each individual account. In August of that year all limitation on the deposits was withdrawn, with the result that the deposits which stood at Rs. 38 lakhs on the last day of June 1899 rose to Rs. 95 lakhs at the close of 1905. A revised limit was now imposed in August 1906 fixing the maximum deposit at Rs. 2000 a year at 2 per cent instead of at  $3\frac{1}{8}$  per cent per annum, the total balance at the credit of an individual depositor not exceeding Rs. 5000 at any time. A sum of Rs. 48 lakhs was added to the reserve of the State from the additional revenue derived from the Kaveri Power Scheme and the Bethamangala Water Works. A Famine Reserve of Rs. 2 lakhs a year was created from 1906-07 to meet the expenditure on possible future famines without dislocating the normal finances. Madhava Rao justified the creation of this reserve, somewhat dubiously however, by stating that in a year of famine while heavy expenditure would be necessary on relief measures, the revenue resources of Government would be crippled and in the absence of a special provision for meeting the situation the Government would be forced to contract loans and to starve the administrative departments. In October 1912 which was the closing year of T. Ananda Rao's Dewanship the limits imposed on Savings Bank deposits were removed in response to the repeated demands of the people for affording facilities for investment.

#### **Change in the working of the Council.**

In 1906 a welcome change was introduced in the working of the State Council. The modified rules invested the members with a certain measure of administrative responsibility, the lack of which had been felt to be the chief reason why the new Consultative Council of 1902 had failed to fulfil the objects with which it was constituted. Under the revised rules the Members of the State Council, though not formally possessing any executive powers as such, were empowered in their respective departments to pass final orders in the name of the Government instead of merely recording their opinions on all ordinary matters which were not of sufficient importance to require reference to the Dewan or to the Council as a body.

### **Railways.**

In 1906 the construction of a light railway from Bangalore to Chikballapur which had been under discussion for some years past was undertaken by an indigenous private company, the first co-operative effort of its kind on a large scale. As an encouragement to such an undertaking, a guarantee of four per cent interest on the capital cost was sanctioned by Government. The contract for the working of the Mysore State lines by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company having terminated, a fresh agreement was concluded with the same company now known as the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company by the Secretary of State for India acting on behalf of the Durbar and this agreement came into effect from the 1st July 1908. Under this revised agreement, the Railway Company received a remuneration of 1/20 of the net earnings of all the lines as against one-fourth of the net earnings of the Mysore-Harihar line and nothing for the branch lines under the old contract.

### **Study of Forestry.**

The proper conservancy of forests received much attention during this period. In 1881 the total area of the State forest was 454 square miles. In 1904 it was 1950 miles exclusive of 1200 square miles of ghaut forest and 183 square miles of Kan forest. In 1906 two students were deputed for the study of forestry at the university of Oxford and five students to the college at Dehra Dun.

### **Sericulture.**

In the same year the Government took advantage of the existence of the Sericultural Farm at Bangalore started by the great philanthropist J. N. Tata to develop the practical side of sericulture and to make the farm a training-ground for persons interested in the industry. In 1908 arrangements were made for the Japanese silk-expert in charge of the farm to visit centres of silk industry and to give suitable advice on the selection of seed and the rearing of worms.

In 1907 was commenced the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition during the period of the Dasara festivities at Mysore at

which agricultural and industrial products of the State and of places outside the State were exhibited and the use of the machinery and implements connected therewith were demonstrated and explained. The first Exhibition was held on the 5th October 1907 and in opening the same the Maharaja said that it was not to be expected that such Exhibitions would have an immediate or revolutionary influence on the agriculture and industries of the country. But they offered to all classes an opportunity of seeing what their neighbours were producing, to craftsmen they were of especial use in indicating the directions in which their skill might be most usefully directed, while distributors might learn from them of new markets on the one hand, and on the other, of new sources of supply. Whatever other disappointments might be in store, His Highness further said, of the educative value of these Exhibitions and of their far-reaching influence on the economics of the country there was no doubt.

#### **Mining.**

In order to provide for the safety and well-being of the employees of mines and for preventing theft of and illicit traffic in mining materials including gold in various stages of extraction, a Regulation had been passed in 1897 known as the Mysore Mines Regulation. Being an enabling law, certain sections of this Regulation were applied only to a limited tract of the country round the Gold Fields in the Bowringpet taluk. The Regulation so far as it went, worked satisfactorily but was found defective when stolen gold in the shape of amalgam or sponge gold was converted into bar gold for which great facilities existed in and around the Gold Field areas. The necessity for bringing the unwrought gold or bar gold within the purview of the Regulation now forced itself on the notice of Government. A revised Regulation was accordingly brought into operation extending to unwrought gold also the presumption contained in the old Regulation that property of the description peculiar to the Mining industry when found in the possession of individuals in the Mining area was illegally obtained until the contrary was proved, which of course was an evident departure from the accepted maxims of criminal jurisprudence.

About the year 1907, many manganese deposits were discovered and a great rush for lands containing them took place on account of the success which had been achieved by the Mysore Manganese Company, Limited. It was felt that as this Company had been the pioneer of an industry new to the State, it required some protection. The Government accordingly decided to withhold the issue of further licences in the Shimoga district until the conditions of successfully working the mineral became clearly understood. But as a tentative measure, it was decided to permit manganese to be mined under prospecting licences for a period of three years without insisting on mining leases being taken out. A further consideration of the matter showed that where actual mining operations were going on involving a large outlay of capital, the issue of long period leases was undesirable and that the tying up of large areas under prospecting licences did not deserve encouragement. At this time, chrome also was sought after and a number of licences were issued for its mining.

#### **Irrigation.**

During the year 1906-07 the Marikanave Works were practically completed and water began to be supplied from that year to the lands below the reservoir. The Government tentatively sanctioned for this tract a system of levying differential water rates, regard being had to the nature of the crops which the occupants desired to raise and the quantity of water required for them. This measure was adopted to popularise wet cultivation among the people of the district who were unaccustomed to it.

#### **Veterinary Department.**

A Veterinary Department helpful to cattle-owners was established during the Dewanship of Madhava Rao. To start with, an inspector of cattle diseases was appointed whose duties consisted of the investigation of the nature of epidemic diseases among cattle, visits to localities where such diseases were prevalent and the adoption of measures for checking their ravages. He was also required to devote his attention to improve veterinary knowledge in rural parts by organising and encouraging local effort and by instructing the rural cattle doctors and large cattle-owners

in a scientific diagnosis of cattle diseases and a proper application of easily available indigenous drugs. In January 1908 a veterinary hospital was started in Bangalore and in May following, hospitals and dispensaries were opened at Mysore, Chickmagalur, Kolar and Hassan in furtherance of the scheme for a Civil Veterinary Department. The serum required to inoculate cattle was obtained from the Government of India Bacteriologist working at the Muktesar laboratory in the Punjab.

#### **Abolition of Halat.**

The Halat which was a tax on supari or arecanut which had been substituted in place of a share of produce payable to Government some years previously was abolished from the beginning of 1907. The decadence of the supari industry and the necessity of relieving it of the burden of this impost had been urged for many years past. The subject had engaged the attention of Government from 1891 and as the outcome of the investigations made by a special officer deputed for the purpose, some relief was given to the industry in the year 1896 by a reduction of assessment on supari gardens, but the Halat remained though felt as open to objection. Various considerations were regarded as standing in the way of its abolition, the chief of which was the supposed inability of the State to forego an item of revenue which yielded about Rs. 3½ lakhs annually. In 1905 Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi after a close study of the matter and after consultation with all those whose opinions were of any weight, placed the matter before the Maharaja with his own opinion and His Highness agreeing with his Dewan generously sanctioned the entire remission of this irksome levy. The remission of this was to have been announced at the meeting of the Representative Assembly in the Dasara of 1905. But it could not be done on account of some unexpected difficulties in the way. On V. P. Madhava Rao succeeding Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi, he took some time for the consideration of the subject once more, and it was not till 1907 that this much needed relief to the areca garden-owners was granted.

In the same year, an important change in the rules was made for the grant of land for coffee cultivation to help the poorer

cultivators by reducing the minimum area to be granted for cultivation from 15 to 5 acres.

#### **The Legislative Council.**

A measure of considerable importance introduced during this period was the establishment of a Legislative Council which formally came into existence on the 22nd June 1907. In previous years, on several occasions the need for such a Council had been pressed on the attention of the Government, especially by the European coffee-planters. But as all changes in the laws which were in force at the time of the Rendition could only be made in consultation with the Government of India and introduced after their approval, a separate Legislative Council had been deemed unnecessary. As time went on however, the necessity of such a Council came to be felt and in March 1907 a Regulation was passed authorising its establishment. Before the establishment of this Council, all new legislative enactments as the need arose used to be passed by the State Council and then brought into force with the sanction of the Maharaja. The character and composition of the State Council, the smallness of its numbers and the want of publicity in its proceedings did not permit of the Bills being considered as fully and from as many points of view as sometimes their importance demanded. His Highness was therefore now pleased to sanction the formation of a Legislative Council and to appoint to it, besides a certain number of official members, a limited number of non-officials also who could bring their practical experience and knowledge of local conditions and requirements to bear on the discussion of the measures before the Council.

The Dewan, according to the enactment, was the President and the members of the State Council were Vice-Presidents ex-officio of this Council. There were to be not less than ten and not more than fifteen additional members, of whom not less than two-fifths were to be non-officials. The elective principle, however, was not adopted in the recruitment of the non-official members and instead the Representative Assembly was given the privilege of deputing two of its members to the Council,

**Tank Panchayet.**

The Tank Panchayet Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council on the 1st October 1908 by Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty who was then a Member of the State Council. The rules issued in 1873 and in 1887 had not produced any satisfactory results. In 1903 a committee was appointed to investigate the causes of this failure. This committee pointed out that though no material changes were needed in the rules as they stood, yet there were two circumstances which militated against their efficient working. The first was the want of a spirit of co-operation among the ryots and the second was the absence of sufficient inducements to make them take a real and personal interest in their tanks. The present Bill, in addition to educating the ryots to co-operate with one another, aimed also at creating in them an interest in the proper maintenance of their tanks. This it was intended to be done by the creation of a Panchayet, thereby allowing a certain measure of self-government to the ryots in respect of the tanks. The Bill did not relieve the ryots of any of their existing obligations, nor did it impose any additional obligations on them. All that it did was that it only altered the agency by which these obligations were enforced. In place of the purely official agency then existing, the Bill substituted the agency of Panchayets composed mostly of members elected by the ryots themselves. The Bill did not contemplate the constitution of Panchayets compulsorily in places where the villagers did not wish to have them, but the Panchayets were to be formed only in villages where not less than two-thirds of the inhabitants wished to have them; and even in these cases, discretion was left with the Government to accept the proposal or not, according as conditions for the favourable working of the scheme existed or not. As an immediate consequence of the constitution of a Panchayet in a village, the enforcement of the Tank Maintenance Rules became vested in the Panchayet; and as a corollary, the Panchayet became possessed of the power which hitherto vested in the village Patel and the hobli Shekdar or revenue inspector to apportion the work required for the maintenance of the tank or tanks in the village among the ryots according to their respective obligations. If a ryot failed to do the work that fell to his share or preferred to commute



his quota of labour into a money payment, it was to be open to the Panchayet to get the work done out of the funds at its disposal and recover the cost from the ryot. The Bill also proposed to transfer to the Panchayet the power to grant the beds of tanks for temporary cultivation of quick-growing crops. In order to avoid the waste of water that might be caused by different ryots commencing the sowing of wet crops at different times, the Bill also laid down that the Panchayet was to decide on the time when such sowing operations were to be commenced as well as to regulate the issue of water from the tank. A Tank Panchayet specially empowered by Government with the consent of a majority of not less than two-thirds of the ryots whose interests were affected in any year, having regard to the quantity of water available in the tank, were allowed to impose such restrictions as it considered necessary on wet cultivation below the tank. If in accordance with a decision of the Panchayet any holder of wet land was not allowed water to irrigate his land, the Bill proposed to allow a remission of half the assessment on the land. As regards the funds required by the Panchayet for the work, it was proposed that the money payments from the ryots in lieu of labour and a portion of the irrigation cess fund collected in the village were to be credited to a fund called the Tank Fund to be controlled by the Panchayet. As an additional inducement to the ryots to constitute Panchayets, it was also proposed that several items of receipts which were then credited to the general revenues of the State, such as the sale proceeds of the right of fishing in the tank and of the right of grazing in the tank bed were to be credited to the Tank Fund. The Bill also embodied that when the Panchayet undertook the work of construction, restoration or improvement, it was open to the Government to entrust to the Panchayet the stone and masonry work also which was to be done at the cost of Government. There was a general feeling everywhere that an attempt should be made to revive the ancient indigenous institution of the Village Panchayet. The scheme proposed in the Bill was an attempt in that direction.

The Bill as revised by the Select Committee finally came up before a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd November

1910 and was passed into law and came into operation from February 1911.

It may be stated that the Royal Commission on Decentralisation in India whose report was issued after the introduction of the above Bill in the Mysore Legislative Council, in expressing their views on village organisation suggested the gradual establishment of Village Panchayets by beginning with those villages in which the circumstances were most favourable by reason of homogeneity, natural intelligence and freedom from internal feuds and by conferring on them only certain limited powers at the commencement which the Mysore Bill more or less anticipated.

Notwithstanding all the efforts made to establish village autonomy in the management of the tank, it may be stated that the scheme has been attended with somewhat indifferent success till now.

#### **Completion of Palace reconstruction.**

In 1910 the reconstruction of the Palace on account of the old building having been destroyed by fire in 1897 was practically completed and it became possible for the Maharaja to hold the Dasara durbars amid the old historic surroundings after an interval of 13 years. The design of the new Palace had been entrusted to Henry Irwin who built the Viceregal Lodge in Simla. The Palace was built throughout of massive stone including fine granite, porphyry and marble, all from local quarries and its construction led to the assemblage of a large number of skilled craftsmen—masons, carvers in wood and stone, and marble inlayers from Agra and other places. The decoration of the durbar hall was entrusted to the Travancore artist Ravi Varma and his brother Raja Varma.

#### **The Kannambadi Reservoir.**

During Dewan Ananda Rao's time, the proposal to construct a large reservoir across the Kaveri at Kannambadi took shape in the year 1911. The main object of this reservoir was to provide irrigation for perennial crops for which till then there had been no satisfactory provision in that valley and to protect the supply of

electric power by impounding some of the water which was then going to waste into the sea, and along with the canals when completed, the reservoir was expected to prove a large protective work which would materially minimise the evil effects of a famine. The construction of the dam was started in November 1911. In the first stage, it was intended to raise the dam to a height of 97 feet with weir crest at 80 feet above the river bed with a storage of a little over 11,000 million cubic feet of water. This first stage of the work was estimated to cost Rs. 91 lakhs.

#### **Public Health.**

A Department of Public Health was formed in the year 1906-07. The Government had spent large sums of money in combating the plague from the time the disease broke out in 1898 and the necessity had shown itself for the formation of a separate Health Department to overcome such diseases in a systematic manner. Special health officers were appointed for the cities of Bangalore, Mysore and Kolar Gold Fields. A laboratory also was provided for the Health Department.

#### **Medicine.**

At the same time, the Government felt that while extending medical aid on western lines, it was equally the duty of a Native State to encourage also the indigenous systems of medicine, Ayurvedic and Unani. Accordingly a scheme was introduced for imparting instruction in these systems by qualified professors. Arrangements were also made for the teaching of Anatomy and Physiology in the new institution.

#### **The Newspaper Regulation.**

In 1908 an enactment known as the Mysore Newspaper Regulation was passed into law which created much uneasiness in the country. The Regulation required every printer, publisher and editor of a newspaper to obtain the permission of the Government before starting the same and provided also for any permission granted being withdrawn at any time. Certain penalties were also provided for the cases in which papers were published without permission or after such permission had been revoked. Some of

the provisions of this Regulation were regarded by the public as very drastic and Madhava Rao in his speech to the Representative Assembly in the same year put forth a long defence, although it did not quite allay the apprehensions entertained regarding the scope and character of the enactment. "As regards the Newspaper Regulation, there is," said the Dewan, "nothing to be alarmed about. It is not contended that the legislation gives more powers to the Government than were already inherent in the Maharaja. But objection has been taken by our critics to the power to refuse permission and withdraw it when once granted being reserved to the executive Government. This objection, however, assumes that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja will exercise power arbitrarily on the least provocation and that the press will be exposed to the petty tyranny of officials dressed in brief authority. I have already assured the public that the Government would always be glad to have their acts criticised with as much freedom as the critics like, provided that the criticisms stopped short of disseminating absolute falsehoods and deliberate perversions of facts likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the State. The Government of His Highness have never shrunk from giving publicity to their acts and the opening of the Press Room and the public discussion of questions in this very Assembly than which there is not a body in the whole of India better representing the people of a State will convince you that such is their attitude. There is a misapprehension still prevailing even in the minds of otherwise well-informed persons that the refusal or withdrawal of permission under the Regulation may depend upon the whims and caprices of individual officers. In regard to this, I may assure you that such a fear is quite groundless and that all such cases will be treated as scheduled cases under the rules of business which have to be considered by the State Council and submitted to His Highness the Maharaja for his orders. This is what has been done in the past and this will invariably be done in the future also..... Government would have been glad if it was possible to do so, to lay down rules for regulating their action under the Regulation. But I think you will admit that it is extremely difficult to bring under rules all the circumstances that would justify Government taking action

under the Regulation. All that it is possible to say is that the Regulation will not be put into force in regard to any newspaper, unless the character of the publication is such that its continuance is undesirable in the interests of the State or in the cause of public morality."

#### **Education.**

In 1908 the erection of buildings needed to locate the Tata Institute was commenced and the Maharaja's Government gave a special grant of Rs. 5 lakhs towards the cost.

To bring the rudiments of education within the reach of all in rural parts, the levy of school fees was abolished in all village Elementary Schools from October 1907. The fees levied in the Lower Secondary classes maintained in such schools and in the vernacular classes of Anglo-Vernacular schools were also abolished and elementary education in all Government schools was thus made entirely free. In the year 1908 a beginning was made to introduce moral and religious teaching in Government schools. A departmental conference was held to draw up curricula for this teaching and suitable text-books were selected and prescribed.

In April 1909 in response to the representations made in the Assembly from time to time, a scheme for the constitution of Benches of Honorary Magistrates was introduced and as a first step, two such courts were formed in Bangalore and Mysore as a tentative measure.

#### **The Co-operative Movement.**

By 1907 the Co-operative Movement became known all over the State and popular interest in it was aroused. The movement at this time also received the active support and keen sympathy of several retired officers of Government and among the early pioneers, the names of Dewan Bahadur C. Srinivasa Iyengar who had retired from the State Council, M. S. Narayana Rao who had retired as a Deputy Commissioner and C. D. Ramaswamaiya a retired Superintendent of Police came in for honourable mention. In this year a Central Co-operative Bank was started at Bangalore for supplying funds to the various outlying societies and the

Maharaja generously placed a large sum of money as fixed deposit in the Bank to mark his appreciation of the usefulness of such an institution. About this time, Mr. R. Ranga Rao a graduate of promise was deputed to England to go through a course of study at the London School of Economics with special reference to co-operative credit and types of co-operative institutions in the continental countries of Europe, where the movement had achieved marked success.

The Maharaja on the 5th October 1907 when he opened the Dasara Exhibition of that year lent further support to the Co-operative Movement by personally commending it to the public in his speech. "I make no apology," said His Highness, "for drawing your attention to the existence of the Co-operative Societies Regulation and of a highly qualified officer specially deputed to advise and assist those who desire to take advantage of its provisions. I have little doubt in my own mind that the main difficulty which at present prevents large classes of the community from successful competition in industrial and other enterprises is the deficiency of organised capital and the want of confidence between man and man, of which that deficiency was in no small measure the result. Under the co-operative system, any local body of craftsmen or agriculturists, however poor and however limited in numbers, has the means of acquiring gradually and from small beginnings sufficient capital to provide for immediate needs and for future progress, and I would urge on all educated and enlightened men, whether immediately connected or not with agriculture, crafts or commerce, the duty of promoting these societies to the extent of their ability. Apart from the material return which is their immediate object, such societies have in every country where they have taken root proved great moral educators and promoters of mutual confidence, self-reliance and honest enterprise."

By 1911 the number of societies increased to more than 200, and during the Dasara festival of that year a conference was held at Mysore which was attended by co-operators from all parts of the State numbering about 300. Sri Narasimharaja Wodeyar the

Yuvaraja opened the conference. His Highness in the course of a speech characterised by great earnestness described the advantages of Co-operation in these words:—"Various expedients have been tried in the past for bringing together capital and labour to the greatest advantage of the community at large. Western countries such as Germany, Denmark, England have found out by experience that the best method of doing this is by a co-operation of the workers for purposes of mutual benefit. This idea of co-operation is based on the great principle of self-help and combination..... Self-help and combination for mutual benefit are, in fact, essential for our advancement as a community and Co-operative Societies bring these two forces together for our economic advantage, a thing which the most ignorant person can understand, work for and profit by..... A conference like this will focus experience, elucidate matters of doubt, and give a fresh impetus to the movement..... The Co-operative Movement demands in almost every village willing and intelligent workers who will take the trouble to understand the principles of co-operation and carry them into practice. Have we not patriotism enough? Are we not anxious to improve the lives and promote the welfare of our ignorant brethren? Do we not all admire beneficent action and practical work for the good of others? Then let us all give some of our time, thought and energies to promoting the Co-operative Movement which is so certain to improve the welfare of the poverty-stricken masses around us. There is no industrial movement higher and more worthy of attention than this one of co-operation. I see in it a field in which the members of every village community can train themselves in habits of business and the management of their own affairs. I cannot too earnestly impress on you all that it rests with the people themselves to make the Co-operative Movement a permanent success....."

#### **Economic Conference.**

About the year 1911 when the results achieved in the fields of agriculture, industry and commerce were reviewed, it was felt that without more vigorous efforts on reformed lines the country must remain economically backward for a long period to come. With a

view to bring together the non-officials as well as the officers of the Government in the deliberations connected with the economic progress of the State, the Maharaja directed the formation of an Economic Conference to keep up a sustained interest in the numerous questions relating to economic progress by a constant interchange of views.

The first session of the conference was held at the public offices at Mysore during the Birthday Week on the 10th June 1911 and the two succeeding days, and the Maharaja inaugurated the conference personally with a speech from which the following are extracts:—“It will be your privilege at this first session to consider measures for the economic development of the country..... With the growth of communications and the increasing use of steam and electricity, questions of economic interest are assuming new aspects closely associated with the well-being of the people. The need for greater attention to industrial and commercial development is beginning to be recognised in British India. We have also therefore to give increasing attention to our economic problems..... The economic inefficiency of our people will be patent to any one who looks beneath the surface of things ..... In the more advanced countries of Europe, it is stated that the earning power of the people averages Rs. 400 or more per head per annum. In England it is taken at Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 per head. In India we have it on high authority that the average income per head does not exceed Rs. 30. As regards education, the proportion of the entire population who can read and write is over 90 per cent in the United Kingdom and Germany and over 80 in Japan. In Mysore the corresponding proportion is only 5 per cent. The average death-rate in Mysore is about the same as in the neighbouring British Provinces, that is, over 30 for every 1000 of the population. The corresponding death-rate in England and Germany is as low as 15 to 18 per 1000. The comparison under the above three heads forcibly brings to light the extent of poverty, ignorance and low vitality prevailing in our midst and is a striking reminder of the economic inefficiency of our people..... ‘That country is the most prosperous which has the least number of



useless or unemployed people' is, I understand, a common saying in Europe..... Education is the sovereign remedy for all economic evils. Agriculture which is our staple industry should be practised on more scientific lines. Manufactures and trades the chief instruments for increasing wealth should be specially encouraged.... We cannot hope to succeed if we continue to work with antiquated tools and old-fashioned business methods..... The number of questions requiring attention is so large that officials single-handed can do very little for their solution. The non-officials will require guidance and further have not had experience and opportunities of co-operation for public good on a large scale. This conference will bring officials and non-officials together and there will be committees and sub-committees formed to carry on its work throughout the year..... We want earnest workers. It is our desire to reach all people who desire to co-operate. The aim we have in view, namely, the economic security and vital efficiency of the people must appeal to every right-thinking person." At this opening conference three committees were formed relating to Education, Agriculture, and Industries and Commerce and certain questions were referred to them for detailed consideration and the preparation of schemes for being placed before the next conference.

By about the Dasara of 1912 the objects of the conference became widely known among the people and the committee for industries and commerce was strengthened. His Highness' Government at this time also engaged the services of Mr. A. Chatterton (afterwards Sir), officer in charge of the Pumping and Boring operations and the Bureau of Industrial Information in Madras, and under him six special officers were appointed to work. An industrial survey of the State was also started at the same time under a special officer appointed for the purpose. District committees were formed in the districts and funds were placed at their disposal for small establishments, experiments and contingencies. The industries and commerce committee paid attention to a large number of subjects such as the improvement of silk and silk goods, tanning, hand-weaving, sandalwood-carving, lacquerware, manufacture of toys, the manufacture of tiles. The most promising of

these from the point of view of production of wealth in the State was the silk industry, the export of silk and silk goods in favourable years being valued at over a crore of rupees. One of the first steps which the industries and commerce committee considered necessary for the promotion of industries was the provision of suitable facility for financing enterprises within the limits of the State and accordingly proposed the establishment of a State-aided Bank.

In order to encourage the formation of District Agricultural Associations, the agricultural committee made grants of sums varying from Rs. 70 to Rs. 250 to the agricultural associations in the districts of Mysore, Kolar, Tumkur, Hassan and Kadur. The subject of improving sericulture engaged the serious attention of this committee. A number of scholarships was allotted for training students in the Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore. A dozen students were sent to the Lal Bagh at Bangalore to learn Horticulture. Steps were also taken to institute an enquiry into the subject of the indebtedness of the Mysore ryot and his general economic condition and to more largely popularise the Co-operative Movement among the agricultural classes. This committee also issued from time to time leaflets in English and Kanada on subjects coming within its sphere.

The committee for education prepared a Bill for the introduction of compulsory education as well as a revised Grant-in-aid Code. This committee also recommended, as a preliminary step to the establishment of a Mysore University, the improvement of college hostels and libraries, the provision of honours courses and the grant of diplomas. A special grant of Rs. 2 lakhs was provided for the extension of primary education, of which Rs. 1 lakh was for opening new schools and improving the existing ones and the other lakh was for school buildings.