

CHAPTER XXIX.

Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya appointed Dewan—Visit of Lord Hardinge—Conclusion of the treaty of 1913—Yuvaraja appointed Extraordinary Member of the State Council.

T. Ananda Rao on whom the title of C. I. E. had been conferred by the British Government was also honoured with the title of Pradhana Siromani by the Maharaja before his retirement from the Dewanship which took place on the 10th November 1912. Mr. M. Visvesvaraya (afterwards Sir) who was Chief Engineer of Mysore at the time became his successor. Sir M. Visvesvaraya was born in 1861 at Mokshagundam a village in the Mysore State and received his early education in the Government school at Chikballapur and took the B.A. Degree from the Central College, Bangalore. He then joined the Poona College of Science and won a guaranteed appointment as an Assistant Engineer under the Bombay Government in 1884. In 1895 he designed and carried out the water works of Sukkur Municipality in Sind. In 1898 he visited China and Japan and in 1901 he gave evidence before the Indian Irrigation Commission. He designed and constructed automatic gates patented by him at Lake Fife storage reservoir for the Moota Canal and the source of water supply to the Poona City. He also introduced a new system in 1903 and represented the Bombay Government at the Simla Irrigation Commission in 1904. In 1906 he was deputed to Aden to advise the executive committee of the Aden Settlement with regard to certain sanitary matters. He also visited Egypt, Canada, the United States of America and Russia in 1908. He retired from the British Service in 1909, when he was appointed Chief Engineer of Mysore. He soon established a name as a strenuous worker for the good of the State and his extensive knowledge of the world, combined with his abilities, soon came to be regarded as an asset which could be utilised for larger purposes. The Maharaja accordingly broke the old tradition of drawing the Dewans of the State always from the Revenue and Executive Services of the Government and appointed Sir M.

Visvesvaraya as his Dewan in 1912. Sir M. Visvesvaraya was also the first Dewan who had no connection with the old Mysore Commission, though he had his training under the British Government.

Lord Hardinge, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and Lady Hardinge paid a visit to the State in November 1913. Their stay in the State lasted from the 3rd to 21st November and included visits to the Gersoppa Falls, Mysore, Seringapatam, the Kheddas, Bangalore and the Kolar Gold Fields. Lord Hardinge's visit was made memorable by His Excellency's announcement of a new treaty of Mysore in place of what was called in 1881 the Instrument of Transfer. We have seen that when Chamaraja Wodeyar was installed in power, a document known as the Instrument of Transfer signed by Lord Ripon, then Governor-General, was placed in His Highness' hands as his authority to rule the country. Subsequently it became noticeable that the position actually held by the Maharaja as the ruler of a first class Native State was not the same as what the Instrument of Transfer appeared to assign to him. At the State Banquet held on the 6th of November, Lord Hardinge announced that it had been decided to replace the Instrument of Transfer by a formal treaty between the British Government and the Maharaja, the terms of which were agreed to by both the parties. "..... After a very careful consideration of the question, I have decided with the concurrence of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India," said Lord Hardinge, "to substitute for the Instrument of Transfer a new treaty which will place the relations between us on a footing more in consonance with Your Highness' actual position among the Feudatory Chiefs in India. His Majesty's Government in accepting my proposal have observed that Your Highness' views on this question were stated with much force and moderation and that they derive additional weight from the high character and reputation which Your Highness has always borne. With this observation I desire to associate myself in the fullest degree and I look on it as a particularly happy circumstance that it should have fallen to my lot to convey to Your Highness on this occasion so striking a proof of the esteem and regard in which

you are held by those responsible for the government of the empire." This announcement, coming as it did from so popular a Viceroy as Lord Hardinge whose escape from a cruel bomb outrage in the previous year had caused universal rejoicing in India and nowhere more so than in the Mysore State, added doubly to the pleasure the visit gave both to the Maharaja as well as to His Highness' subjects.

On the day following the banquet, the Maharaja acknowledged in writing the gratitude felt both by himself and his people for the grant of the treaty:—"It is difficult for me to express in words," said His Highness, "my gratitude for the gracious and generous act of Your Excellency's Government in granting a treaty to Mysore to replace the Instrument of Transfer under which Mysore was restored to my father's rule thirty-two years ago. I can only assure Your Excellency that I value very highly not only the gift of the treaty itself but the trust and confidence in my Government which the grant of the new treaty implies. I could wish for no greater reward for my efforts to maintain a high standard of administration than the gracious words of praise and encouragement which have fallen from Your Excellency's lips. Not only will the new treaty be welcomed by all classes of my people, but it will draw still closer the bond of gratitude and loyalty which has always united us to the British Government and will also be regarded as a signal proof of the sympathy and generosity which have always marked the policy of the Supreme Government towards Native States." The treaty was formally executed at Mysore on the 26th November following between the Maharaja and Sir Hugh Daly, the British Resident in Mysore at the time, acting on behalf of the Governor-General who later ratified the same.

The terms in the new treaty are not strikingly different from those contained in the Instrument of Transfer. The new treaty has, however, this merit that while the Instrument of Transfer was a one-sided document, the treaty of 1913 is a document concluded by two parties both able to realise the significance of their actions. Article 22 of the Instrument of Transfer underwent a little modification by limiting the very wide scope which it gave to the

Governor-General to interfere in all the internal concerns of the State generally. Article 23 of the Instrument of Transfer relating to the resumption of the State by the British Government in certain contingencies was entirely omitted. The general prohibition to repair fortresses or strongholds contained in Article 7 of the old Instrument was made applicable only to repairs for military purposes.

The Yuvaraja, Narasimharaja Wodeyar, now became a dominant personality in the State next to the Maharaja. The Yuvaraja was born in June 1888 and joined the Mayo College at Ajmer in November 1903 when he was a little over 15 years old. But he was obliged to discontinue his studies in that college a few months after on account of illness and returned to Mysore in April 1904. At Mysore a special institution was organised and the young prince received very careful education at the hands of private tutors specially engaged for the purpose. On completing his education, he was appointed Military Secretary to the Maharaja and worked in that capacity for some time. In the early part of 1913 he started on a European tour with a staff of three officers and with his cousin Balaraj Urs and returned in October after spending about six months in that continent. In this travel the Yuvaraja visited a large number of institutions both on the continent as well as in England, studying the varied activities of the countries he passed through. He was accorded a cordial reception wherever he went and returned filling his mind with rich experience and possessed of an ardent desire to work for the uplift of the people. After his return from Europe, in order to give His Highness a larger scope for the exercise of his abilities as well as to enable him to obtain a deeper insight into the working of the Government machinery, he was appointed in 1914 as an Extraordinary Member of the State Council.