

## **CHAPTER XXXV.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Administrative and other Improvements—1919-25.**

##### **Outbreak of Influenza.**

On account of an outbreak of influenza in 1918 there was widespread distress as well as loss of life throughout the State, which numbered about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of persons or 2.9 per cent of the total population. The Government spent large sums in relief measures and it was brought home that an effective organisation for medical relief, prevention of epidemics and improvement of sanitation and public health both in towns and villages was necessary and urgent, and a committee was accordingly appointed to investigate the subject and formulate a scheme.

##### **Education.**

The Scout Movement was established in the Mysore State in the year 1919 and continued to make good progress. In the matter of women's education, the college and collegiate high school classes maintained in the Maharani's College were transferred to the control of the University. The education of the Panchamas or Adi-karnatakas as they are called now received particular attention during this period. The Central Panchama Boarding School at Mysore was raised to the status of a Kanada High School with separate sections for industrial and normal training. To further stimulate education among the Panchamas, special concessions were granted in the shape of scholarships, travelling allowance to and from schools to pupils learning English, free supply of books and slates, and allowances to parents while the children were under training in schools. Next as regards fees, all fees in middle schools were abolished from the year 1918-19, education below the high school grade being imparted absolutely free to all communities. In regard to the higher grades of education, increased facilities were afforded to the poorer classes of all communities by providing freeships and scholarships on a liberal scale, in addition to the special encouragement given to the backward communities.

In May 1921 Government passed orders on an educational memorandum which had been drawn up containing a programme for the spread of primary education in the State. The most important measures indicated in the memorandum and sanctioned now were the gradual conversion of aided village primary schools to Government institutions, the development of vernacular middle schools into anglo-vernacular schools of a uniform type, the combination of practical with literary instruction and the establishment of a large number of industrial schools, the extension of the course of normal training, the provision of special facilities for the education of Panchamas and the revision of the scale of pay of all appointments in the tutorial line as well as of the inspectorate. The execution of this programme was calculated to involve an additional expenditure ranging from Rs. 21 to Rs. 41 lakhs in the course of five years. To meet this heavy expenditure, the levy of an education cess under the Local Boards and Municipal Regulations was determined upon to enable the Local Bodies to contribute towards the cost of primary education both in rural as well as in urban areas.

After a year's experience however, it was found that the progress made under the educational memorandum was slow owing mainly to want of funds. The percentage of expenditure on education to the total revenues was already about 14 including revenues derived from capital and industrial works. The percentage to normal revenues was 17. To carry out the education programme, it had been calculated that a cess of one anna in the rupee would be raised by all the District Boards on certain items of revenue and of two annas in the rupee by City Municipalities and one anna in the rupee by the other Municipalities. It was however found in 1924 that the anticipations of the Government in the matter of raising sufficient funds by means of an education cess had not been realised and that the amount so far realised was only Rs. 2,92,000. It was also found that only five districts had taken action in the matter, while the remaining three districts and practically all the Municipalities had remained indifferent. Even where the cess was levied, it was only half an anna in the rupee as against one anna suggested in the Government

Order on the memorandum. The financial basis of the memorandum therefore, it was found, required serious consideration.

#### **Development of Local Self-Government.**

In 1919 the constitution of the Taluk and District Boards were defined in accordance with the Taluk Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation VI of 1918 and rules were also framed for making due provision for the representation of important interests and communities on these Boards. The Town and Minor Municipal Councils were permitted to elect their own Vice-Presidents. The development of economic work in the districts which was hitherto being managed by the District and Taluk Progress Committees was transferred in 1920 to the District and Taluk Boards. The Municipal Regulation of 1906 was amended by Regulation III of 1921 making suitable provision for conduct of work relating to economic development by the Municipalities. The Local Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation was also amended to render it obligatory on the part of the Local Boards to devote attention to economic development and to levy an education cess. One noticeable advance under Local Boards administration was the grant of the privilege of electing a President to the Bangalore District Board and the appointment of non-official gentlemen as Presidents for the District Boards of Kolar and Hassan. All the District Boards now came to have non-official Vice-Presidents.

A Local Self-Government Conference was held in the year 1923 and 48 resolutions were submitted to Government for consideration. The conference recommended the abolition of Village Improvement Committees and urged the constitution of Panchayets for all villages in the State on a statutory basis. This measure had been repeatedly urged for consideration ever since the introduction of the village improvement scheme and the Government now accepted the recommendation of the conference to constitute a Panchayet for every village or group of villages in the State. Each Panchayet was to consist of not less than 5 and not more than 12 members, at least half of whom were to be elected. The chairman of the Panchayet was to be nominated by Government in the initial stages, the right of election being

conceded when the Panchayets were well established and showed satisfactory work. The functions of the Panchayets were classified under two heads—obligatory and optional, the former including village sanitation and communications and the latter all other items of work which promoted the health, convenience or comfort of the inhabitants. Provision was made for investing select Panchayets with powers under the Village Courts and Tank Panchayet Regulations and Forest Panchayet Rules and also for the transfer of the control over Muzrai institutions and supervision over village elementary schools. To enable the Panchayets to function efficiently they were empowered to levy taxes on houses, shops, vacant sites and backyards, the rural Mohatarfa taxes being abolished. The Amildar was invested with the powers of control, inspection and supervision of the Panchayets in order to provide for close and efficient supervision over their working.

On the introduction of the Panchayet scheme, the Government expressed readiness to abolish all the Taluk Boards and thereby allow the District Boards a freer scope to attend to all the district, taluk, inter-taluk and inter-village services under sanitation, communications, medical relief and other services. The removal of the intermediary agency of the Taluk Boards left the District Boards a free hand in developing the larger local interests in the districts, while securing to them greater control over their finances and concentration of funds in their hands. The franchise was extended to women to vote at elections to the District Boards. Besides the Kolar Gold Fields Sanitary Board constituted for the special sanitation of the mining area under the Mines Regulation, there were in 1924-25 eight District Boards.

As regards Municipalities, the resolutions of the conference did not recommend any radical changes either in their constitution or functions. The more important of the recommendations of the conference accepted by Government were—1. the elected element in the Minor Municipal Councils was raised from one-third to half the strength of the Municipal Council; 2. franchise was extended to women to vote at elections; 3. the Presidents of City and Town Municipal Councils were ordinarily to be elected and it was

also accepted that the election might be made by the general body of voters instead of by the Municipal Councils concerned.

### **Industries and Commerce.**

During the period up to the end of 1925 after the termination of the world war, anticipating the recommendations of the Indian Industrial Commission, the development of industries was recognised as one of the primary duties of Government. As a consequence, following the example of the British Indian Provinces, a well-equipped Department of Industries and Commerce came into existence in Mysore also. The establishment of the Sandalwood Oil Factory—a direct product of the war—was found not only to have rescued a valuable source of revenue which had been seriously threatened during the war, but also demonstrated the practicability of carrying on a chemical industry producing a medicinal oil of a high degree of purity with the assistance of the chemists trained in the local colleges. The Soap and the Metal factories established by the Department of Industries also gave promise of success. The Commercial Section of the department issued for the first time a review of the railborne trade for the year 1918-19 and also a report regarding the road traffic of the State and helped the formation of an Association of grain merchants in Bangalore. In 1921 the administration of the Industries Department was entrusted to Mr. P. G. D'Souza, a member of the Mysore Civil Service who had been specially deputed to Europe and America to study the industrial and commercial developments and organisations in the countries of those continents. The concerns under the control of the Industries and Commerce Department at this time were the Soap Factory, the Central Industrial Workshop, the Metal Factory, the Art Workshop, the Weaving Factory and the Arts and Crafts Depot. Some of these were started as pioneer concerns, while others were established partly for training and demonstration purposes and partly as commercial concerns. In January 1923 the department was reorganised and the control over industrial education transferred to it. In this year Government also granted certain concessions for the establishment of a Match Factory in the State.

In April 1924 there was an exhibition in London of the resources of all parts of the British Empire. The Mysore Government participated in this exhibition in a manner befitting the importance of the State and its varied resources. A special Mysore court was established with a floor space of about 1200 square feet occupying a prominent position in the Indian pavilion. Mr. S. G. Sastry who was at this time Industrial Chemist to the department was placed in charge of this court. The exhibits from Mysore won the appreciation of all the visitors to the Mysore court and the opportunity afforded by the exhibition was utilised for finding new markets for the surplus products of the State.

According to the statistics gathered, it was found in 1924 that there were for a year imports of Rs. 1.69 crores worth of grain and pulses, Rs. 3.88 crores worth of yarn and textiles, Rs. 67.67 lakhs worth of oils and Rs. 124 lakhs worth of drugs and chemicals; and exports of Rs. 47 lakhs worth of oil seeds, Rs. 68 lakhs worth of cotton, Rs. 23.66 lakhs worth of hides and skins and Rs. 29 lakhs worth of unmanufactured leather, Rs. 37 lakhs worth of silk and Rs. 58 lakhs worth of sugar and jaggery. These figures indicated that Mysore was being exploited for its valuable raw materials. Its food production was insufficient and the people of the State had to go outside for many of their requirements which could very well be provided within the State itself. It was also found that the balance of trade had gone against the State for a number of years. In 1922-23 the balance of railborne trade that had gone against the State was Rs. 178 lakhs, but in the subsequent year it turned in favour of the State to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs. This result however was found to be due more to the decrease of imports of commodities like salt, sugar, piece-goods, coal, machinery and provisions than to any increase in the exports which remained stationary.

The bulk of the trade remained in the hands of outside middlemen. Large quantities of piece-goods were usually imported into Bangalore whence they were exported to various centres. A major portion of the money required for financing this trade was found to have come from outside and the profits derived from these

transactions were estimated at nearly a crore of rupees. It may be said, however, that these figures related only to railborne trade and did not show the position of Mysore as a whole by taking into computation the Malnad trade in the important products of coffee, paddy, cardamom, areca and jaggery and the exports of silk to Kollegal in the Coimbatore district by road. The statistics gathered also went to show that the question of increased food production was one of great importance. Action was taken by Government in this direction by throwing open for cultivation a number of Amrut Mahal grass reserves and date groves to the extent of above 50,000 acres.

#### **Sericulture.**

In 1919 there were 10 taluk sericultural schools distributed throughout the sericultural parts of the State and at 8 of them the sons of ryots received training in improved methods. A silk expert from Japan was now engaged for the general development of the silk industry and was also entrusted with the control of all research and experimental work in the State. A lady expert from Japan was also engaged for the introduction of foot-reeling as a home industry. The Government grainages supplied large quantities of disease-free eggs but as the demand was larger than the supply could meet, a scheme for the establishment of private grainages under departmental supervision was also introduced.