

## CHAPTER XLV.

### **Form of Administration—Territorial divisions of the State—Departments of Government—Taxation—Criminal and Civil Justice—Military and Kandachar force.**

At the time the country came under the management of Haidar Ali the affairs of each taluk were being attended to by an amildar. Haidar clubbed together 7 or 8 taluks and formed a number of divisions over each of which he placed a superior officer. Tippu Sultan next made two appointments to control the officers of the several divisions, the one an Asoph and the other a Foujdar. The first was at the head of the revenue and the other was the military commandant who also occasionally superintended the duties of the local police. After the fall of Seringapatam the office of Asoph was abolished but that of the Foujdar continued and by degrees the Foujdar who had already the control of the police came to have the control of the revenue also.

The Mysore territory after the boundaries became fixed in 1799 and by the rectification of the frontiers later consisted of three divisions—Patna Ashtagram, Chitaldrug and Bednore or Nagar. These divisions were all under the Dewan with three officers known as Subadars for purposes of general superintendence stationed at Bangalore, Chitaldrug and Nagar respectively. There were in all these three divisions from 115 to 120 taluks or sub-divisions taking the changes made from time to time into account, each sub-division being in charge of an officer called Amil or Amildar. The total area according to a survey made in later years was a little over 29000 square miles and the population was estimated at a little less than 22 lakhs.

The Civil Government was divided into three departments, Finance, Revenue and Miscellaneous including all other branches of work. The military establishment was however placed separately under two departments Cavalry and Infantry. The Kandachar to which were entrusted police functions was also a separate department and partook both of civil and military

functions in its relation to the police, the post office and the army. The Dewan was regarded as personally presiding over every department. The operations of the department of Finance were extremely simple. Each taluk had its chief Golla who kept the key of the treasury. The Sheristadar kept the accounts and the Amildar affixed his seal and the treasury could not generally be opened except in the presence of these three persons. The Shroff examined all the coins received at the treasury, affixed his seal to the bags of treasure despatched to the general treasury and was responsible for any deficiency in the quality of the coins. A similar process sanctioned by the sealed order of the Dewan attended the disbursement of cash at the general or Huzur Treasury.

The revenue of the Government was derived from four sources, Land assessment, Sayer, Toddy and spirituous liquors and lastly tobacco. The collection and the improvement of revenue were entrusted under the guidance of Subadars to the Amils whose territorial charges were so limited in extent as to afford sufficient time and opportunity for frequent itineration and diligent supervision. Under the head of land tax was comprised, besides the land assessment, the house-tax and the plough-tax of one canteroi fanam on each house and on each plough. In Bednore, Ballum and Tayur gardens or plantations of trees not annual paid a fixed rent in money. Dry lands all over the State paid a fixed money rent amounting to about one-third of the value of the crop, there being generally no uncertainty about the crop or its yield. The Amildar did not as regards dry land concern himself with the extent of land cultivated but only watched as to whether the ryot put forth sufficient exertion to be able to pay the rent. All Amildars were authorised to make Takavi advances to the ryots where needed for cultivation purposes or for the improvement of their holdings. In the case of rice lands though it was generally supposed that they paid the dues imposed on them in kind, yet such dues were discharged in money according to the average rate prevailing in the neighbourhood except where the Amildar and the ryot could not agree on the money rate, when the assessment was accepted in kind.

Regarding the second head of revenue namely the Sayer, it may be stated that as the different parts of the State were formerly governed by different authorities, there were considerable differences both in the rates as well as in the articles on which they were levied. The Sayer was in some taluks given out on contract, while in others the collection was made directly under Government agency. These duties were mostly derived from levies on articles included in the internal trade of the country, the external trade being generally negligible for want of sea-ports and navigable rivers.

The third head of revenue was derived from liquors. Toddy was mainly drawn from date trees growing wild in the country and to a limited extent from bagani trees. The tapping of cocoanut trees for purposes of drawing toddy was entirely prohibited as tending to destroy the fruits. Arrack was principally prepared by distillation from the macerated bark of the white thorn or Byala Chakke. The revenue derived from this source was generally given out on contract. The fourth head of revenue was generally received from contractors. Betel leaf produced revenue in one town only Chitaldrug, where the tax existed previous to its annexation by Haidar.

The third department Miscellaneous comprised two principal heads; firstly, the regulation of the Raja's establishment of State and of his household and secondly, the custody of the judicial records. Besides these two main functions, to this department were also assigned several indefinite duties which did not relate definitely to other departments. Over the Raja's household presided Rani Lakshmi Ammanni who regulated the ceremonial part with great sense and due attention to splendour and economy, the forms of the Raja's court being regulated according to the customs of his ancestors. The personal respect to be paid by the Dewan to the Raja and to his relations was, as has been already said, commended to the Resident by the Supreme Government as an object of particular attention. At first for want of accommodation at Mysore the principal Mint, the General Treasury and the

Huzur Cutcherry were all continued at Seringapatam but later they were all removed to Mysore.

Regarding the administration of justice as in other departments also due regard was paid to the ancient institutions of the country and to the doctrines of the Hindu Law. There existed no separate department for the administration of justice and the executive officers of Government performed the functions relating to this department also. In several of the principal towns however, there existed officers known as Khajis whose duties were limited to the adjustment of ecclesiastical matters among the Mahomedan inhabitants. Matters of the same nature among the Hindus were usually determined according to old, long-established precedents and where no such precedents were found, by the injunctions contained in the Dharma Shastras if any.

The Amil of each taluk decided all minor cases of complaint for personal wrongs, while the Subadars directed the proceedings in all important cases criminal or civil. On the apprehension of any person accused of a criminal offence the Amil or the Subadar as the case might be, if he saw cause for a public trial, ordered a Panchayet or a commission of five to be assembled in the open cutcherry. All the inhabitants of respectability and unconnected with the party had the right of sitting on this Panchayet. The proceedings of this Panchayet in which were included the defence of the prisoner and the evidence of such persons as he chose to summon to speak in his behalf were forwarded to the Dewan with a special report by the Subadar or Amil concerned. In cases of difficulty or when the life or liberty of a prisoner was concerned, the case was fixed for final hearing before the Dewan who pronounced his sentence in consultation with the Resident. The penalty of death was inflicted only in cases of murder or plunder on the frontier. Theft and robbery were punished with imprisonment and hard labour for periods proportioned to the nature of the crimes. Fines were discouraged as a dangerous instrument in the hands of subordinate officers and corporal punishment was prohibited.

The administration of civil justice was conducted in a manner analogous to that of the criminal. To the Amil was entrusted the power of hearing and determining in open cutcherry and not otherwise all cases of disputed property not exceeding 5 pagodas in value. Where the value was higher, the cases were heard and determined by a Panchayet and in order to guard against any miscarriage of justice, respectable inhabitants were encouraged to attend as assessors according to their leisure and convenience. In cases where both the parties were Hindus, the Panchayet was composed of Hindus, but where the parties belonged to different sects the Panchayet was formed of two persons from the general sect of each party and a fifth from the particular sect of the defendant. In plain cases where no difference of opinion existed among the members of the Panchayet, the Amil confirmed their award and forwarded the proceedings to the Dewan. In cases of difficulty or of difference of opinion, the proceedings were forwarded with the report of the Subadar or the Amil concerned to the Dewan who pronounced a final decision in communication with the Resident or ordered a re-hearing before himself if necessary. In all cases however, the parties had a right of appeal to the Dewan, his frequent tours in the country facilitating the exercise of this right.

Before the trial commenced, the plaintiff first and next the defendant were each required to give a connected narrative of the transactions and this narrative was twice read over to the party who was allowed to correct what had not been properly recorded and then the document was authenticated by the signature of the party as well as by the signatures of two witnesses and of a public officer. The close agreement of the facts contained in these narratives with those subsequently established was considered to constitute strong circumstantial evidence in favour of the party and their disagreement on any material points led to the presumption of a fictitious claim or a false defence. Evidence was received first for the plaintiff and then for the defendant and the members of the Panchayet as well as the witnesses called for the purpose deposed to matters of general knowledge. The Panchayet in cases of difficulty usually prefixed to their award a statement explaining the

grounds of their verdict. It was a fixed rule of evidence to suspect as false the testimony of every witness until its truth was otherwise corroborated.

It was an invariable rule with Purnaiya in case of abuse of power, defalcation or other delinquency in service of the State to dismiss the Amildar or other officer found guilty of such conduct and he was also declared incapable of being re-employed ever after in the Government Service. In the early years the rigid observance of this rule is said to have caused considerable embarrassment to Purnaiya, but later when it became known that the minister was unyielding in this respect, the purity of the public service gradually improved and the welfare of the people was efficiently promoted.

In 1805 feeling the necessity for a separate department for the administration of justice Purnaiya established a court under the designation of Adalat Court consisting of two judges, two Sheristadars and six persons of respectability who formed a Standing Panchayet with one Khaji and one Pundit to assist them in the regular administration of justice and the first two judges were a Brahmin named Vyasa Rao and a Mahomedan named Ahamed Khan.

The military consisted of two separate departments, one the infantry and the other the cavalry. The Infantry or Barr Sepoys were disciplined after the manner of the Company's Sepoys. In 1804 the establishment consisted of 2000 horse and 4000 Barr Sepoys. The cavalry was inclusive or exclusive of 500 Stable horse belonging entirely to Government according to circumstances. Approximately the force maintained totalled 10500.

The sixth department was the department of Kandachar peons whose duties were partly of a military and partly of a civil nature. Kandachar peons were so called as opposed to Attavane peons who were employed in the Revenue Department and were attached to the various offices under the supervision of that department. The Kandachar force represented in origin the ancient militia or irregular foot maintained for the preservation of general peace in the country. They were variously armed but principally with

matchlocks and pikes. These men though trained from their infancy to military exercises were also cultivators of the soil. During the vacant part of the year when they had no agricultural operations on hand and when they were not employed in active military service often took to committing depredations. Purnaiya considered it essential to effectually restrain these men from their evil ways by creating in them an interest in the stability of Government by adequate rewards to them to enlist their faithful service. Purnaiya's scheme was to engage one individual from each such family in some kind of active service of the State with due regard at the same time to the obligation resting on the family to render military service whenever so required. Wherever possible one-half of their pay was given in the shape of money and for the other half waste lands were assigned. Their civil duties consisted mainly in taking their turns of guard in the little forts or walled villages to which they were attached and in being ready at all times to perform police duties whenever called on. They were also allowed frequent relief according to their domestic needs. Some of them performed the duties of dooly-bearers, while a number of others were employed as postal runners. In the early years of Purnaiya's administration the number of Kandachar peons employed was more than 20000. But later as circumstances permitted, it was reduced to a little over 15000 men.