

## CHAPTER XLIX.

### Other important matters relating to Purnaiya's administration.

#### Finance.

The income of the State was derived, as has been already stated, from four sources, namely, (1) Land Rent, (2) Sayer, (3) Toddy and Spirituous liquors and (4) Tobacco. The expenditure also came under four heads.—(1) The expenses of the management, (2) Subsidy, (3) Fixed establishments including military charges and (4) Extraordinary expenses. The expenses incurred for the collection of the different items of revenue were, to begin with, deducted from the gross revenue collection of the year and the balance was considered as the net revenue available for expenditure, it being thought that the ordinary expenses of management could never be regarded as a source of supply or an addition to the income.

Taking the receipts and expenditure of the first year 1799-1800, an enumeration of the various items of expenditure will indicate the nature of the objects on which money was spent as well as the sphere of Government activities. The gross revenue for this year was fixed at Canteroi Pagodas 21,53,607 (Rs. 3 per pagoda or 10 fanams). From this amount was, in the first instance, deducted the cost of management 6,35,580 Canteroi Pagodas. From the net revenue of 15,18,027 Canteroi Pagodas were met the following charges—(1) Subsidy 7 lakhs of Star Pagodas (Rs.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per Star pagoda) equal to 8,42,592 Canteroi Pagodas, (2) Fixed establishments including military charges 5,16,552 Canteroi Pagodas and (3) Extraordinary expenses including articles purchased 1,50,832 Canteroi Pagodas. The balance left in the treasury at the end of the first year was 2,38,557 Canteroi Pagodas.

Under expenses of management were included the following items:—

1. Relinquishments of lands for religious purposes, jahagirs and inams.
2. Repair of tanks.

3. Pay of Amildars and subordinate servants.
4. Kandachars.
5. Indefinite expenses such as, expenses of catching elephants, oil and stationery, rewards for destruction of tigers, cost of repairing small forts, opening of pagodas which were shut in Tippu's time, or for the propitiation of deities.

The second head of expenditure Subsidy was the amount paid to the British Government under the terms of the treaty. It had to be paid in cash and in 12 equal monthly instalments. The third head of expenditure Fixed Establishments including military charges consisted mainly of the following items :—

1. 2000 Silledar Horse.
2. 3046 Regular Infantry including officers and guns and tent lascars.
3. 2659 Regular Sepoys in constant pay.
4. 514 Physicians, Surgeons, Harkars, Chopdars, Khidmutgars, Pharash, Washermen, Mashalchis or torch-bearers.
5. The garrison of Manjarabad 175 consisting of Regular infantry, Peons, Gunners and Pioneers not included in the regular establishment.
6. Drivers of bullocks 2003.
7. Men in the garrison of Mysore 1707, including artificers for the repair of forts and for erecting the palace.
8. Civil Establishment for general purposes 87.
9. Gardeners for the Raja's gardens in the immediate vicinity of the capital, together with daily labourers occasionally employed 162.
10. Mustaddies and Subordinate persons employed in superintending and keeping the accounts of the sandal in 46 taluks producing that article 235.

11. The relations and principal officers of the Raja's household 581.
12. The family of the ancient Dalavoys.
13. Persons for the Company's and Raja's establishment of breeding of cows 844.
14. Twenty Mustaddies or clerks for maintaining the accounts of the Kandachar.
15. Twelve Mustaddies for the camp bazaars.

Under Extraordinary expenses were included the following items:—

1. Presents to the Raja of Anegundi and to the palegar of Gudikote.
2. Batta for the Kandachar Peons for service in Ballum.
3. Cost of the materials for the fort and palace of Mysore.
4. Official seals.
5. Pioneers employed in clearing the roads and jungle in Ballum.
6. Zukkum patty to persons wounded in Ballum.
7. Expenses of placing the Raja on the musnud and consequent ceremonials.
8. Charities on the same occasion.
9. Purchase of shawls, jewels, khillats and kinkab.
10. Clothing for a part of the infantry.
11. Purchase of the crown of jewels of the God of Melkote.
12. Purchase of coarse cloth.
13. Horses and camels purchased.
14. A flock of sheep purchased.
15. Grain purchased.
16. Stationery for the Civil Establishment with the Raja.
17. Purchase of lead.
18. Cloth for petty purposes.

19. Clothes for the Raja's family.
20. Rice etc., for the table.
21. Articles of copper and brass.
22. Articles of gold and silver.
23. Hire to tradesmen.
24. Personal expenses of the Dewan.

In some of the future years are found included under extraordinary expenses such items as marriages in the Raja's family, Anavrushti or religious ceremonies to implore a favourable season, charities, maintenance of prisoners, Dewan's pay 500 Canteroi Pagodas a month and commission of 1% on the net revenue, special repair of Bangalore and Chennapatna forts, the bridge over the northern branch of the Kaveri at Seringapatam named after the Governor-General Marquis Wellesley and house for the Raja at Seringapatam. Regarding the calculation of the commission of 1% due to the Dewan on the net revenue, Wilks remarked at the time that it was creditable to Purnaiya that the account of the net revenue was framed in a manner which was unfavourable to the amount of his income.

#### **Public Works.**

To increase the resources of the country Purnaiya paid particular attention to the repair and improvement of tanks and channels in all parts of the State. In the first five years of the new Government, no less a sum than 52,334 Canteroi Pagodas was spent on irrigation. Under Haidar and Tippu and even earlier the repair of tanks and channels had been woefully neglected and as a consequence they had fallen into lamentable decay. By 1804 every embankment or channel then in use was put in perfect repair and many tanks which were useless or had been overgrown with jungle were also restored. The wisdom of Purnaiya's policy in improving irrigation received much commendation at the time, considering that Mysore was a country with an undulating surface and that as a consequence much of the earth accompanying the water which filled the reservoirs was deposited in them, rendering thereby the

clearing of the reservoirs a more frequent and laborious operation than in flat countries.

The efficient improvements made by Purnaiya of channels drawn from rivers alarmed the inhabitants of the Tanjore country as to whether the water supply from the Kaveri to their lands would not be diminished thereby and on the initiative of the Collector of Tanjore, Colonel Wilks the British Resident as ordered by the Madras Government held an investigation similar to that relating to the Kannambadi Reservoir of later years. Of the 35 channels mentioned by the Collector of Tanjore, Wilks found that seven of them could not be traced. Wilks also found that the extent of cultivation in 1804 the year of his investigation was less than the extent of cultivation in 1789-90 preceding the year of Lord Cornwallis' war. Captain Colin Mackenzie who was surveying the Mysore country at the time and whom Wilks consulted expressed his strong opinion in an elaborate memorandum on the subject that the Tanjore ryots had really no grievance. A new anekath or dam was constructed at Sagarakatte a few miles from Mysore on the road to Krishnarajanagar across the Lakshmanathirtha river and to keep up the water to the level required a channel from the Hemavathi river from Thippur to the anekath 23 miles in length was excavated. From here Purnaiya also excavated a new channel to Mysore  $48\frac{1}{2}$  miles in a winding course with the intention of providing good water supply to the rising town of Mysore but this project proved a failure, though for the time being it gave employment to a large number of restless people who otherwise would have taken to committing depredations in the country. The Lakshmanathirtha anekath is even now in existence and irrigates lands below to the length of about 20 miles, although the extent irrigated is not large.

The beneficial effects of Purnaiya's improvements in irrigation were subsequently found not confined to the people of Mysore only but extended also to people inhabiting some of the British districts in the neighbourhood. On the occasion of a famine in 1804 in the country between the Thungabhadra and the Krishna rivers, the inhabitants of these affected parts emigrated in great numbers to Mysore and the abundance of grain was at the time so great that

these immigrants were furnished not only with food but also large quantities of grain were exported to the affected British districts. Lord William Bentinck who was Governor of Madras at the time expressed in a letter to Purnaiya on the 4th July 1804 that while lamenting the fatal effects which had been experienced in other parts of India from a deficiency of grain, it was a source of gratification to him to observe that the State of Mysore had been preserved from that calamity and that it continued to enjoy the blessings of abundance, thereby being able to administer to the wants of the neighbouring people and to afford shelter to the inhabitants suffering under the affliction of famine.

In addition to the repair and reconstruction of tanks and channels, the forts at Bangalore, Mysore and Chennapatna were also repaired. The old Hindu palace at Mysore had gone to decay and on the same site the construction of a new palace more or less in the style in which it existed in the past with accommodation for offices was begun in the first year of the new administration and reached completion in about 5 years, the sum spent during that period being a little over 2,47,000 Pagodas. The front which was gaudily painted and was supported by four elaborately carved wooden pillars comprised the Seje or Durbar Hall where the Maharaja showed himself seated on his throne to the people assembled below during the annual Dasara festivities. Another interesting apartment was the Amba Vilas. It was here that Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in later years received his European guests and transacted the ordinary business of the day.

#### **Lord Valentia's Visit.**

Lord Valentia, stated to be a nephew of General Wellesley, visited Seringapatam and Mysore on 29th February 1804. Lord Valentia recorded in a published account of his travels that he was received by the Amildar of Maddur and presented with a large quantity of fruits, the jacks and water-melons being remarkably fine. The Kotwal also presented him with fruits and Valentia's palanquin, it is said, became overloaded with them. "I therefore began," says Valentia, "to toss the fruits among the crowds that attended, for which breach of etiquette and want of proper dignity

I was soon punished by the cloud of dust they raised in the scramble." On his way to Seringapatam he was met by Butché Rao, the Deputy of Purnaiya, about two miles from the town with a very large escort who also accompanied him into the town.

On the 1st of March Lord Valentia was visited in Tippu's Durbar Hall at Seringapatam by Narasinga Rao, eldest son of Purnaiya, accompanied by Butché Rao. They conveyed the Raja's congratulations on his arrival at Seringapatam and an invitation to his residence at Mysore. Narasinga Rao also presented a nazar of fruit and shawls and assured him of his father's regret for not being able to be present in person on account of his absence with the army on the frontier. "I in return told Narasinga Rao," says Valentia, "that I had every reason to be gratified by the compliments I had received, but that I hoped he would permit me to pay the bearers who carried my palanquin. He said that he felt much hurt that I should think of such a trifle, that the Raja had ordered these people only to attend who were bound to do so and that he hoped that I would not mortify his father by mentioning it again..... I presented to each a pair of shawls which I put over their shoulders with my own hands."

On their being seated, Major Symons the Collector of Seringapatam who acted as interpreter on the occasion informed Lord Valentia that two of Tippu's nephews had arrived and wished to be presented to him. They were the sons of Abdul Karim Khan, Nawab of Savanoor, by a sister of Tippu's. Haidar Hussein Khan the eldest was about 18 and the other was only 14. Valentia embraced both of them on their entrance and seated them on his left hand. After a short conversation, pan and attar were served to the two visitors.

On the 2nd March Valentia proceeded to Mysore and about a mile from the newly constructed town he was met by Narasinga Rao, Butché Rao and the officers of the Raja's household with elephants, kettle-drums and trumpets and was conducted to a small house usually occupied by the Resident when he visited Mysore. The same day he paid a visit to the Raja who received him in the

verandah to the left of the main entrance. The musnud on which the Raja was seated was of ivory and had much carving. The young Raja was dressed in gold tissue, with some pearls round his neck. On entering, Valentia made his salaams which His Highness returned. Chairs had been placed on the Raja's left hand for the distinguished visitor and his party and opposite to him were other English gentlemen and on his right were Narasinga Rao and Butché Rao. "I paid the usual compliments," says Valentia, "through Major Symons and Narasinga Rao assuring the Raja of the satisfaction I felt at seeing him on the throne of his ancestors and the confidence the British nation had in his friendship." The Raja replied he owed everything to the British and that his gratitude was unbounded.

"I turned the conversation to the new town of Mysore and several indifferent subjects to try if the Raja's replies would be ready. He never hesitated, spoke sensibly, and I was assured by Major Symons that he was not prompted. He is about 11 years old, of middle size, neither tall nor short for his age, not handsome but of an intelligent countenance. He seemed lively. But on such a public occasion it would have been indecorous to have even smiled. He did so once but was immediately checked by a person who stood by him. I enquired of his pursuits and was informed that he was fond of riding and the sports of the field. These were considered as becoming his dignity. But when I observed that he seemed playful, I was instantly assured that he was not so. I therefore ceased my questions as I found that I should not hear his doing anything that was not according to rule. I strongly recommended his learning English and pointed out the advantage it was to the Raja of Tanjore in his communications with the British Government to be able to write and speak in their language. They assured me that it should certainly be done. I regretted that his youth prevented my having the honour of receiving a visit from him at Seringapatam and therefore requested that he would oblige me by accepting from me a sabre as a small memorial. Having procured one for the purpose which had a handle of agate ornamented with rubies after the Asiatic fashion, I delivered it into his own hand and he immediately placed it beside him, assuring me



that it should always lie by him for my sake and that it was particularly a valuable present to him as he was of Kshatriya caste. He, in return, put round my neck a handsome string of pearls from which was suspended a jewel of flat diamonds and uncut rubies. He also presented me in trays which were as usual laid at my feet, two beautiful chowries, two punkhas and two walkingsticks of sandalwood with two bottles of oil which he requested me to accept. Immediately a salute was fired from the wall of the fort and the strings of pearls were put round our necks.

“His mother sent her compliments with inquiries after my health and expressions of satisfaction at my having honoured her son with a visit. Immediately afterwards pan and attar were distributed and we took our leave.”