

## CHAPTER LVIII.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar III—1811—1831.

#### **Outbreak of insurrection in parts of Nagar, Chitaldrug and Bangalore Foujdaries.**

In the month of August 1830 one Manappa who was an adherent of the Nagar Pretender encamped in the village of Hosa Sante in the Anantapur taluk with a body of 200 men and his presence gave encouragement to overt acts of disobedience on the part of the discontented ryots living in the surrounding taluks. On the 23rd August 1830 an inflammatory appeal signed by a great number of persons belonging to Nagar was addressed to the ryots of the other parts of the State calling upon them to join in a general revolt against the Government officers. In this appeal occurred the following sentences :—“ You must positively come to us at the rate of one man per house..... If you do not come, the Nad people will go to your taluks and you will be obliged to defray the expenses which may be incurred by them and to feed their retinues..... Taking this into consideration, set out taking with you the Shanbogues, the Jamindars and the other inhabitants with due respect without leaving them behind. You must also bring amildars, killedars, sheristadars with as much disrespect as respect is shown to the former class of people. These officials should be kept in custody and made to walk. No money should be allowed to be collected, no exportation and importation of goods should be allowed. No market or fair-day should be allowed to continue.” This appeal was circulated in the Nagar, Chitaldrug and Bangalore Foujdaries and it created considerable restlessness among the ryots.

As a result of the incitement which emanated from the palegars and the appeal to caste superstitions by the Nagar ryots by threats of calling down curses of heaven on the members of the caste by the throwing into their houses of bones, horns and margosa leaves, combined with the approach of the season for the collection of Government dues, a number of disturbances in several parts of the State broke out. The ryots of Chennagiri were the first to manifest

disobedience being incited by one Gopala Rao a member of the Annigere family. In the month of September 1830 on a demand being made in the village of Basavanahalli in the Chennagiri taluk for the annual land assessment, the ryots insolently inquired for whose benefit the assessments were to be paid whether for the benefit of the Raja of Mysore or of the Nagar Raja. The ryots shut the outer gate of the village against the amildar who was thereupon compelled to break them open to effect an entry. A few of the ryots were then arrested, when a hostile mob assembled and the amildar taking the prisoners with him escaped to Chennagiri and shut himself up in the fort. The mob then marched to Chennagiri and some among them scaling the fort walls by means of ladders set free their comrades who had been confined there. The amildar however managed to send intelligence of what had taken place to the Foujdar at Shimoga and when a body of cavalry arrived from there, the mob dispersed.

Veeraraj Urs had entrusted the two taluks of Shimoga and Holehonnur to an amildar of his own nomination, one Katte Thimmiah by name. This amildar found himself unable to make much headway with the collection of the old arrears, whereupon a supernumerary official named Nagappa was sent ostensibly to assist him but practically with independent powers. Thereupon many of the patels and ryots left in a body and temporarily settled themselves at a place called Batterhalli in the Bellary district. Various attempts made by the Government officials to bring back the ryots having failed, the wives and other relatives of the several of the absentees were seized and detained in custody. On this high-handed procedure of these two officials becoming known, several of the ryots of Honnali, Chennagiri, Basavapatna, Oodagani, Shikarpur and Kumsi also joined their brethren at Batterhalli and from there they sent up a petition to the Maharaja saying that they were much harassed by the Foujdar and would not return till they got redress from His Highness. Ranga Rao who was a son-in-law of Survotham Rao was amildar of the taluk of Honnali and it was believed at the time, rightly as it appeared later, that he had secretly instigated the ryots to take up a hostile attitude as he feared that his misdeeds as well as of the other

relatives of Survotham Rao would become revealed if Veeraraj Urs was allowed to have his own course and continued to remain in the Nagar Foujdari. On the petitions of the ryots who had congregated at Batterhalli reaching His Highness at Mysore, Bakshi Annaji Rao of the cavalry force and a Kothal Mutsaddi (a supernumerary official) by name Anche Ramaiya were deputed to Shimoga to assist Veeraraj Urs to restore order in that division.

The ryots who had gathered at Batterhalli on being approached wanted a proper investigation to be made, so that all unauthorised contributions levied in the past might be refunded to them and that they might be released from the obligations imposed upon them for the cultivation of waste lands as well as from unpaid labour. Ranga Rao who was one of the party of three deputed to establish goodwill among the malcontents was at heart opposed to all conciliation and the party contented themselves by advising the ryots to approach Veeraraj Urs and Annaji Rao who had arrived at Honnali. On letters of cowl or conciliation being sent, a large majority of those who had joined the exodus proceeded to Honnali and there having received promises of redress returned to their villages. In October 1830 Veeraraj Urs was recalled to Mysore and his place was again given to Hanagal Krishna Rao who had held it two years before.

In the Chitaldrug Foujdari where Seshagiri Rao brother of Mothikhane Narasinga Rao was Foujdar the ryots of Holalkere were the first to show signs of unrest, this taluk being adjacent to that of Chennagiri. Seshagiri Rao with the intention of pacifying the ryots proceeded to a place called Chitterhalli where news reached him that some of the ryots of the Chitaldrug taluk had assembled at the village of Mavinhalli and were creating disturbances. The following day this body of ryots numbering between 600 and 700 proceeded to Chitterhalli and warned the bazaar people not to sell any provisions either to the Foujdar or to his party. Four or five days after, several of the Holalkere ryots numbering more than 500 arrived at Chitterhalli, where they were welcomed by those of Chitaldrug. The Foujdar was forced to walk

to a place called Guntanoor where also there was a large collection of ryots and here various other indignities were heaped upon him.

At Doddaballapur in the Bangalore Foujdari there were also some disturbances, though none of the people of the taluk participated in them. The amildar of the taluk one Venkatakrishtiah had before he went to Doddaballapur been amildar of Maddagiri and had left the place without making proper adjustments of the money he had collected from the people of that taluk. These people now came to Doddaballapur and raised a tumult there. Venkatakrishtiah having heard that the mob was preparing to seize him, stealthily escaped to Bangalore.

At Krishnarajakatte and Arakalgud in the Mysore Foujdari there were also various acts of high-handedness on the part of the ryots and a large number of officials were subjected to various tortures such as holding lighted torches to their faces, twisting the fleshy part of their thighs with pincers, placing them together in a line with their arms pinioned, putting small stones in their ears and compressing them, seizing them by their ears and lifting them up. The ryots here however were soon conciliated and they departed to their homes after paying a fine called 'Donne Kanike' (literally cudgel offering) in expiation of their violent conduct.

On news of the rebellion in Nagar and Chitaldrug Foujdaries reaching the people of Budihal in the Bangalore Foujdari, they began to obstruct the passing of 'Irsal' or remittances of Government treasure to Mysore. The Foujdar Thimmapparaj Urs on being apprised of these obstructions proceeded to a place called Huliar and summoned several of the ryots for a conference. None of them cared to respond to his call but they gathered to the number of six or seven thousand at some distance from his camp armed with sticks, slings, swords, spears and muskets and plundered the houses in the neighbourhood. About ten of them proceeded to the place where the Foujdar was encamped and applied for an interview. But the Foujdar sent word to them to say that they should represent their grievances in writing. Dissatisfied with the Foujdar's conduct towards them they began

to blow their horns, beat their drums and thereby to create a great uproar. A large crowd of people thereupon arrived and surrounded the Foujdar's tent. The Foujdar had only eighty sowars and eighty Kandachar peons with him. These sowars on seeing the crowd advancing drew their swords, whereupon the crowd stood still and sent a communication to the Foujdar that if two persons who had been kept in confinement for having incited the people of the villages to join the cootum were released, they would disperse. The prisoners were then made over to their charge. The next day however a fresh demand was made for the surrender of the amildar and the sheristadars who then voluntarily went over to the crowd to obviate excesses being committed and the town being plundered.

The Foujdar not only sent reports of these excesses to the Maharaja at Mysore but also referred in his reports to the general attitude of the inhabitants in the neighbouring taluks of Kandikere, Chiknaikanahalli, Hagalvadi, Honnavalli and Budihal where he said that bodies of people blowing horns and beating drums were moving from village to village inciting the residents to join them, or in the alternative, threatening them with curses of bones and horns and that attempts at conciliation had met with failure. These reports were sent to Casamaijor and at his advice Dewan Venkataraj Urs was deputed to bring about a pacification. Venkataraj Urs accordingly proceeded to Chiknaikanahalli on the borders of the Budihal taluk but found his efforts unavailing in establishing tranquillity and reported to the Maharaja that His Highness' presence alone could establish peace.