

## CHAPTER LXIV.

### **Agricultural, trading and other conditions when the British Commission assumed the administration.**

At the time the British Commission was established there were six administrative divisions or Foujdaries, namely, Mysore, Ashtagram, Bangalore, Chitaldrug, Nagar, Madhugiri and Manjarabad, the two last having been formed by Krishnaraja Wodeyar. The number of taluks was 120. Each taluk consisted of ten to twenty hoblies, each in charge of a Shekdar or Hoblidar as he was called in some places. The total number of villages including hamlets was 32,425. Every village had a fixed boundary which the inhabitants carefully preserved and also its own rules, usages and manners which were strictly observed. There were thirty-one hill-forts and 92 common forts.

The total amount of revenue for the Hindu year Khara (1831-32) in the earlier part of which the British Commission assumed the administration was 20,88,978 canteroi pagodas or 62½ lakhs of rupees, of which 16,18,831 canteroi pagodas was land revenue, 4,01,107 canteroi pagodas was Sayer, and the balance was mostly included under the head of Bajebab or miscellaneous items.

The land revenue properly so called was known under two designations, Kandaya in the Maidan parts or plain country and Shist in the Malnad or wooded regions. Under land revenue were also included a number of minor taxes, some connected with it and some unconnected, numbering in all 281 items. The usual mode of renting the lands was that in the beginning of Chaitra the first month of the Hindu year the Shanbhogue, the Patel and the Shekdar called all the ryots together to arrange for the cultivation of the lands in that year. In the case of wet lands the Shekdar first ascertained the likely supply of water in the tanks and made his arrangements with the ryots for the cultivation of as much land as the water in the tank would irrigate. In case the water was not sufficient to cultivate the usual extent of wet lands, dry grains were grown. In like manner the Shekdar attended to the cultivation of

sugarcane and different species of dry grains as well as garden produce. Generally in all matters the Shekdar was the right-hand man of the Amildar and was his *locum tenens* in his hobli. Those who consented to cultivate the lands and pay the Kandayam as in the preceding years were given Thambulam or betel-leaf and nut in proof of the acceptance of their offers. Where a ryot was unable to continue to cultivate, a report was made to the Amildar and with his permission the lands were either transferred to the Batayi or crop-sharing tenure and if in the future any people came forward to take these lands for the same assessment, the lands were given to them. The Shekdar concluded the arrangements before the end of Jeshta the third month of the Hindu year and sent a statement to the Amildar. No future alterations for the year were allowed except when desertions took place or deaths occurred.

Generally during the month of January or February every year the Amildar made a tour of his taluk and formed an estimate of the Kartika or November crop already in heaps and in the same manner an estimate was made of the sugarcane and other produce also. The first instalment of rent was paid in the month of October and though the second instalment was supposed to be payable in December, the full amount was not collected and always a balance was left uncollected till the Jamabandi or final settlement was completed. The Patel after the completion of the Jamabandi assumed the management of all matters connected with the rent, distributed the due shares of the different crops to the ryots, disposed of the Government share in the manner most beneficial, collected all the cash assessments or Suvarnadayam where due and paid the total rent stipulated by him to the treasury. In case of any part of the revenue falling in arrears either from death, desertion or poverty of the ryots or from any other cause, the amount if large and irrecoverable was remitted after a full investigation of all the particulars of the case. Otherwise the renters remained answerable for the payment of the whole rent. This mode of renting was known as Gramagutta.

There were local variations from this common mode of renting, especially where the Patel himself was not the renter, such as

Ontigutta, Prajagutta, Kulwargutta. Where there was Prajagutta, a certain sum of rent was fixed for the whole village and if there was any deficiency in the produce, the assesses generally shared the loss among themselves. Where Ontigutta existed, the whole of the village was rented to one, two or more men whether of the same village or of others, the renter or the renters being answerable for the whole of the rent. Kulwargutta was the mode of renting a village to one of the several principal land-holders who divided the same among other individuals and these latter made their own arrangements with the ryots under them.

The total number of tanks was 19,800 and that of wells 16,371. The number of Pattadars or holders of lands of all kinds was nearly 3,84,000 and the number of ploughs about 3 lakhs. Whenever any danger was apprehended of the embankment of a tank bursting by too much rain, all the inhabitants collectively worked to prevent such a danger.

The extent of wet land under cultivation was 1,84,000 candies and dry land 1,24,000 candies. It will be noticed that the extent of dry land appears less than that of the wet land and this discrepancy needs explanation. The land had not been regularly measured and when the extent was referred to as a candy of land, it meant that extent of land which required one candy of seed for sowing or 160 seers known as Krishnaraja candy introduced by Purnaiya for the sake of uniformity throughout the State. The space of wet land which required this quantity of seed corresponded to about 10,000 square yards. On the other hand, if the land was dry, the extent of space which required the same candy of seed was 64,000 square yards, so that the candy of dry in comparison with the candy of wet land was as  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 1. The whole extent of cultivated land in the State was believed to be in the proportion of  $\frac{3}{8}$  wet and  $\frac{5}{8}$  dry.

There were different kinds of land tenures prevailing in the State and the principal ones may be mentioned:—

1. Lands paying cash assessment, some of which were held from generation to generation as long as no default was made in the payment of that assessment,

2. Batayi or crop-sharing tenure in which the cultivating ryots whether belonging to the same village or different villages were practically hired labourers and received for their labour a share of the produce. The inhabitants of any village to which the lands belonged had the right of preference to any outsiders nor could any holders be denied the right of cultivation if they had cultivated them for a number of years and were ready to do so for the future also.
3. In certain places there were tanks known as 'Amani' *i.e.*, not belonging to any particular village and the lands under which were cultivated by ryots collected from several villages in the neighbourhood. These received their share of the produce under the superintendence of a Government official appointed for the purpose.
4. Shraya lands were those held by persons who engaged themselves to pay a progressive rent for a fixed number of years and after the expiry of that period to pay the full assessment.
5. Kayamgutta lands were those held on a fixed rent without specification of any period.
6. Jodi lands were those held on favourable rent.
7. In the case of betel-nut or supari gardens the holders were considered as having the right of hereditary possession and they could sell or mortgage their property when the purchaser or the mortgagee had the same right as the original holder.
8. Kodagi inams were those on which an invariable rent was fixed and granted to those who had constructed tanks or undertaken their repair and maintenance.
9. The Shist lands were those where the shist first fixed by the Nagar Raja Sivappa Naik and the owners of which had proprietary right in the soil.

10. In the taluks of Ikkeri, Sagar, Mandagadde, Koppa and Kavaledoorg there were some lands on which what was known as Gadi or fixed rent in kind was paid.

In the Nagar Division the ryots of the taluks of Anantapur, Kavaledoorg, Koppa, Sagar, Chandragutti, Sorab and Nagar paid their rents to the Amildar's Cutcherry through a class of people called Suttigedars who took all the produce grown by the ryots and supplied them all their wants more or less at a valuation fixed by the Suttigedars themselves. The ryots of all the remaining taluks generally paid their assessment through the patels. In case the ryots failed to pay, the Patel placed their grain under distress either before or after it was taken off the ground and this distress was not removed until the ryots had given security for the balances due from them.

If the produce was that of Kandayam land, it was taken by the inhabitants to their houses after paying the Russums, *i.e.*, the first deductions from the grain issued at the threshing floor to the members of the Barabaluti or the village servants. If the produce was that of Batayi land, Russums were given in like manner to the village servants and then the remainder was shared between the Government and the ryots generally in equal proportions.

The Kandayam or cash assessment was generally found to amount to  $33\frac{5}{8}$  per cent, the charges of cultivation to  $32\frac{1}{8}$  per cent of the gross produce in the Bangalore and Madhugiri Foujdaries. In Chitaldrug the Kandayam or assessment was  $41\frac{9}{8}$  per cent and the charges of cultivation 23 per cent, in Ashtagram  $31\frac{1}{2}$  and  $31\frac{3}{8}$ , in Manjarabad  $38\frac{1}{8}$  and  $34\frac{3}{4}$  and in Nagar  $30\frac{9}{8}$  and  $45\frac{9}{8}$  respectively. The balance in all the Foujdaries was appropriated by the cultivator.

The highest and the lowest cash assessment paid by individual cultivators were in Bangalore and Madhugiri fifty and three canteroi pagodas, in Chitaldrug one hundred and one, in Ashtagram two hundred and two, in Manjarabad one hundred and three and in Nagar three hundred and seventy respectively.

The highest and the lowest extents of land held by an individual were nine candies and fifteen Kolagas in Bangalore and Madhugiri, twenty candies and ten Kolagas in Chitaldrug, twelve candies and one candy in Ashtagram and thirty candies and one candy in Manjarabad.

#### Trade.

The principal articles imported into the Mysore State at this time were cotton from Bellary and Dharwar, salt from Madras and Pondicherry on the east coast and from Tellicherry and Mangalore on the west, the price of salt at Madras being about 6 fanams for a bullock-load of eighty seers, tobacco from Salem, spices and other articles from Madras and Tellicherry, cloths from Chittoor and Chingalpet and piece goods from Tanjore, Madura, Salem, Kadapa and Muslipatam. Supari or betel-nut produced in the Nagar district was mostly transported to Wallajanagar in the Chittoor Zilla, jaggery and two varieties of sugar manufactured largely in Gudibanda, Chikballapur, Doddaballapur and Sidlaghatta taluks were exported to Bellary, Madras and Hyderabad. In times of scarcity the export of grain from Mysore was considerable but in ordinary seasons the grain was not carried beyond a distance of sixty miles.

Duties were levied on all goods in transit from one place to another. There were also consumption duties when goods were sold in any particular place. Goods were conveyed either by carts, bullocks, asses or men and it was usual to levy a duty of so many fanams on each load, subject to a deduction being made according as the load was full or short of a fixed estimate. In Santhes or periodical markets fixed duties were levied upon the temporary shops paying a few cash known as the Addi Cash. Every vegetable shop paid something in kind under the name of Fusky and every cloth shop paid a tax of from two to six pies called Woondige Kasu. There was also a tax known as Pattadi levied on every cloth shop, grain, mutton and arrack shop. There were also taxes on supari, betel-leaf, sugarcane, looms and ploughs of the ryots exclusive of the land revenue. The total Sayer revenue was 3,10,000 canteroi pagodas towards which the duty on supari or betel-nut alone

contributed 1,20,000 canteroi pagodas, the amount of duties on all sorts of grain being 75,000 canteroi pagodas and the balance of a little over a third being made up of duties on all other sorts of goods.

The Sayer duties known as Panchabab related to five articles—tobacco, betel-leaves, ganja, arrack and toddy. The arrack was generally rented by an individual in each taluk and the renter either sublet portions to others or managed the whole himself. Where it was sublet, each sub-renter undertook to pay his rent for every shop or village. If kept in Amanay, the renter established manufactories where the arrack was distilled, employed his own servants and caused the arrack to be sold retail. There was no uniform rule, however, that one taluk should be rented to one man. Sometimes even so many as twenty taluks were rented to a single man, while some taluks were rented to several renters. The toddy was drawn chiefly from wild date trees. In some cases individual shops were taxed, but generally the tax was levied on the beast of burden which conveyed the toddy to the shops or on the leathern bags which contained the liquor.