

CHAPTER LXIX.

Administrative changes and improvements during Cubbon's time.

The ordinary sources of income to the State while Cubbon held office were land revenue, customs duties, rent on monopolies, sandalwood, stamp paper, fines and forfeitures, and postage. The total income of the State was Rs. 68 lakhs in the first year of Cubbon's administration and the largest amount realised during his time was Rs. 84 lakhs in 1855-56. The Panchabab which consisted of toddy, arrack, ganja, tobacco and betel-leaf gave between the years 1834-40 about Rs. 3.5 lakhs a year and between 1850-61 when Cubbon left Mysore the minimum had risen to Rs. 7 lakhs and the maximum to Rs. 10 lakhs. In 1834-35 the income from Sayer was 4.5 lakhs of rupees and in 1860-61 it had risen to Rs. 10.4 lakhs. The expenditure of the State rose from Rs. 65 lakhs in 1834-35 to Rs. 85 lakhs in 1860-61. The liquidation of public debts was one of Cubbon's most important duties. The principal creditor was the Madras Government which at the instance of the Supreme Government had advanced Rs. 10 lakhs to Mysore to enable it to pay off the arrears due to the civil establishments and the troops at the assumption of the administration. The other creditors were local bankers and rich merchants. The first instalment of the debt was paid in 1839-40 with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. The other instalments of varying amounts were paid at different times and in 1857 the whole debt was finally discharged. The subsidy of Rs. 24½ lakhs continued to be paid throughout the period.

In the first two years of the British Commission, all Sayer duties on grain were abolished. In 1837-38 all internal duties were taken off iron, steel and cattle and in subsequent years the transit duties on supari, pepper, cardamom and coffee were abolished. As a substitute for the tobacco contract which was abolished, a halat of Re. 1 per maund was fixed on the quantity of supari produced in Nagar and an import duty of Rs. 1¼ on tobacco imported for consumption. To make up for the considerable loss of revenue

sustained by these reductions, an additional halat was imposed on cardamoms and on the first sort of supari. In 1835 the transit duty on horses in the Ashtagram Division was removed. In 1836-37 were abolished the duties which were levied on firewood, old timber, European articles, sandalwood oil and vegetables on entering the town of Mysore and in 1837-38 fruit, plantain leaves and straw were added to the articles allowed to pass free and in subsequent years the duties on various other articles such as parched grain, paddy, buttermilk were struck off. The tax on blacksmith's forges was also removed. In 1842-43 the Sayer and Panchabab of the Mysore taluk were taken under Government management as an experiment and it having proved successful, the management by Government was extended to all the other taluks. In the Bangalore Division, however, the old system continued till 1846-47, when the contract system and the collection of Sayer was taken directly under Government management.

The first modification of the old Sayer system was commenced in July 1847 by levying an *ad valorem* duty of 4 per cent on all articles at the place of export or despatch and at the frontier kattes on all articles entering the division except on raw silk, tobacco and betel-leaf on which lower rates were levied. In 1848 the Sayer rules were revised and articles merely passing through to or from other parts of the State, to or from the Company's districts or from one part of the Company's territories to another were exempted from duty. Articles imported from the Company's territories for consumption in the State were charged 4 per cent *ad valorem* as well as articles exported to the Company's territories from the Bangalore Division, while an *ad valorem* duty of only 2 per cent was levied on articles exported to or imported from the other divisions of Mysore.

The military department cost the State between Rs. 9.5 lakhs and Rs. 11.1 lakhs every year, of which 70 per cent was for the maintenance of the Silledar cavalry which under the treaty of 1807 had to be maintained and the rest was incurred for the Barr infantry.

No pensions were granted during Cubbon's time to Government servants, whatever pensions existed being for the benefit generally of the Mahomedan and palegar families of distinction. In 1835 when Cubbon included Hiranyappa a nephew of Purnaiya as a new incumbent for a pension, the Supreme Government forbade him from doing so in the future. In the same year however, when Cubbon recommended Gundopunth a State officer of high position for a pension, the Government of India accepted Cubbon's recommendation. The Mahomedan pensioners were of two classes—the Karabatdars and the Mutfarkhats. The former were the relatives and connections of Tippu Sultan residing chiefly at Mysore, Vellore and Trichnopoly and the latter were attached to the Silledars but had no duties, their connection with that body entitling them to a certain monthly payment and to a certain rank in life.

In August 1830 the Madras Government transferred the island of Seringapatam to the Maharaja for an annual payment of Rs. 50,000. Throughout the 27 years from 1834-35 to 1860-61 the Mysore Government sustained a loss from this transaction varying from a minimum of Rs. 20,400 in 1839-40 to Rs. 36,700 in 1859-60. When Cubbon left Mysore, he left a surplus of about a crore of rupees in the treasury.

Until 1853 the standard coin was the Canteroi pagoda but after that date the Rupee. The Bahaduri pagoda and the Madras and Surat rupees also were in circulation at different rates of exchange. One Canteroi pagoda was equivalent to Rs. 2-14-8 and a Bahaduri pagoda about Rs. 4. But the former was a nominal gold coin, while the latter was in circulation though in a small quantity. The mint which was in 1834 situated at Bangalore had been minting only the Cash which was a copper coin. This too was stopped in 1843. From 1854 the Government also withdrew all but the rupee currency from circulation.

A measure of some importance was the revision of the Mohatarfa in 1860. From all cultivating ryots was levied a plough-tax ranging from 3 to 6 annas and the amount raised under

this head was formed into a local fund devoted to the formation and repairs of cross-roads.

Coffee.

During Cubbon's regime of office the cultivation of coffee received great impetus. This plant is stated to have been introduced in the 17th century by a Mahomedan fakir named Baba Budan who on his return from Mecca brought a few seeds and planted them on the hill near Chikmagalur which now bears his name. It however remained comparatively an unknown plant for years together in the future and even during the time of Krishnaraja Wodeyar it was of so little account that he gave the monopoly of it throughout his territories to a single Madras merchant. The little then grown used to be sent down to Mangalore, shifted into Arabian bags and forwarded to England as the genuine produce of Mocha. About 1840 one Mr. Cannon formed an estate on the high range immediately to the south of the Bababudangiri and Cannon's success in this venture led another European by name Fredrick Green to open an estate of his own in South Manjarabad in 1843. Towards the close of Cubbon's period of office, the cultivation of coffee had spread very largely and the seed had obtained a place of its own in the London price currents and a quantity of one hundred thousand maunds from the Nagar Division found its way to the seaports of Canara. An excise duty of 4 annas on every maund of 28 lbs. was levied on all coffee grown.

In 1853-54 an estimate was made of the different kinds of lands under cultivation. Taking Mackenzie's estimate of the superficial area of Mysore at 27,000 square miles to be correct, the number of Kandagas or Candies was calculated at 13,06,800 as the equivalent of that area. Of these 9,37,254 were computed to be covered by mountains, rivers, nalas, tanks, roads and wastes, leaving 3,69,546 candies of cultivable land, of which about 2,84,276 candies were believed to be under the plough. The village lands were divided into Kandagas, Kolagas, Ballas and Seers, these being the names for the measures of seed required to sow a given space. The Krishnaraja Candy of 160 seers established by Purnaiya was adopted by the Superintendents of Divisions for all purposes of

computation in connection with land measurements. One Krishnaraja Candy of dry land was equal to a little over 64,000 square yards. Two seers were equal to 3 guntas and 37 square yards, one gunta being equal to 121 square yards. As regards measurement, one seer of seed was equal to $62\frac{1}{2}$ square yards. Two seers or a Balla was equal to 125 square yards or 1 gunta and 4 square yards. 1 Candy of wet land was equal to 10,000 square yards.

Each village had its Beriz, its Chedsal Jamabandi and the Sthal Shist or Rewaz. The Beriz was the maximum amount of revenue fixed in former years as could be drawn from the village. The Chedsal Jamabandi was the actual maximum amount derived from the village and the Rewaz was the customary rate of assessment on each particular field. The number and extent of each field and each particular of its assessment were registered in the accounts of the village accountant. Every field had its own particular name and its boundaries had been carefully defined.

The Barabaluti system continued during this period also and it consisted of the following members:—

1. Gowda or headman of the village.
2. Shanbogue or accountant.
3. Toti or watchman of the village.
4. Talari or policeman.
5. Nirganti or regulator and distributor of water to the fields.
6. Madiga or carrier and shoe-maker.
7. Dhobi or washerman.
8. Nayinda or Hajam or barber.
9. Kumbar or potmaker.
10. Kabbnadava or Lohar or iron smith.
11. Badagi or carpenter.
12. Agasala or Sonar or Goldsmith.

There were many villages however in which the full complement of the Barabaluti was not found, the duties and functions of one member being conjoined with those of another. In each village there were also generally a hereditary schoolmaster, a Panchangi Brahmin who recited the calendar and the Pujari or the worshipper of the village deity. But these were supported by the villagers and not by the Government. In 1850-51 it was calculated that there were 50,700 persons borne on the accounts as Barabaluti who among them enjoyed land to the value of 40,178 Canteroi Pagodas

or Rs. 1,16,882 and received a money allowance of 10,531 Canteroi Pagodas or Rs. 1,47,517.

Kodagi Inam.

In former times tanks were frequently constructed by private individuals, to whom one-fourth in some places and in others one-fifth of the land under them was granted rent-free but with the condition that they should contribute in that proportion to the repair of the works of irrigation. These tanks were called Kodagikeres and the persons holding lands on this tenure Kodagi Inamdars.

The Kandayam lands were those held by the ryots from the Government for money rents according to the Rewaz or local standard rates. Kandayam lands whether wet or dry were not saleable publicly, but in various ways the cultivators contrived to alienate their occupancy right. The ordinary means for effecting a transfer was for the ryot wishing to transfer his lands to present to the taluk authorities a written Razeenama requesting permission to resign his land into the hands of the Government and at the same time to mention the name of another person who wished to take it. This latter simultaneously submitted to the same authority a Darkhast or tender for the particular land offering the same rent. The Darkhast was usually accepted without any objection and a fresh pattah or title-deed was issued in the name of the Darkhastdar from whom proper security was taken for the punctual payment of the Kandayam.

Kayamgutta, Jodi, Sarvamanya and Shrayam villages and lands were publicly mortgaged and sold with the consent of the Government, as were likewise coffee plantations and areca and cocoanut gardens. The rate at which they were disposed of was roughly estimated at 8 to 10 years' annual assessment.

During Cubbon's time the Shanbogue gradually rose in importance. On the commencement of the Mungar or first rains but before the beginning of the official year which was the first of July, the Shanbogue of the village assembled the ryots and inquired into the circumstances and plans of each individual, after which he

concluded an arrangement with them for the Kandayam and Batayi lands they were to cultivate and for the revenue payable by each cultivator during the ensuing year. The Shanbogue now became the primary agent in every arrangement between the ryot and the Government and it was to him and to his books that the ryot and the Government alike looked for the record of their respective rights.

The Amildar was directly under the control of the Superintendent of the Division to which his taluk belonged. The Amildar made a tour of his hoblies in September to ascertain the condition of the inhabitants and the prospects of the season and to see that the Shanbagues and Shekdars were exerting themselves to bring the lands under cultivation. After having satisfied himself on these points by personal observation and having looked carefully into all the other arrangements entered into by his subordinates, he settled the Kulwar Jamabandi village by village and furnished regular ten-day reports of the progress made, the whole of his settlement being finished in November. The Government Batayi lands of the Vaishaka Fasal or May crop were brought fully under cultivation in October and November. By February or March the Amildar forwarded to the Superintendent an estimate of the probable outturn. The crops were thrashed and heaped in May or June and the Amildar then attended to the disposal of the Government share. Sometimes they were put up to public auction as they stood uncut upon the fields but generally after they were reaped and thrashed. If the bids offered for the grain were considered inadequate, the same was stored in the Government granaries till prices became more favourable. Exactly the same course was pursued with regard to the Kartika or November crop which was planted in the Mungar or first rains and reaped in October or November. One important duty of the Amildar was to inspect the bunds of the tanks and the embankments of the water courses in his taluk and to keep the Superintendent frequently informed of their condition.

The Superintendent generally proceeded on his Jamabandi circuit as soon after the month of November as was practicable. The pattahs which had been previously prepared of each cultivator's

holding according to the Amildar's settlements were then distributed to the ryots. The pattah contained a description of the land held by the ryot and the amount of assessment to be paid by him on each different plot of land as well as any other tax which he had to pay. This was read over to each man as he was called to receive his pattah and he was asked if it was correct. In the pattah were also entered the kists or instalments of the ryot as they were paid by him. It was on this occasion of distributing the pattahs that the question of remissions was also taken up. The Superintendent kept this entirely in his own hands. There was no strict principle laid down upon which remissions were made. Each individual case was taken up and decided on its own merits, the condition and means of the applicant being the main considerations. But generally speaking, the assessment was not levied on land which had not been turned up by the plough or purposely kept fallow for pasture. The truth or otherwise of such representations was readily ascertained, for all the cultivators of the village were present to refer to. One result of the summary decisions for remission was that at the end of the year no outstanding balances in the collection were left. Leases for five years were usually granted upon a fair advance on the average of the previous five years produce being tendered. As a general rule, such leases were granted to respectable land-holders of the village in which the lands were situated. The ryots were allowed to pay their dues in 5 or 6 instalments in October, November or December according to the harvest season of their locality. New lands were granted upon the average Rewaz or average rate of the village generally of three years. On these circuits it was also expected that all disputes of whatever description referable to the Superintendent were finally decided and ten days before the Superintendent arrived in a taluk, a proclamation was published in that taluk informing the people that the Superintendent's cutcherry would arrive there on a day fixed and remain there for so many days and inviting all persons having any complaints or representations to make to present themselves before him within that period and declaring that should they omit to do so, their complaints would not be attended to afterwards unless good reason was shown for their default.