

THE MYSORE GAZETTEER

VOLUME III

ECONOMIC

CHAPTER I.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

THE Conference was established in June 1911 with the following objects :—

Objects of the
Economic
Conference.

(a) to associate men of enlightenment, public spirited citizens, prominent agriculturists, merchants, etc., with the officers of Government in deliberations connected with Economic Progress in Mysore ;

(b) to keep alive public interest in the numerous questions claiming attention, by constant interchange of views and discussions among those competent to deal with them ;

(c) to stimulate the capacity for effort among the people by a series of conferences and to suggest the adoption of practical measures by Government where the Government can render assistance ;

(d) to hold an annual Conference to discuss the more important questions that affect the material prosperity of the State.

The lines on which the Conference should work was thus outlined by His Highness the Maharaja in the inaugural address delivered to the Conference in 1911 :—

Lines of
Work.

“ The conditions affecting Economic progress in this State should be compared with those in other progressive countries

and the lessons drawn from such comparison should be spread broadcast till the public become familiar and learn to act on them. If the people are kept thinking and working in this way, some of them will become leaders and experts and all who are interested in a subject will have the opportunity of forming sound opinions on it. If the leaders are convinced of the necessity of an improvement, they will induce the people concerned to take action. If they think that Government assistance is necessary, they will apply for it. The Committees and officials will spread useful information in the shape of bulletins and monographs from time to time. In this way, we shall gradually accumulate a mass of statistics and descriptive literature of the highest value to the local economic student. The aim we have in view, namely, the economic security and vital efficiency of the people must appeal to every right-thinking person."

**The
Functions
of the
Economic
Conference.**

The functions of the Conference do not overlap those of the Representative Assembly. Questions concerning the prerogatives of His Highness the Maharaja, the constitution of the State, its relations with the Government of India or the policy of supreme Government are excluded from discussion.

**Agency for
Work.**

The agency for work comprises of—

- (i) Three Central Boards with head-quarters at Bangalore, one for Agriculture including Sericulture, one for Education and one for Industries and Commerce;
- (ii) District Boards.

**Annual
Meeting.**

The Conference ordinarily meets once a year under the presidency of the Dewan in June at Mysore during the Birthday festivities of His Highness the Maharaja, to consider the reports of work done by the Central Boards and the District Boards and recommendations made by them. Such of the Resolutions of the Conference as have the support of the majority of the members are submitted to Government for final orders.

The deliberations of the Conference, other than those on confidential subjects, are open to the Press and the public.

All the members of the Boards, the Deputy Commissioners of Districts, and such other persons as may be specially selected by Government are summoned for the Conference. The total number of members of the Conference does not exceed 100.

The constitution of the three Boards as ordered by Government in their order dated 10th March 1924 is as follows :—

Constitution
of the Central
Boards.

Board of Education.—The Board consists of :—

- (1) The Inspector-General of Education (*ex-officio*).
- (2) A representative of the Mysore University to be elected by the Senate of the University.
- (3) A representative of High School teachers ; pending the formation of some constituency, the member to be nominated by Government.
- (4) A representative of Missionary Schools ; the election of the representative to be entrusted to a representative body of Mission Schools in Bangalore, if there is one ; otherwise the representative to be nominated by Government.
- (5) A representative of private schools, aided and unaided—to be nominated by Government.
- (6) A woman representative of female education to be nominated by Government.
- (7) A representative of science teaching, to be nominated by Government.
- (8) A representative of industrial and technical education to be nominated by Government.
- (9) A representative of physical education—to be nominated by Government.
- (10) A representative of Mahomedan education—to be nominated by Government.
- (11) A representative of the education of backward classes—to be nominated by Government.
- (12) A representative of the depressed classes—to be nominated by Government.

(13) A representative of primary education—to be nominated by Government.

(14) & (15) Two members of the Representative Assembly to be elected by the members of the Assembly.

(16) & (17) Two representatives of the Legislative Council to be elected by the members of the Legislative Council.

(18) & (19) Two members to be nominated by Government.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University to be the Chairman of the Board.

Board of Agriculture.—The Board consists of:—

(1) The Director of Agriculture (*ex-officio*).

(2) The Chief Engineer in Mysore (*ex-officio*).

(3) The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore (*ex-officio*).

(4) The Live-Stock Expert (*ex-officio*).

(5) The Superintendent of Sericulture (*ex-officio*).

(6) The Superintendent, Government Gardens (*ex-officio*).

(7) The Registrar of Co-operative Societies (*ex-officio*).

(8) The Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District (*ex-officio*).

(9) A representative of the Agricultural Union to be elected by the Union by a majority of the members present at a general meeting.

(10) A representative of the European Planting Interest—to be elected by the European Planters' Association recognised by Government for purposes of returning a member to the Representative Assembly.

(11) A representative of the Indian Planting Interest—to be elected by the Indian Planters' Association recognised by Government for purposes of returning a member to the Representative Assembly.

(12) The Agricultural Chemist (*ex-officio*).

(13) The Conservator of Forests (*ex-officio*).

(14) & (15) Two members of the Representative Assembly to be elected by the members of the Assembly.

(16) & (17) Two representatives of the Legislative Council to be elected by the members of the Legislative Council.

(18) & (19) Two members representing horticulture and sericulture to be nominated by Government.

(20), (21) & (22) Three members representing agriculture

who are large growers of sugar-cane, cotton, etc., to be nominated by Government.

The First Member of Council to be the Chairman of the Board.

Board of Industries and Commerce.—The Board consists of :—

- (1) The Director of Industries and Commerce (*ex-officio*).
- (2) The Conservator of Forests (*ex-officio*).
- (3) The Director of Geology (*ex-officio*).
- (4) The Chief Electrical Engineer (*ex-officio*).
- (5) The Agent, Mysore Railways (*ex-officio*).
- (6) & (7) Two members of the Representative Assembly to be elected by the members of the Assembly.
- (8) & (9) Two representatives of the Legislative Council to be elected by the members of the Legislative Council.
- (10) A representative of the Chamber of Commerce to be elected by the Chamber of Commerce.
- (11) A representative of Banking to be nominated by Government.
- (12) A representative of Mining and Factory Labour to be nominated by Government.
- (13) The Industrial Chemist (*ex-officio*).
- (14) The Government Director, Mysore Iron Works (*ex-officio*).
- (15), (16) & (17) Three representatives of Provincial Industries (*i*) one for mining, (*ii*) one for textiles and (*iii*) one for tanning—the mining representative to be elected by the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board and the other representatives to be nominated by Government.
- (18) A representative of Industrial and Commercial Education to be nominated by Government.
- (19) & (20) to be nominated by Government to represent other interests.

In addition to the several sub-committees that may be formed from time to time for working out the details of the several schemes, a separate sub-committee will be formed to continue the work carried on by the Board of Scientific Advice. This Sub-Committee will consist of

not more than seven members of the Industries and Commerce Board and such scientific experts from outside as may be co-opted by the Board.

The Second Member of Council to be the Chairman of the Board.

**Functions of
the Central
Boards.**

The functions of the Central Boards are:—

- (i) to investigate questions of economic interest,
- (ii) to collect correct and valuable information on every question considered by the Board and to prepare a note or monograph embodying the same in an assimilable form;
- (iii) to compare conditions in Mysore with those in other countries or localities;
- (iv) to stimulate public discussion by issuing monographs to the public and the Press;
- (v) to consult expert opinion, if necessary, both within and outside Mysore;
- (vi) to report their opinions and recommendations to the Conference once a year before the end of April;
- (vii) to initiate and carry on experiments in special cases;
- (viii) to formulate practical improvement schemes;
- (ix) to spread information and enlightenment among the people by bulletins and other means;
- (x) to advise the people in respect of measures needed for their material prosperity;
- (xi) to undertake, in special cases, with the aid of experts or executive officers, the execution of schemes prepared by them and duly approved by Government;
- (xii) to encourage the formation of Local Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Local Committees, etc., for the investigation and development of individual or minor questions and for stimulating co-operative effort and private initiative, so that, as far as possible, the services of every person in the State who has capacity or enthusiasm for work or for spreading information or who has capital for investment in productive enterprises, may be enlisted in the work of the people;
- (xiii) to recommend to Government financial aid to deserving bodies, committees or individuals where necessary;
- (xiv) to suggest to Government such other steps as may

be considered desirable to improve the economic condition of the country.

The District Boards have been entrusted with all economic work in the Districts. The principal functions that District Boards may have to discharge are:— District Boards.

(i) to consider all the subjects allotted to the three Central Boards with special reference to the needs and the local conditions of the District;

(ii) to study local deficiencies and local wants and endeavour to supply them largely by the efforts of the people of the locality assisted by Government;

(iii) to submit, not later than the 1st May, a report of work done during the year;

(iv) to collect and furnish from time to time such information and statistics as may be required by the Central Boards;

(v) to disseminate information received from the Central Boards;

(vi) to popularise schemes framed by the Boards or Departments of Government;

(vii) to co-operate generally in the development of programmes of the Boards and the Departments of Government;

(viii) to collect funds—

(a) from public and charitable institutions, Municipalities, Local Boards, Village Unions, fairs, *jātras* and other public gatherings.

(b) by levying voluntary cesses.

(c) by raising subscriptions or donations to supplement Government grants for prosecuting the work of the Conference;

(ix) to apply the funds so obtained in the District itself for—

(a) demonstration work.

(b) collecting and spreading information.

(c) any other object that may be found necessary from time to time, the general sanction of Government being obtained in each case;

(x) to start a reading room and library and a museum of economic products, industrial machinery, etc., at the District Head-quarters;

(xi) to collect and maintain accurate statistics for the District under the three branches of Conference work, *viz.*, Education, Agriculture and Industries and Commerce;

(xii) to organize Agricultural and Industrial Conferences and Shows, both at head-quarters and at important fairs and jattras, festivals, etc., in the District ;

(xiii) to encourage the formation of Agricultural, Industrial and other Associations, Societies, Committees, etc. for—

- (a) the investigation and working up of special questions of economic interest, and
- (b) aiding the people in starting industries, joint-stock and other business concerns ;

(xiv) to develop local working schemes of economic questions and submit the same for the sanction of Government through the District Boards and in urgent cases, through the head of the District ;

(xv) to act as a medium between the Government and the people by studying the requirements of the District ;

(xvi) to investigate applications for financial aid in the shape of loans and subsidies or concessions and recommend them to the District Boards for submission to Government ;

(xvii) to maintain a list of persons in the District who may be willing and able to do active work to help in the programme of the Conferences and its Boards ;

(xviii) to maintain a list of persons—

- (a) who are prepared to follow improved methods of agriculture or develop industries and commerce, or
- (b) who are ready to invest capital and to indicate the nature of expert advice and help they may need from the District Boards or the Heads of Departments ;

(xix) to do everything possible to bring together all people interested in any particular subject of economic interest and to keep them thinking and working on it.

**Award of
Honours and
Certificates.**

The Government of His Highness the Maharaja considering it necessary that useful work done by public-spirited gentlemen in connection with the economic development of the country should receive public recognition, have sanctioned the award of *Khillats* (Royal gifts) and Certificates according to the nature and value of the work done in each case. These are of four kinds :—

(i) Honours and *Khillats* bestowed in open Durbar in the Palace in the presence of His Highness the Maharaja during the annual Dasara celebrations.

(ii) Printed certificates signed by the Dewan.

(iii) Printed certificates signed by a Secretary to Government on behalf of Government.

(iv) Printed certificates signed by the Deputy Commissioner of the District.

Since its establishment in 1911, the constitution of the Conference has undergone some alterations. When it was first formed, the three Boards forming it were designated Committees; the Industries and Commerce Committee having at first a sub-committee of its own for offering advice in scientific matters referred to it. Subsequently this sub-committee was developed into a Board of Scientific Advice, with a separate Chairman and Secretary. This arrangement was, however, dropped in 1924. Similarly there were in the Districts separate District Committees for economic work located at the headquarters of each District, and Taluk and Town Progress Committees at head-quarters of each Taluk and Town. On the transference of all economic work in the Districts to District Boards, by a suitable amendment of the law, these Committees ceased to exist. Similarly there was a Standing Committee of the Conference for considering important questions as they arose between any two sessions of the Conference, especially questions falling within the scope of more than one Committee. It consisted of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the three Central Committees and various official and non-official members. This Committee was first formed in June 1913 and was enlarged in August 1915. In the beginning it met once in three months, and later, once every month, the Secretary to the Conference acting as its Secretary. In 1915, an English monthly journal called the *Mysore Economic Journal*, was also started to

Changes in
the constitu-
tion of the
Conference.

disseminate sound ideas systematically on economic subjects and to serve the purposes of a continuous record of work done by the various Committees. A Kannada edition of it was simultaneously sanctioned with the object of influencing a wider public in matters relating to economic well-being. The Kannada part was soon converted into a weekly and transferred to a private agency in 1918 and the English journal to another in 1921. In 1919 a new constitution was devised for the Conference. Its general utility led to its being converted into a permanent adjunct to the administration and its work linked up with the activities of the Districts, through the District Boards as mentioned above. The new constitution came in for fresh review and examination by the Constitutional Reforms Committee and in the Proclamation issued in 1923, the Conference was given a permanent place in the constitution of the State. The three Boards were placed on a permanent footing and arrangements were made for their working, in their reconstituted form, in close relationship with the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council. (*Vide* Part IV. Chapter I).

The new Boards were formed in May 1924. The main feature of their constitution is that they are formed for the most part of elected representatives of the various interests with whose advancement they are concerned. The first joint meeting of the new Board was held on 15th June 1924 and the first annual Conference, in its reconstituted form, took place, after a lull of a couple of years of enforced inactivity, owing to the prevailing financial stringency, on 18th June 1924.

During the fifteen years the Conference has existed, it may be remarked that it has actively helped to awaken a desire for improvement in regard to economic well-being. Nearly 400 subjects, great and small, have been discussed by it and on nearly 150 of these, Government have passed

orders. It has been authoritatively acknowledged that the Conference has rendered valuable service in the fields of Education, Agriculture and Industries and Commerce. The sum total of its work has been declared (by Dewan Sir A. R. Banerji) in the two words "awakening and enterprise."

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