

CHAPTER VIII.

COINAGE, LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

THE universal coinage now used in all parts of the district is the same as in other parts of the Presidency, the rupee, the anna, and the pie. Formerly there were many different kinds of coin. In

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25, 1806.

1806 Colonel Monro wrote: "The currency consists of 32 different kinds of Pagodas and 15

Rupees. They are chiefly local, having been issued by Nawabs, Rajas and Poligars. Their value is constantly fluctuating, sometimes 12 per cent. is lost on taking them to a neighbouring taluq. In Raidrúg the Venkatapati Pagoda is commonest while in Gurramconda the ryots will not look at it. This of course obstructs commercial dealings and imposes a heavy tax on the country. The shroffs gain at the lowest possible computation 40,000 Pagodas a year." Later he wrote: "The jamabandi is settled

From Collector, Apr.
18th, 1807.

in Kantarayi Pagodas, because that coin has been adopted by the Mysore Government for many years, and because there was no one coin of

general circulation in the districts when they were transferred to the Company. The inhabitants pay their rents in about forty different coins at an exchange which is fixed with reference to the Kantarayi Pagoda. The profit and loss on the exchange are both charged to the Government, but the loss is small, and the profit about 8,000 Pagodas annually." Captain Newbold, in a paper published in the Transactions of the *Madras Literary Society* writes: "The numerous political changes and revolutions that have convulsed this part of India could not fail to produce a great variety of coins. Among the most ancient of those formerly current are the golden Pagodas and half-pagodas of the Bijjanuggur Sovereigns and of their vassals known as the Achyuta Raya, the Krishna Rayer, the old and new Harpanhalli and the Venkatapati Pagodas. Next succeeded those of the Mahomedan kings of the Dekhan, the Mogul empire and their viceroys called the Mahommed Shahi, the Alungir, the Farsi-padi and the Jummelmudgoo Pagodas. Some of these were coined at Adoni, Jummelmudgoo and Cuddapah. The gold coins of the Mahratta conqueror were the Gooty Mahomed Shahi, the Subbarayi and the Tádpatri Pagodas. A number of new gold coins were

introduced by the Asoph Jah or Hyderabad Chiefs, among which were the Karkmodi Pagodas, coined at Karkmodi (?), Masulipatam, &c. Lastly the conquests of Hyder and Tippu overwhelmed the country with the Mysorean currency from the mints of Seringapatam and Mysore. Their Pagodas are generally known by the terms of Bahaduri and Sultani; those of Hyder bearing the Arabic initial of his name, and those of Tippu his name and title. 'Ashrafi' or gold mohurs were rare, those of Delhi being the only specimens current. The gold Fanams rank next to the Pagoda, but those of the Bijjanuggur dynasty are rare. The Naida Fanam coined by Tinma Naidu of Gundicotta is worth 5 annas, 10 pice, that of the Poligars of Ghuttim, 3 annas, 6 pice. This is also the value of the Cuddapah gold fanam introduced by the Cuddapah Nawab and by Hyder and Tippu. I have not met with any silver or copper coins of the Bijjanuggur Sovereigns. Those formerly in use consisted almost entirely of rupees and fanams, introduced from the Nizam's dominions, Mysore and Arcot. The Adoni Rupee was coined by Bassalut Jung at Adoni and is now valued at annas 15, pice 2. The Imami Nohara, a double rupee coined by Tippu at Seringapatam, is valued at Rupees 2-1, the Pulachari of Hyder at Rupee 1. The whole of the varieties known as Chelavani from the Nizam's dominions fetch Annas 12, pice 10."

Land Measures.—In Southern India it appears to have been the custom in ancient times to name an area of land after the quantity of grain that it was thought would suffice to sow it, or the quantity it was thought it would produce. Thus for instance a "candy" of land was as much as would produce a candy of grain, and this by estimate not by actual measurement. Even if a measured area was considered a candy in one village, it would not be so in the next. What the ancient measure of the Bellary district was is not known; it has quite gone out of use. In 1804 Colonel Monro had the cultivable lands surveyed or rather measured field by field. The chain used was 33 feet or half that of Gunter's.

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ chain square} &= 1 \text{ gunta (1,089 square feet).} \\ 40 \text{ guntas} &= 1 \text{ acre (43,560 square feet).} \end{aligned}$$

In the accounts the gunta is divided into Annas (or sixteenths and even into sixty-fourths).

Grain Measures.—The ancient grain measure of this part of the country (and it is also known in the southern Mahratta country and

in Mysore) is a vessel which will when *heaped* contain 112 Rupees weight of nine sorts of mixed grains. [1, Rice ; 2, Horse gram ; 3, Bengal gram ; 4, Green gram ; 5, Black gram ; 6, Dhál ; 7, Red bean ; 8, Gingelly seed ; 9, Wheat.]

It is called the "Navadhanyam" seer from navanine and dhanyan grain. The rule is to mix together 14 Rupees' weight of each of the grains named above ; and then weigh out Rupees 112 weight. The vessel which will when heaped hold this quantity is a "Thimmapu" or seer.

The "Thimmapu" has however of late years been superseded by the Pucka seer which is a measure containing when heaped 84 tolas weight of mixed grain. The dimensions of the seer vary. The long seer is $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter or about 70 cubic inches. The short seer is 6 inches deep and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter or 6 cubic inches. As, however, the diameter of the short seer is greater they both when heaped hold about 86 tolas of rice or 84 of mixed grain. It has been shown by experiment that 100 cubic inches of rice weigh 113 tolas, and the same number of cubic inches of mixed grain about 116 tolas.

The seer is divided into halves, quarters and eighths, called respectively Adha seer, Pao seer and Nao-tak. The ordinary table of country grain measures is

84 tolas mixed grain	= 1 seer.
4 seers	= 1 munta.
16 muntas	= 1 túm.
20 túms	= 1 putti.

Liquid Measures.—The smaller grain measures are used for mill especially the seer which will contain about 108 tolas' weight. In Adoni and Gooty about 105.

Oil is sold by seer of 21 Rupees *weight*, and the maund of 1,00 Rupees weight.

The ryots sell ghee to the merchants by measure, by the sava seer of 38 tolas' weight. In the bazaars it is sold by weight like oil. Arrack is sold by the dram of $7\frac{1}{4}$ tolas' weight, and often by the English pint or quart.

Measures of Weight.—The old maund was 40 seers, and the Panch seer or Purseree = 5 seers. In 1812 the Collector, Mr. Bruce, established a cutcha seer of only 21 tolas' weight.

21 tolas	= 1 seer.
12 seers	= 1 dhadiyam.
48 seers	= 1 maund (25·92 lbs).
20 maunds	= 1 candy (518·4 lbs).

These are the weights now generally in use. The term Panch seer is still retained, but being one-eighth of a maund it is now six instead of five seers

CHAPTER IX.

ANCIENT BUILDINGS AND TEMPLES.

Hampi—Tādpatri—Lepakshi—Penna Hoblam—Jamma Masjid at Adoni—Fairs and festivals—Inscriptions at Hampi, Kurgódu, Kenchengódu, Tunbul and Gooty—Osseous mounds supposed to be funeral piles.

THE finest specimens of native architecture are to be seen at Hampi, the site of the ancient city of Vijayanagar. These ruins are on the south bank of the Túngabdra river about 36 miles from Bellary, and cover a space of nearly nine square miles. At Kamlapūr, two miles from Hampi, an old temple has been converted into a bungalow, and this is probably the best place to stop at when visiting the ruins. Many of the buildings are now so destroyed that it is difficult to say what they were originally meant for, but the massive style of architecture and the huge stones that have been employed in their construction at once attract attention.

Note.—Dr. Kelly in his supplement to the Cambist (1827) gives the following table of Bellary measure.

112 Ra.' weight mixed grain	= 1 Timmapoo.
84 Rupees' weight	= 1 Gedna or seer.
4 Gednas	= 1 Solaga.
4 Solagas	= 1 Maaneh.
4 Maanehs	= 1 Bullah.
4 Bullahs	= 1 Collagah.
5 Collagahs	= 1 Panchagah.
4 Panchagahs	= 1 Coontagah (candy).

He found the Thimmapoo of 112 Rupees to weigh 2 lbs. 14 oz. avoirdupois, which gives 179·7 grains to the Rupee. The old Arcot Rupee coined till 1818 A. D., weighed 176·4. The present Rupee = 180 grains. Dr. Kelly made a mistake in considering the gedna and the seer the same. The gedna varies from 105 to 26 tolas.