

ROLE OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATOR IN THE PRINCELY STATE OF MYSORE



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ABSTRACT

From 1831 onwards Mysore was under the rule of the commissioners for about fifty years. The period was of great importance, in the development of the state into a model province. The native ways gave way to the British methods. The English brought changes in almost all the levels of administration. All the unnecessary and unwieldy positions in the government were removed. Corrupt officers were mercilessly dismissed. The secretariat of the Dewan was abolished and under the commissioner a central administrative office came into existence.

KEYWORDS : *British Administrator , Princely State , junior commissioner controlled .*

INTRODUCTION :

In the beginning a senior and a junior commissioner controlled the administration of the state. But this gave rise to conflicting views between them. So from 1832 onwards a single commissioner was appointed. Col. Mark Cubbon was the first among them

ADMINISTRATION OF SIR MARK CUBBON (1834-64)

IN 1834, COL. Mark Cubbon was appointed commissioner during his period, administration of state was carried on lines, which won admiration everywhere. He shifted the capital from Mysore to Bangalore and made Tipu's palace the first secretariat.

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Cubbon divided the state into four administrative divisions viz., Patna Ashtagrama , Chitradurga, Bidanur (all old divisions) and Bangalore (new division). Each division was placed under the control of one European Superintendent.

There were 120 talukas in the state, each looked after by one 'amildar'. Below the 'amildar' was an official called 'hobli' or 'shekder' who looked after one hobli i.e. a group of villages. commissioner ,s secretariat.

The commissioner's secretariat had nine departments namely.

(i)revenue, (ii)police , (iii)post, (iv)swar, (v)maramat, (vi)medical, (vii)justice, (viii)education and (ix) amritmahal. Every department had a departmental head. The head of the revenue department, for example, was known as shirestedar, who performed the duties of the former divan in course of time, separate departments for public works, education, audit and accounts and forest were established.

JUDICIAL REORGANIZATION

Mark Cobbon reorganized judicial system in the state. He established 85 taluk court courts, some of which had jurisdiction over more than one taluk. There were eight principal sardar munsiff courts and four superintending courts, one huzur adalat court with three judges and one commissioner's court the last two being appeal courts. A judicial commissioner's court was set up to unload the burden of the Commissioners. The powers of all the courts were defined.

HIS OTHER INNOVATIONS

Cubbon was responsible for many innovations. He connected Bangalore with all headquarter towns by road because the state capital had been shifted there. New roads measuring 1,597 miles with as many as 309 bridges were constructed. Telegraph lines of the length of 365 miles were also laid. Railways were laid for the first time in the state when Bangalore was connected with Jolarpet by railway line in 1859. He was also responsible for establishing coffee plantation in the state and by the close of his administration; there existed almost 1, 60,000 acres of plantation.

The total revenue of the state increase from Rs 68 lakhs in 1834-35 to Rs. 84 lakhs in 1855-56 in spite of the fact that 769 minor vexations taxes were abolished. When Cubbon assumed office in 1834, the public debt was rs.85lakh but it was completely repaid by 1857. When he resigned in 1861, Cubbon left Rs. 40 lakhs in the name of the state in British Government securities

Cubbon was, no doubt, a remarkable administrator, who streamlined administration of Mysore on modern lines. He was responsible for laying down a sound and solid foundation for the material progress and prosperity of the people in the state, his sense of justice, sympathy, humanity and tact won him the honored place in the hearts of the people. He resigned in 1861 and was succeeded by Lewing Banthgem Bowring in the office.

ADMINISTRATION OF LEWIN BENTHAM BOWRING (1861-70)

Administrative Units

Lewin Bentham Bowring had great administrative ability and experience in Indian affairs. He overhauled the administrative machinery. The Mysore state was divided into three divisions: Ashtagrama, Nandidurga and Nagar. Each division was under a European superintendent until 1869 when a Commissioner replaced him. Each division was divided into districts. Each district was looked after by a Deputy Commissioner. Each district was divided into talukas, graded into five groups. The taluka were looked after by amildars and shekdars, who worked under Deputy Commissioners.

Separation of powers

Lewin Bowring took steps to separate the judicial powers from the executive. This policy of separation of powers, initiated by him, was later continued by his successors. He was also responsible for the introduction of the 'Indian Penal Code' and code of criminal procedure act was passed and registration was made compulsory for all property transactions.

Department of police

Lewin Bowring abolished the Kandahar police system and organized a new department of police on the Madras model; it was placed under European Superintendent. The Department consisted of the Inspector-General of police with deputy Inspectors General and District Superintendents. The police were made independent of the District Magistrate.

Encouragement to education

Bowring gave encouragement to education on a large scale. Special efforts were made to set up school in villages. In 1868, a Central Education Agency was set up to promote education in Mysore. The Central College buildings and the Bangalore Museum building were built during his time .

His other achievement

Bowring reorganized the revenue survey and settlement department and introduced regularity in the measurement of land and assessment and collect of land revenue. A large medical staff was put in charge of jails and hospital in the chief towns; Special efforts were made to expand engineering department and horticultural gardens. Judicial organization was also overhauled. The system of fees was abolished and, in its place, the stamp rules and stamp papers were introduced.

After ten years' meritorious service Bowring resigned in 1870

CONCLUSION

Lewis Bentham Bowring was followed by three commissioners, one after the other, namely, (1) sir Richard Meade (1870-75), G.B. Saunders (1875-77) and J.D. Gordon (1877- 81) However, among the commissioners, who administered Mysore , Cubbon and Bowring were the most outstanding administrators who have left behind indelible marks by their good and industrious work. During this period, the administration of Mysore came to be modernized, law and the order were better enforced, revenue system was improved and the process of modernization was started.

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