CHAPTER-VI

RESIDENCY AS A GUARDIAN OF IMPERIAL INTEREST

Imperial India was an indivisible entity and not simply as the sum of two dichotomous political units. The princely states were an integral part of the grand imperial design and their theoretical ‘autonomy’ was largely conditioned upon vice regal policy and edict. The comprehensive series of treaties and sannads compiled by C.V. Aitchison amply demonstrate their political and economic vassalage to the Raj. Moreover their very geographical distribution was such that “It has been well said that the Indian states are so interwoven with British India and with one another, that their destinies are inseparably bound”. Thus although we would not perhaps go quite as far as Marx when he observed in 1853 that “as to the native states they virtually ceased to exist from the moment they became subsidiary to or protected by the East India Company.”

The British rule introduced the political framework of the nineteenth century liberal nation state with its virtues and its limitations. Public order was established on a scale never before achieved in India. Taxation and commercial regulations were largely eliminated. A high degree of stability, standardization and efficiency was achieved in administration. The security needs of the imperial government led to the development of a fairly substantial system of road and rail transport.
The inherent position of the princes as subordinates of the British Government remained unchanged. Despite their elaborate pretensions, no wind of change could modify the omnipotence of the British Resident or the Agent to the Governor General, whose merest whisper echoed like thunder in the prince’s palaces. There were certainly Residents who were kind, cordial and generally well disposed towards the princes and their people.⁴

During this initial period of expansion in the Residency system the company functioned much as a regional state, powerful but treated on the basis of equality by many of the other regional powers. The Residents functioned more as diplomatic representatives than as agents exercising indirect rule. The system of indirect rule established in India consisted only in the abstract of relations between the East India Company and the numerous regional states of India, in practice the relationship was between individual British officials and individual local rulers together with their staffs. As the company expanded its role in India and the extent of its relations with the other regional rulers is also changed its expectations for its Resident. The large number of states with Residencies, and the Residents deeper intervention in them, required a progressively higher degree of control on the part of the company’s control and administration. Overtime the company developed its system of indirect rule.⁵

During Marques of Ripon’s rule who succeeded Lord Lytton as Viceroy came out with direct orders to reverse the foreign policy of his
immediate predecessor as well as certain internal regulations like vernacular publication act. Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon is memorable in the history of the relationship of the states with the Government of India for the return of the great state of Mysore with its 30,000 square miles and population of 5,860,000 to the direct administration and control of its ruler and measures carried through by the joint agreement of Lord Ripon and Lord Harrington, the Secretary of state for India at the time. In 1868 the death took place of the Maharaja whose maladministration had in 1831 resulted in Mysore being placed under British Management. He left no son but only a boy whom he had adopted despite the firm refusal of the Government to sanction any such adoption. Had he died in Dalhousie’s time there can be little doubt that Mysore would have “lapsed” in 1863, however Lord Lawrence and Stafford Northolt, then Secretary of state for India decided on the preservation of the principality. The unauthorized adoption was accordingly recognized though no sanad of adoption had been given in 1861, and the Government of India agreed to restore the state to the boy if on reaching manhood, he were found competent for his duties as a ruler. In 1881 the promise of the Government was carried out and Mysore was given back to the control of its prince.

The Maharaja was not deposed in 1831. Instead the company governed for him through a few British officers, collectively known as the Mysore Commission, with head Quarters in Bangalore. Sir Mark Cubbon, chief Commissioner from 1834 to 1864, acted as Regent for the
Maharajah, who remained with in his palace establishment in the old capital of Mysore city and took no part in the administration. Cubbon made only minor changes in the traditional patterns of administration which had evolved prior to 1831. He governed with the assistance of a small group of European officers, who wielded wide powers in the patriarchal or non regulation type of government similar to that made famous later by Henry and John Lawrence in the Punjab. Under the Commissioners’ rule Mysore experienced peace, order and prosperity, indeed it became something of the model province (Gustafson-P-8-9). The restoration of ruling powers to the Maharaja of Mysore was an important event. The fact of rendition appealed strongly to all the princes. “Now that annexation is at an end”, commented Scindia, “we breathe freely even when our failings are proved and our short comings discussed”. But it was also an opportunity for the Government of India not merely to retain effective control over Mysore, but to make a precedent of the kind of relationship which they would like to see established between the paramount power and all the Indian state.

It opens with an exploratory introduction showing that it was made with the idea of continuing the improved system of administration introduced into Mysore after 1831. So far as future successions are concerned it states that the lineal descendants by blood or adoption of the Maharaja should succeed except in the case of disqualification through manifest unfitness to rule. But no succession was to be valid until recognized by the Governor General in council, who in the failure of lineal
heirs was left the discretion of selecting “as a successor, any member of any collateral branch of the family, whom he thinks fit. The Maharaja and his successors are bound at all times to remain faithful in allegiance and subordination to her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India her heirs and successors, and perform all the duties which in virtue of such allegiance and subordination to pay an annual tribute thirty five lakhs of rupees.\textsuperscript{11}

Without the sanction of the Government of India, the ruler of Mysore is not to “build any new fortresses or strong holds of repairs, the defenses of any existing fortresses, except with the permission of the Government, the importation of arms, ammunition or military stores is prohibited, and their local manufacture is to be discontinued whenever Government may require it. No objection must be raised by Mysore to the maintenance or establishment of British cantonments whenever and wherever the Governor General in council may consider them necessary. Land for them is to be given free and all jurisdictions over such land renounced. Every facility is to be given for the provision of supplies to troops in cantonments and no duties or taxes are to be levied on goods imported or purchased for the troops without the consent of the Government of India.\textsuperscript{12}

The strength of the state troops, their terms of enlistment, organization, equipment and drill are to be in accordance with the orders of the Government of India. Mysore is allowed no dealings with any other
state or power except with the previous sanction and through the medium of the Governor General in council. Any person not a native of India may not be employed by the Mysore state without the previous sanction of the Government of India, which is empowered to demand the dismissal from state service of any person so employed, the currency of British India is to be legal tender in Mysore and British Indian currency laws adopted by the state. The old right of state minting is not to be revived. All land required for the construction and working of telegraph lines in the state is to be given free of charge. Similarly lands for railway construction are to be given without charge. On demand by the British Resident, the state is made responsible for arresting and surrendering any persons accused of offences in British India. Plenary criminal jurisdiction over European British subjects in Mysore is to remain with the Government of India. The state must comply with the wishes of the Government of India in the prohibition or limitation of the manufacture of salt and opium.

The laws and rules in force at the time of the transfer of Mysore are to remain unchanged and not repealed nor modified without the previous consent of the Government of India. It was the responsibility of the Residents to safeguard all the matter of the agreement any change in the administration of the Mysore was to be reported by the Resident to the Government of Madras and Government of India. Lord Hastings laid down reins of administration and left India in 1823. With his departure also departed an age and the period that followed the gradual growth of the
authority of the British Residents in matters of internal affairs of states. This period may be best be regarded as one of expediency. Although the claim of paramountcy precluded the company’s authorities from annexing the territories under their protection they still regarded them as foreign territories for the purpose of complete or partial absorption whenever British interest seemed to require such measures. Lord Bentinck was an avowed champion of this policy. He placed the whole of Mysore under British administration in 1831 on the ground of its rulers misrule although the subsidiary treaty of 1799 which had placed this particular ruler on the throne of Mysore did not presuppose such contingency. On the same ground of misrule the Governor General annexed some other states, Cachar in 1832, Coorg in 1834 and Jaintia in 1835. Bentinck was succeeded by Amherst in July 1828 and the Company’s authorities in London once more wanted to revert to their old policy of neutrality towards the states, but not long after they changed their mind and ever. Before Bentinck had left India they decided to exercise the reversionary rights formerly claimed by the Mughals and the Peshwas. Accordingly in a letter of 1834 they directed the Governor-General in council that whenever it was optional with him to give or to withhold consent to, he indulgence should be the exception and not the rule, and should never be granted but as a special mark of approbation.

In contrast with other states Mysore state leads to a general proposition every state in existence. When the British first came into
relation with it still possessed all sovereign rights and powers which it then had except in so far as it had then or subsequently ceded any of them to the crown. Theoretically no doubt the case is possible of a state which at the time of first contact with the British only possessed particular powers the whole state, having originated like Mysore at some earlier date in a grant from some greater state which had conferred only limited power and reserved to itself and the residue of sovereignty. But the burden of proof would be upon the crown to establish such facts and to show further that it had itself acquired the succession to the rights of the earlier grantor state.  

In the case of Bengal the British Resident at Murshidabad played the most vital role in the consolidation of the English power in Bengal. It was due to their activities that the Nawab of Bengal had to accept defeat, disgrace and final surrender before the English power. On the appointment of a Resident at the Nawab’s Durbar the English company took the first firm step towards assuming power. As the Resident was on the spot, he was able to form an idea about the rumpus created by the disaffected nobles and formed a party of his own, from among the Nawab’s disloyal officials. Thus Murshidabad became a hot bed of intrigues engineered by the Resident and the atmosphere of the capital became doubly tense owing to the diplomatic duel between French and the English to gain control of Bengal politics.

Bengal witnessed famine from 1769, famines were no uncommon calamity. At that time the Residents thought it was the duty to narrate
before the Company’s authorities in Culcutta. The Residents listed the names of the districts that suffered the most, and recommended to Harwood, the supervisor of those districts to make a strict enquiry into the present state of drought. They began to receive daily reports from supervisors of different districts, about the calamity overtaking the inhabitants of Bengal.¹⁹

Mysore royals could not have established any matrimonial alliance without the network of British officers who resided in the various princely states of India. British Residents or Political Agents were colonial officers posted to Indian states who were supposed to control Indian princes and chiefs by giving them advice and to inform British Government in detail about the internal affairs of the state. Michael H–Fisher has demonstrated that the system of Resident and Political Agent was the very core of making the ideology of indirect rule function, and has explained the development and political significance of the Residency system in British India, and of its later adaptation in other British territories in Africa and South East Asia. According to Fisher the Mysore royal household sought a new matrimonial alliance with the North corresponds to the period after the British had finished elaborating the system of indirect rule.²⁰ By then the role of Resident and Political Agent had been transformed from diplomatic representative of the Company in the early 19th century into a paternalistic guide of Indian princes after the British suppressed the 1857 Mutiny and the British crown was made sovereign over all Indian princes in place of
the Mughal Emperor in 1858. The number of states to which a company Resident or political agent was posted was less than ten until 1800, reached a peak of forty five in 1840 and more or less stabilized after 1858. Ian Copland gives us a detailed description of life as a Resident in the princely state. There life was somewhat boring and they seemed to spend most of their time establishing friendly relations with the Indian princes and royals. The political work in the states consisted mostly of an incessant round of shikar expeditions (ceremonial hunting) and petty ceremonials. The typical political officer Philip Mason tells of a life in the steamy idleness of a small state, had little else to do but wait for the Raja to commit enough indiscretions to justify his removal.²¹

The life of a British Resident and Political Agent might seem idle but it was not always free from trouble. They were sometimes refused permission to visit certain princely states by the Indian Rajas themselves and by the early 20th century the natives became clever enough to keep the Political Agent clueless about anything which might reflect negatively on the paramount power. They were expected to acquire certain political influence over Rajas and their durbars but on the other hand the British government had a fear that if the officers were exposed too long to one state or one region an unhealthy spirit of partisanship might develop between Indian Rajas and British officers. As a consequence they were frequently transferred to other states and this tendency became even more accelerated as time went. At the time when Mysore first sought a
matrimonial alliance with north Indian Royals, the British Residents and political agents seemed to be fairly co-operative and at least seemed not to mind using their own network to find suitable spouses for Mysore though there was no apparent official order that they should do so.22 The co-operative efforts on the side of Residents and political agents stated as a purely voluntary contribution but they kept the office of Viceroy informed. From the beginning of the negotiations the Residents and Political Agents were aware that Mysore kings not recognized as high ranking Kshatriyas and that there was strong opposition amongst the royal Urs, but they were very optimistic about the successful contract of an alliance.23

The British officers seemed to believe that they handled the situation well and that their involvement would help to establish a more friendly relationship with Indian princes, but later began to realize that the situation was more complicated and difficult than they had In the case of appointment of officials in the Mysore administration imperial interest is protected, the Resident used to intervene in all the appointments in the administration. The imperial interest and their method of work has been exhibited, new rules adopted and discarded the old ones. Neither superiority of merit nor seniority of service counted in Mysore. They count the least in favour of a Mysorean. The subtlety of state craft, the determined stand for the elevation of the alien, which the responsible man at the helm has often displayed, demonstrates the length to which partisan spirit can go.24
His Highness the Maharaja passed a resolution of ingenuity, expended upon artfully elevating Junior “aliens” over Mysoreans in service grown grey with experience and knowledge been employed towards advancing the people and bettering their lot for which they are paid. The story of the Government of Mysore would have been differently told. Mr. V.P. Madhava Rao, and Ananda Rao did not seem to stand high for their sympathetic or just treatment of Mysorean claims. The press law would prevent these things from being commented upon in the manner they ought to be. The revelations sprung upon none as a greater surprise than upon His Highness the Maharajah who had been very badly served indeed. More revelations were promised and they would appeal to His Highness, because they based upon in controvertible facts. It was often expressed that the only man who could save Mysore was its sovereign. The estimate of His Highness by his Excellency Sir Aurther Lawly, himself an experienced ruler, highly appreciative as it was never exaggerated.

What would such a sovereign do, surrounded as he finds himself by advisers who are out of sympathy with the most intelligent of his people?. There was a scheme that was in progress to ensure and perpetuate alien dominance in the official hierarchy. They started a “Civil service reorganization scheme” “alien supremacy scheme”. Appointments were more in the favour of British. They had even shifted the light from the lens of scrutiny and held the picture pleasing to the eye holding back the basis of their working in darkness.
There was a hope that H.H. the Maharajah would grab the situation, made it plain and described in a clear and cogent manner, that there was an obvious unfairness in the treatment of native talent in Mysore. What talent exists in Mysore and how cruelly they are being suppressed, slighted? It was proved that any state will be proud of one who can display such fine perception, such excellent language and such exceptional ability. The pity was that none of it was more painful then the wide publicity denied to the darker side of administration of Mysore. Mysore was gagged by a press regulation. There were important points in the administrative insight and love for their subject of its sovereign. They cried “Mysore for Mysoreans”. It was a cry against what appears to be a well concerted plan to keep the Mysorean for ever in the background. It was a painful tale of the Mysorean being ousted in his land from every walk of life down to that of the cook, the barber, the labourer. Mysoreans witnessed an invasion of outsiders even into the meanest walks of life in Mysore. In criminal administration Residents instructed the state of Mysore to follow the guidelines issued by British government at Madras. The entire administration based up on the penal code, the code of criminal procedure and the other laws passed by the Government of India which were all extended to the Mysore province. It was impossible not to feel some surprise at the complacency and even admiration with which the working of this theoretical code was usually regarded without considering its effect on the interests of people at large. Theoretical minds carried away by the logical perfection of the code forget
the evil effects of its artificial definition which are not altogether based on
the popular train of ideas. One can be sure that any momentary indiscreet
act of one might not bring one under the grasp of penal code and in so
bringing consign one to a punishment which may be a social death under
the prevailing ideas of religion and custom.28

The punishments awarded for the same offences in different districts
by the considerate English Judges of a Presidency court and some fast
going Judges in a corner of the mofussil professing abhorrence to the
venality of the native charters unlimited latitude for punishment it was vain
to expect that it would be properly exercised.

The province of Mysore enjoyed peculiar advantage for the successful carrying out of such an experiment, for when in a few years it
was restored to native rule, it will have been nearly half a century under
British management. It has a rare fortune of enjoying during this long
period the continued rule of three specially selected officers from 1834 to
1860. The reins of government were held by Sir Mark Cubbon, well
known for his great ability, sound judgment and magnanimity of heart. He
was succeeded powers and extensive experience in Indian affairs, who for
nearly ten years ruled over the province, and whose unceasing interest in
its welfare has earned for him the regard and confidence of the native
community.29 It was also well known that with the exception of some
misunderstandings in the earlier years brought about chiefly by difference
of opinion between the English Commissioner at the head of the
Government and the English Resident at the court of the Maharaja. The progress of the administration met with no difficulties or impediments on the part of the late Maharajah who with singular devotion and attachment to the British Government all along looked upon its representatives in the province as the best guardians of his own interests.\textsuperscript{30}

After His Highness’ demise his Ranees following traditions of the family with implicit faith in the good intentions of the Government consigned all their affairs into the hands of Government and readily acquiesced in all its measures and suggestions. The government had a clear field for the successful carrying out of this experiment upon which the future of native state may be well said to hang. With that the question is what has been accomplished in this long period of British administration.\textsuperscript{31}

When the province was assumed under the management of the British Government, instructions were issued having regard to the temporary nature of its rule that the agency employed should be carefully maintained. These instructions were on the whole faithfully observed during the long period of Sir Mark Cubbon’s commissionership\textsuperscript{32} for though in consequence of the deterioration which the native service had undergone. European officers had to be appointed to the charge of four divisions in which the province was then divided with a European assistant to each of the rest of the agency employed was entirely native and the administration was conducted upon practical rules intended to meet actual wants and which were in accordance with the ideas of the people. Peace
and order were at once restored to the province as the consequence of a regular government.\textsuperscript{33} The incidence of the land tax was lowered wherever it was oppressive and to the great relief of the ryot, numerous cesses were abolished which had originated in the prevailing idea of later native governments. The sovereign had a right to turn to his account every incident in the life of the subject in return for the protection afforded to him.

Later the abolition of the transit duties in the track of similar measures carried out in the British territories created an active trade which brought high prices and prosperity to the government. Roads were at the same time made to meet the wants of increasing trade with energy and economy.\textsuperscript{34}

The administration of justice, civil and criminal, was conducted upon a system and code of rules which though somewhat crude were intended to meet actual wants and were intelligible to the people, and the judicial officers were aided by a system of punchayats which though they could not have risen above the corruption of the officers by whom they were convened in cases in which influential interests were at stake, contributed to some extent to popularize the rules of judicial administration.\textsuperscript{35} The state of matters naturally attracted the attention of a successor accustomed to a more orderly condition of things in British territories, and he at once, set about to effect reforms by the usual expedient of organizing departments for which the way seemed to be made
clear by the desire then beginning to be openly avowed by Government to absorb the province, the number of divisions into which the province was divided was raised from four to eight which proportionately increased the number of European officers required for their superintendence. This career of departmental organizations once thus commenced has continued to the present day without intermission. Every fresh want as it was felt at once gave rise to a new department and many more were added at the instance of the central government in the unrestricted career of expansion, was the ruling principle according to the East India Company. In connection with the civil administration the system of registering documents provided for by the Registration Act of the supreme legislature, had been extended to the Mysore province. This Act for securing what was, technically called pre pointed evidence was a necessary measure for the ends of justice and the security of property.

The British were constantly surprised and disappointed by unexpected sudden changes and the stubbornness of local princes and their courts. It seems that the British Residents and political Agents enthusiasm for matrimonial alliances beyond traditional borders went round and round and got nowhere. Indian princes on the other hand although they were relying on the networks of British officers and the Viceroy’s approval of their marriages, did not nevertheless submissively followed the British Resident’s advice. Rather they used the British Residents network whenever it was necessary and took only what suited their requirements.
The imperial aristocracy emerged during colonial times and expanded over the huge area incorporated under the British crown, is not the nostalgic heritage of the good old days. In 1831 Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar-III accepted the decision of the court of Directors in England to suspend him from power. The arrangement was considered as temporary and once good government was established in the state. The British would subsequently withdraw from the administration. The Maharaja waited patiently for eight years and then began to question the validity of the continuation of the British Commission. While keeping the relationship with the British as harmonious as possible he requested the supreme government to initiate restoration of the country to him but did not succeed.

Especially during Governor General Lord Dalhousie’s term who prod aimed that many native Indian royal houses ceased to exist and their territories were annexed into British dominions.

In the case of criminal procedure and other laws were passed by the Government of India, which have all been extended to the Mysore province. The popular experience described the code as a cruel piece of legislation which in its anxiety that no description of offence might possibly be left out has framed, such wide and comprehensive definitions as to mingle serious crimes and mere civil injuries under the same category. The administration deal with statistics of such complicated offences numbering in Mysore, the result of criminal administration in
British territories became aggravated in a provincial administration like Mysore.

The police organized after the mofussil policy of the Madras presidency under European supervision costing a lakh and half of rupees per annum was introduced into the town and district of Bangalore and European supervisors to the rest of the province was urged in successive reports as the only remedy for the defective state of things. The reforming of the police administration came forward to be placed upon an improved village police, and an energetic head the Judicial administration deservedly earned the credit of having encouraged the district officers to a sense of duty. In these important matters it was unfortunately lighted upon the strange idea of effecting the reform by means of multifarious reports and returns and instructions borrowed from a code intended for an organized police.

Arrangements also existed at the central jail in Bangalore for giving the convicted criminal a reformatory course of prison discipline. The average annual cost of each prisoner increased the cost of Jail management as the extension of this expensive system to all districts of the province.

As for as the general administration and management of Revenue was concerned that the sudden increase of prices and the prosperity to the ryot brought an increase of revenue to the government, directly by the
increased value of the governmental share of the produce under the then prevailing bottayee or division of the crop system, and indirectly by the stimulus which it gave to increased cultivation and to improvement of other resources. Bowring who in his ‘Eastern Experiences’ considers that the operations of the survey afforded the only effectual protection of the cultivators against the rapacity of the Rajah’s officials. Here he was of the opinion that the establishment should continue to complete the work, but as the continuance of such an extensive European agency under native rule cannot but be open to objection. The exclusive European agency employed in Mysore to conduct survey and settlement was a superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Survey with 15 European officers under them and the subordinate native agency. The settlement commissioner in his report for 1870-71 observes a good deal was done in the way of consolidation and acquiring experience whereas in the case of the Mysore Revenue survey a large proportion of personnel was comparatively young and of small experience a period of comparative check in growth was both valuable and necessary.\(^43\)

Another important object was of land tenures and securing the revenue interest of government was the Inam commission for investigation and settlement of Inam tenures. The work of this commission both in its principles and procedure can only be described as a servile imitation of the Madras system, with its faults and excellences. The great principle of the Madras Inam settlement consisted in what was called the enfranchisement
of the Inam tenures i.e., converting these tenures which were held more or less subject to restrictive conditions or on invalid title, into absolute saleable property in return for an annual payment to government as Quitrent of a portion of the accessible value of the lands.\textsuperscript{44}

This brought some addition to the government revenue, but what was more important, it converted this large mass of landed property which was lying valueless under restrictors formerly be coming productive property of the highest kind. On the contrary though the varied circumstances of an extensive Presidency necessitated the organization of a separate establishment for dealing with Inam tenure of Madras, doubts were even entertained in regard to the comparative advantages of the investigation and registry of Inams by such a separate agency without local knowledge, and with all the risks of error attendant on the preparation of English registers of Inam by them and of their examination and revision in a central office.\textsuperscript{45}

The work to be done was more of simple registration than an investigation and it is particularly so in Mysore, where the enquiry into the heirs of the present incumbents of the Inams for the purpose of regulating thereby the terms of enfranchisement has been abandoned for uniform rates variable only with the validity of the tenures. The Mysore Inam Commission unlike that of Madras it vested with civil jurisdiction in claims relating to Inams occasioning considerable inconvenience and needless complications. The treatment of excess in the Inam holdings, the
main difficulty of the question was in any case to be postponed for the operations of the survey. Coffee was only item of wealth added to the resources of the country under British management, entirely by private enterprises, and cultivation of which both in the province and a much larger extent in the adjoining British territories affords an outlet for native labour. In Mysore an excise duty of four annas per maundlevies lieu of a land tax the amount so contributed to the revenue of 75,000 rupees on 3800 tons in 1871-72. This system however encouraged a new enterprises at the hands of British. The Residents of Mysore favoured the colonial planters to acquire more land, and produce coffee, at the same time export to Europe. All these activities were under the clutches of British imperialism, in short the whole Act was one that would perhaps be admirably suited to a country where every affairs was in the hands of the legal adviser. The newspapers are to be found in every village to remind people of what they should or not do. But to shoot down such an Act into a province like Mysore or indeed into any part of India, was an infliction which itself more than counterbalanced all the petty evils and oppressions of native states.

The criminal administration under the British rule in Mysore state was based upon the penal code with the code of criminal procedure and the other laws passed by the Government of India, which have all been extended to the Mysore province. It was undeniable that the code was not understood without great effort even by the educated officer of
government. The popular experience could only describe the code as a cruel piece of legislation. The Residents also supervised the system and implementation of the code of law. No one can be sure that any momentary indiscreet act of his might not bring him under the grasp of the penal code and in so bringing him consign him to a punishment which to him may be social death, under the prevailing ideas of religion and custom.\textsuperscript{48} Compared the punishment awarded for the same offences in different districts by the considerate English judges of Presidency court and some fast going judges in a corner of the Mofussil professing abhorrence to the venality of the native character shows that an opening for capricious and barbarous punishment that the code affords. Where there was such unlimited latitude for punishment it was vain to expect that it would be properly exercised.

The administration on the other hand deals with the statistics of such a complicated catalogue of offences numbering in Mysore, 20,000 annually was apt to lose sight of the extent and effect of the heinous and more dangerous crimes whilst the subordinate officers charged with the peace of the country met with a constant temptation to neglect, the more arduous duty of detecting these crimes for the more profitable dabbling in the minor quasi criminal offences.\textsuperscript{49} As a results of which criminal administration in British territories became aggravated in the provincial administration of Mysore.
In police administration, European supervision costing a lakh and half of rupees per annum was introduced in the towns and districts of Bangalore. Arrangement of the central jail in Bangalore for the convicted criminals a reformatory course of prison discipline according to the prevailing principles the administrative departments related to the management of the revenue was most important because British Residents advised by the imperial government to have strict vigilance on the financial resources of the Mysore state.\(^{50}\)

The land tax, and the excise duty were considered the major sources of income to the imperial government besides agricultural products like coffee, pepper, cardamom etc., Abkari was an additional and major income to the state. The Residents were very serious about the expenditure of the Mysore state. They never allowed the Rajas of Mysore to take serious steps to develop the state and to spend major amounts of financial resources in Mysore state. This was because the imperial authorities instructed to observe the attitudes of the Maharajas of Mysore. This stringent attitude continued till the period of Rendition. After the Rendition there was a change in the administrative attitude of the British Residents and the imperial governments.\(^{51}\) The Mysore authorities unlike the government of British India were prepared to allow considerable level of autonomy within their state. They preferred to focus their efforts upon affairs within the state level sphere of politics which in spatial terms embraced the urban areas of the state but did not extend much beyond the mofussil towns within the
sphere. They sought to retain much more complete control over affairs than did British Indian governments. Hence they were quite reluctant to share power with legislative and local self government institutions. The British provincial governments had done so because they saw such institutions as a means of extending their influence further in to local arenas and of raising new revenues to meet the increasing demands for funds which the government of India placed upon the provinces as a result of mounting costs of maintaining the imperial systems. But the princely state stood at one remove from that system, protected by fixed treaty arrangement from increases in payments to the paramount power.52

Thus Mysore authorities were not compelled by the need for new sources of revenue to abandon their reluctance to extend their influence deeper into local arenas. The political system of Mysore included the bureaucratic machinery which was at once the model administration of the princely order and the instrument by which the rulers sought to control affairs within state sphere or arena of politics. It also included the policies of the authorities in raising and allotting government revenues which reflected both their eagerness at image building and their reluctance to encroach upon local arenas.53

And it included the legislative and local self government institutions which the government had developed to maintain its progressive image.
The cultivation of the progressive image earned the admiration of the government of India and won the Mysore government a free hand in its own affairs. On no occasion after 1920 did a British Resident issue to the princely government the official advice which by the terms of the treaty had to be followed. Nor is there evidence that the Residency imposed its will through informal channels. But the progressive image was useful to the princely government in more than its dealings with the paramount power. It made the Maharajas and Dewans of Mysore heroes in the eyes of Nationalists throughout India. In order to determine the way in which structure related to powers at the local level, we must turn to the amildar in the taluk headquarters. This was the lowest level administered by the regular gazette cadre of the Mysore Civil Service the position in which a raw recruit began his career.\textsuperscript{54}

This was none the less an extremely demanding assignment for an inexperienced officer. The Amildar had responsibility not only over the revenue administration of the taluk but over Judicial and police work as well as early as 1903. This heavy load had been described by the British Residents as a service restriction upon the ability of the Amildar to extend his influence towards the local level. This state of affairs troubled the British Residents as a service restriction upon the ability of the Amildar to extend his influence towards the local level. This state of affairs troubled the British Residents much more deeply than it did the Mysore authorities. The description of the Jamabandi which was conveyed to the British
Residency was designed to conform to British notion of sound administration.\textsuperscript{55}

The imperial control was however not a one way traffic. To understand the mechanism of imperial conquest and imperial rule and the Residency control in the case of indirect rule, the concept of collaborating or mediating elites is indispensable. The imperialism in India must be seen as a product of interaction between European and Indian politics. In the eyes of the collaborators the British were represented as an alternative source of wealth and power and therefore collaborating was a promising strategy for indigenous rulers until they began to realize that their scope of action began to dwindle and as a result from this their authority Lwaned. This was typically the situation in which direct British rule was superimposed o them.\textsuperscript{56}
Notes and References

1. James Manor, Princely Mysore before the Storm of India’s Model State Before the Storm of India’s Model State 1920-36, P.34.
2. The Indian Economic and Social Consequences of Indirect Rule India: A Re Appraisal. P.8.
8. Ibid, P.79.


The British Crown and the Indian States compiled by Chamber of Princes, Gian Publishing House, Delhi 110 007, P.82.

S.C. Mukhopadhyay, British Resident at the Darbar of Bengal Nawab at Murshidabad 1757-72, Gian Publishing House, Delhi-110 007, P.55.


V.B. Kulkarni British Dominion in India and after Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Chowpathy, Bombay-7, P.157.

Dr. Subhas Chandra Mukhopadhyay British Residents at the Darbar of Bengal Nawabs at Murshidabad 1757-1772 Gian Publishing House, Delhi, P.62.


Confidential letter from M. Cunningham then the Political Agent of Raja Putana to W.M. Young, Resident of Mysore dated 3rd April 1896.

Mysore Residency Records File 6 of 1895, Serial 263 Box 29, KSA.


Ibid, P.48-49.


Ibid, P.558.


Mysore Patriotism Series No.11, Re-print from Indian Patriot a Native of Mysore”, Madras, 1911, P.57.

Ibid, P.59.


41 Indian Patriot Dedicated to the Public Welfare of Mysore by a Native of Mysore, Madras 1911. P.30.

42 Ibid, P.43.


44 Ibid, P.29.


46 Ibid, P.496.


48 Asiatic Review Law and Order of the Mysore State/Indian Patriot a Native of Mysore, P.18.


52 Ibid, Pp.3-5.


55 Notes by Sir Donald Robertson Resident of Mysore 1903, P.10 in Crown Representative Records Section 22, Title 37, K.S.A.

56 Princely Mysore before the storm. The State Level Political System of India’s Model State 1920-1936, James Manor, P.42.