Chapter-V

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF NEWSPAPERS

Newspaper in their modern form originated in Europe in the 17th Century. The first daily newspaper was the London Daily started in 1702. The first ever newspaper in the United States of America was the Boston News Letter in 1704. The Journal De France appeared in parts from the year 1777. The political influence of newspapers was quickly perceived by Governments. The rapid expansion of newspapers during the 19th Century was influenced by improvements in printing technology, the establishment of international news agencies, and the increase in literacy.¹ To quote Sir David Lindsay Keir,² “The rising popular interest in parliamentary and political affairs in well illustrated in the history of the press------. Between 1753 and 1774 their issue rose from seven and a half to twelve and a quarter millions annually. Government control by means of general warrants had gone by the latter period. The question whether the intention or nature of publications was libeltons was still reserved to the judges in prosecutions for libel. Juries were still confined to the question whether authorship and publication had been proved against the persons accused of them. In these circumstances, government could hope by the aid of the judges to repress criticism, while refractory juries might thwart authority by returning such verdict as “guilty of publishing only,” and in some cases refusing even to do that. Comment on political matters was increasing, mainly in the form of public correspondence, of which the “letters of Junius” are the most famous example------”. The right of parliamentary reporting had been secured at least de facto. By 1777, seven daily newspapers appeared in London. No attempt was made thereafter by the House of Commons to interfere with freedom of reporting debates.³
In the United Kingdom, by the close of the nineteenth Century, democratic forces were in full control, Universal literacy had been achieved and a great degree of economic well-being attained, so that the newspaper become a household necessity. On the other hand, in India, subject to the rule of an alien power, the progress of the press was viewed with alarm. The rulers were helped in their selfish concerns by high illiteracy rate and abject poverty of the people.\(^4\)

**The Press in India**

The beginning of the Indian Press comprised of weak efforts by a few Anglo-Indians. The first newspaper in India was the ‘Bengal Gazette’, also known as the Calcutta General Advertiser, which appeared on 29 January 1780. It was edited by James Augustus Hicky. The Calcutta Gazette and the Calcutta Chronicle too were small ventures with their circulation confined to the servants of the East India Company. In 1799, there were seven weeklies in Calcutta, two in Madras and two in Bombay. The first Indian attempts were two weeklies, one in English and another in Bengali, both inspired by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

By 1823, there were three weeklies in Bengali, three in Persian and one in Gujarati published by Indian. From such small beginnings the press in India developed slowly and steadily and came to exercise an important influence on Indian affairs.

By 1839, Calcutta had 39 European newspapers, including 6 dailies and 9 Indian newspapers; Bombay had 10 European and 4 Indian Journals, and Ludhiana, Delhi, Agra and Serampore each had one newspaper.\(^5\) The progress of Indian Journalism maintained during the forties and fifties, the most important addition being the *Hindoo Patriot* (1853) of Calcutta, edited by Harishchandra Mukherji, one of the greatest Indian editors of the 19th Century. *Ras Goftar*, a Gujarati fortnightly, was published in Bombay in 1851 under the editorship of
Dadabhai Naoraji. A Gujarati tri-weekly, *Akhbar-o-Soudagar* by Dadabhai Kavagji was founded in 1852. Among the English papers current in 1851 may be noted, *The Friend of India*, *Hurkaru*, *Englishman*, *Bombay Times*, *Madras United Services Gazette*, *Citizen*, *Agra Messenger*, *Moffussilite*, *Lahore Chronicle* etc., of the Indian newspapers after the mutiny (1857-58). The Hindu of Madras (1878), the *Amrut Bazar Patrika*, and *The Leader* from Allahabad deserve to be mentioned. On September 28, 1861, the Bombay Times changed its name to The Times of India. Its editor Rober Knight in 1875 bought the journal *The Friend of India* founded in 1818 at Serampore. In the same year he founded *The Statesman* at Calcutta and eventually merged both the papers under the title *The Statesman and The Friend of India*.

Among other Anglo-Indian papers founded about the same time, mention may be made of the *Madras Mail* (1868), the *Pioneer* of Allahabad (1865); and *The Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore (1876). The paper known since 1832 as John Bull changed its name to *Englishman* of Calcutta.

At the beginning of 1861, there were 11 Urdu and 6 Hindi papers, of which 5 were published at Agra, 2 at Ajmere, and 2 at Etawah. On February 20, 1868, was published *the Amrut Bazar Patrika* as a Bengali weekly from a village in Jessore under the editorship of Sisirkumar Ghose. The most powerful English paper in Bengal next to the *Amrut Bazar Patrika* was the Bengalee. From January 1, 1879, Surendranath Banerji took over its editorship. By 1876, there were about 62 papers controlled by Indians in Bombay Presidency-Marathi, Gujarati, Hindusthani and Persian; about sixty in the North-west Provinces, Oudh and Central Provinces; some twenty-eight in Bengal; about Nineteen in Madras, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindusthani. We may now turn our attention to the growth of Press in the Mysore State.

*Origin and Growth of Newspapers* 139
The Press in Mysore State

The history of the Press in the Mysore State is shrouded in obscurity. Early endeavours of Journalists, in Mysore, though somewhat fortuitous, present a fascinating picture. By the beginning of the nineteenth Century there were in the neighbouring province of Madras several newspapers in circulation such as The Indian Mail, The Daily Times, The Daily News and the Athenacum etc. Naturally these newspapers were also in circulation in Bangalore and Mysore, particularly among the officers of the army and Anglo-Indians. After the resumption of the province of Mysore by the British, the circulation of these newspapers increased.

Naturally, the first printing press founded in Bangalore was in Kannada language. In 1840, the Wesleyan Mission started this press for the purposes of spreading the Christian religion among the natives. This was followed by the press opened by the Roman Catholic missionaries of the Karnataka Mission in 1852. With this the spread of western system of education and the English language the need for the establishment of an English Press was keenly felt. In 1858, a Government Press, in English types, was opened in the Bangalore city under supervision of an eminent educationist Rev. J. Garret of the Wesleyan Mission. But the chief purpose of this Government press and other lithographic presses was to produce cheap textbook and tracts for school children and others. A privately owned English press was opened in 1859.

Ad Dr. Fazlul Hassan observes, the circulation of Madras newspapers in Bangalore, at this time, touched chords in the imagination of some enterprising people and stimulated in them a lively activity. But, starting a newspaper meant a good deal of money because before starting a newspaper one had to set up a printing press of English types in those days. In 1859 this hurdle was overcome and Bangalore, for the first time, produced its first newspaper. This press,
named *Columbian* started by an Anglo-Indian gentleman appears to be the oldest in the Civil and Military Station. The Bangalore Herald (1868) and the Bangalore Spectator (1869) were both published from the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore. The Bangalore Herald was an English bi-weekly, edited by one Mr. James. Immediately its columns become a means to the public to express their numerous wants. Shortly thereafter, in the same year, appeared an Anglo-Kannada weekly named the *Vrittanta Bodhini*, edited by one Mr. Bhasyachari and in the years that followed appeared English papers like *Bangalore Examiner*, *Bangalore Spectator*, *The Daily Post* etc.,. *Vrittanta Bodhini*, a bi-lingual (Anglo-Kannada), weekly, was started in June 1859 and had a short life of five years. It was printed in the Krishna Vilas Press. This was followed by the Harvest Field in 1862, *Kasim-ul-Akhbar* in 1863, and *Karnataka Prakashika* in 1865. *The Harvest Field* was an English monthly, the *Karnataka Prakashika* was an Anglo-Kannada weekly, and the *Kasim-ul-Akhbar* was an Urdu weekly. *The Karnataka Prakashika*, briefly stopped publication in 1868, but was revived in 1894 and continued till 1898. The year 1866 saw the birth of the Mysore Gazette, an Anglo-Kannada weekly published from the Government Press, Bangalore.

Between 1872 and 1876 many papers and periodicals were started from the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore: the *Talismekartan* (1873), a Urdu weekly; the *Mysore Budget* (1874) an English weekly; the *Munshuri Mohamadi* (1874) and the *Mysore Akhbar* (1874), both Urdu weeklies; the *Sujana Ranjani* (1876), a Tamil weekly; and, the *Bangalore Examiner* an English weekly, and so on.⁷

Among the papers that appeared since 1881, the following may be mentioned.⁸ An English weekly, the Mysore Standard in 1885; the *Vrittanta Patrike* a Kannada weekly in 1887; the *Vrittanta Chintamani* and the Mysore Herald, both English weeklies in 1889; the Mysore Star, an Anglo-Kannada weekly, in 1890; the *Suryodaya Prakashika*
and the *Mysore Deshabhimani*, the former an Anglo-Kannada weekly and the later a Kannada weekly, in 1892.

Many of the newspapers and periodicals published from the Bangalore city and the Civil and Military Station or Cantonment of Bangalore were short-lived. Though at the time of Rendition of Mysore to the native rule (1881), there were two presses in the Mysore city, no newspapers were published from there.

The stages in the growth of the press in the Mysore State may be noted as under:  

### 1862

1. **Harvest Field**, (Edited by Benjamin Rice) English weekly Wesleyan Press
2. **Arunodaya**, (Edited by Benjamin Rice) English Kannada Wesleyan Press Monthly
3. **Bangalore Herald** (Edited by R.H. James) English bi-weekly Columbian Press
4. **Mysore Recorder** (Edited by H.L. Hughes) English weekly Mysore Recorder Press
5. **Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini** (Edited by B. Bhasyachari) English-Kannada Krishna Vilas Weekly Press

### 1874-75

2. **Mysoren Vrittanta Bodhini** English-Kannada Weekly, Ibion Press
3. **Bangalore Examiner**, English weekly, Examiner Press
4. **Bangalore Spectator**, English weekly, Spectator Press
6. **Mansur Mahammadi**, Urdu Quaterly, Bahwal Islam Press,
7. **Mysore Akhbar**, Urdu weekly, Firdusi Press

### 1881-82

1. **Karnataka Prakashika**
2. **Mysore Gazette**

**Source:** Report on the Administration of Mysore for the year 1901-1902.

Information pertaining to the papers published from the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore was not included in the Administration Reports of Mysore State from the year of Rendition. However, papers like *Vrittanta Bodhini, Karimul Akhbar, Bangalore Examiner, Bangalore Spectator, Kamimul-Akhbar, Advertiser*, etc., were being published from that station.

### 1886-87 To 1890-91

1. **Karnataka Prakashika**, Kannada weekly
2. **Mysore Gazette**, English weekly
3. **Dharma Tatwa**, (Edited by Rama Chetti) Kannada weekly
4. **ShastraSanjeevini**, (Edited by Dakshinamurthy Shastri) Kannada weekly
5. **Police Circular**, Quarterly

The following is list of presses and publications there at in the Mysore State for the year 1901-02. The publications issued from the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore are not included here:

IV C. Scientific and Literary.

2. The Press-Annual Returns for 1901-1902
## Origin and Growth of Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name of Press</th>
<th>Name of Proprietor</th>
<th>Publication A-Newspaper</th>
<th>There at B-Periodicals</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Government Press Banglore</td>
<td>G. Hume Wright Esq (Compiler)</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>The Mysore Gazette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central College Press...</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Town Press...</td>
<td>Mr. Y. Govinda Rao and Mr. Hariram</td>
<td>e-Friends Union</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mysore Book Depot Press...</td>
<td>Mr. V.B. Veerappa</td>
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<td>Police Gazette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vicharadaparna Press</td>
<td>Mr. K. Rangappa</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>Vedantavadavali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chamundeswari Press</td>
<td>Mr. M. Subbaiah, B.A.</td>
<td>-----</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gauri Nilaya Press</td>
<td>Sri B.N. Narasinga Rao</td>
<td>Suryodaya and Karnataka Kesari</td>
<td>-----</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hayagriva Press</td>
<td>Sri B.C. Srinivasa Iyengar ......</td>
<td>The Municipal and local News</td>
<td>-----</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Srirajaraeswari Press</td>
<td>Mr. Kumarasami Sastri</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Champion Press</td>
<td>Sri. Mr. D.A. Thivari</td>
<td>Lokasara sangraha</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sri Vani Nilaya Press</td>
<td>Mr. Gurusiddappa</td>
<td>Jayadhwaja</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Town Press</td>
<td>Mr. Hariram Misser</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Razvi Press</td>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Raza Ali....</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vageswari Press</td>
<td>Mess. Narasamma Bai</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangalore Book Depot Press....</td>
<td>Mr. Krishnaiah</td>
<td>-----</td>
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</table>
## Origin and Growth of Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mysore</th>
<th>Government Branch Press</th>
<th>वामिविलास प्रेस</th>
<th>मिसौर अकेला और (Vrittanta) चिंतामणि</th>
<th>वेस्लेयन मिशन प्रेस...</th>
<th>रेव. ई.ई. थोमसन, म.ए.</th>
<th>(Vrittanta) प्रतिपक्ष</th>
<th>स्टार प्रेस</th>
<th>मिसौर अकेला और (Nadeegannadi)</th>
<th>कर्नाटक काव्यकलानिद्धि</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Harvest Field</td>
<td>2. (Mahilasakhi)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. (Vidyadayini)</td>
<td>2. (Karnataka)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Mysore Press, Melkote... | Mr. M. Subbaiya... | Mysore Herald and \(Vrittanta\) Chintamani | Mr. M. GopalIyengar | Mr. Chakravarti Iyengar | Mr. M.G. Shama Iyengar | Mr. K. Narasimhaiya | Mr. Vittala Rao | Mr. Chakravarti Iyengar | Mr. M.G. Shama Iyengar |
During the year 1908-1909, the exclusive of the three official publications—Mysore Gazette, Police gazette and Revenue and Agricultural Gazette—there were being published 15 newspapers and 24 periodicals. During the year some newspapers and periodicals ceased publication and there remained 6 newspapers and 24 periodicals in the month of January 1909. It should, however, be noted that while the history of the press in Mysore goes back to the year 1859, no more than a dozen papers had existing as contemporaries at any given point of time. Besides, several papers had breaks in the history. These remarks apply equally well to the period (1900-1909) covered by this study. Accurate details concerning these are not available.

The Objects of the Press in Mysore

What were the objects or purposes of a newspaper in the view of Mysore’s Journalists of those days? The Mysore Gazette, which began to be published from the year 1866, described that its object was to convey to the inhabitants of the province generally through the medium of their own vernacular, a knowledge of all those administrative orders, changes and reforms which, at present, it is feared, is confined to a small section of the community represented mainly by the official classes. It is of great importance that the people of Mysore should be reliably informed of all Government measures so as to enable them to take an intelligent interest in the same.

This was the official view and object on the same subject the Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini has this to say: A newspaper is like an eye to the people. Through it people in different countries may learn the news about far off countries as if they are happening before their very eyes. By getting acquainted with those news one may learn many things about the people of those countries such as their characters, their education intelligence and skills, their professional expertise, etc., various developments concerning political and statecraft, the nature or characteristics of the earth, details of its numerous productions, and many other interesting facts. In olden days such a thing as the
newspaper was not available to the people simultaneously. Now however, intelligent persons have produced suitable equipments and facilities to make this possible. All these works are easily managed these days. What the people pay for it is not much. It is not a special to obtain a thing useful in several ways by a little effort.

........It is very necessary for all the people of a country to know the laws and regulations introduced by the rulers from time to time so that they may conduct themselves accordingly. Secondly, it is necessary for some people to know about the changes in appointment and posting that are effected in the government from time to time. For those who travel from place to place knowledge of the weather conditions, etc., of different places is helpful. Traders Unacquainted with the prevailing prices of goods at different places, and derive no benefit. Thus the news published in the papers are of use to the people individually as well as collectively.

The Englishmen in particular, when describing the uses of newspapers, mention many things and finally conclude by saying that they inform the unimagined, help the informed remember forgotten things, and are therefore necessary for one and all.

Briefly put, the main functions of the press then, as now, were to communicate Government policies to the public, keep Government informed of public needs and public opinion to various government policies and convey to both information concerning events and happenings both at home and foreign countries. Advertisements, editorials, market intelligence, sports news and business news, court news, legal notices also were published in the newspapers of those days also. Letters to the editors from the readers, rumours on different issues and events also claimed the attention of journalists in those days.15
Influence of the Press in Mysore

Beginning in a small way the press in India developed gradually and came to exercise an important influence in Indian affairs. As V.A. Smith points out, this (Anglo-Indian) Press constituted a forum of discussion of Indian policy where the merits or faults of a Napier or a Dalhousie were canvassed with unsparing frankness. In time it broadened its outlook...... As the English-knowing Indian public grew these papers become important factor informing Indian opinion. They were the unofficial apostles of western influence and all the more effective for being unofficial. Further they stimulated the development of a genuine Indian press, at first in the local languages and then in English as well.

After this brief survey of the early phase of the evolution of Indian Press, we may turn our attention to the evolution of the press in the Mysore State. Naturally, it exhibited the same elements and trends which characterized the Indian Press, the influence of which was deep and lasting, on the development of the press in the Princely State of Mysore. The further development of the press in British India and elsewhere need not be discussed here.

The production and distribution of newspapers and periodicals on a large scale had to wait for spread of literacy, the development of railways and postal services and the fabrication of high-speed printing machinery during the 19th Century. Earlier, facilities for communication had not developed to the extent required for collection of news from different and distant places; posts and telegraphs remained the chief sources for gathering news; news from foreign countries travelled much more slowly. Horse drawn carriages were costly and difficult to obtain; railway came much later, during the post Rendition period, that too between Bangalore and Mysore cities only. Today’s newspaper could be carried from Bangalore to Mysore only by tomorrow and vice-versa;
other places were still more difficult to reach. It took two days for papers printed in Madras to be delivered at Bangalore. Slow increase in the number of the educated class was another factor that impeded the growth of journalism. There were no big public libraries in Mysore State. School and college libraries were hamstrung from want of funds to subscribe for newspapers and periodicals in a liberal way. Only institutions like Book Societies, Literary Unions, School Libraries, Government Departments, Municipalities, European officials and wealthy natives could buy newspapers.

Regarding the benefit of the newspaper to the people the *Vrittanta Bodhini* observed as below in its issue dated 17, November 1860:\(^{17}\) If we inquire of those that are ignorant of the benefit of newspapers, they would reply that it is indulged in by those persons who cannot possibly spend their time usefully, and by those who have no employment in the government or any other useful occupation; a few others think that it is an attempt to extort money from foolish persons; and a few more allege that it is a clever plan by the Englishmen to spoil our caste and customs. In this manner, like mad men people say anything that occurs to them. Yet others say that in the newspapers what is published is nothing but what has probably happened somewhere and nothing else. Besides, in one thing or the other to err is human. As such, if some person commits a mistake, he is pulled up and accusation is made in newspaper. Such conduct is unbecoming of great men. Therefore, newspapers are themselves bad, or something occurs somewhere which we not seen. What is the use of it? What merit does it bring? Let that be what it is. It costs money by way of subscription. So we shall have nothing to do with it........

To be candid, the newspapers in Mysore State hardly exercised any influence on the public in general. This was largely due to two factors; 1) the readership or circulation was limited to Bangalore, Kolar Gold Fields and to Mysore, the three important towns of the State in

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those days. It may be seen that the total number of newspapers barring those from outside the State—the State like Madras and the Civil and Military Station—circulated in the State in the year 1886 had not crossed 1400. The year 1903 saw a total of 7740 copies of newspapers of all kinds published in the State (excluding Civil and Military Station of Bangalore) being circulated. In the year 1910, the total recorded circulation of newspapers of all kinds (excluding those from the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore and from outside the State) was just above 13,000.

2) The readership was not large even at places to which newspapers could be delivered easily. This was because the percentage of literacy was abysmally low. “This poor literacy”, as Dr. R. Ramakrishnan points out, when seen in comparison with the Circulation figures for newspapers, leads to the hypothesis that while papers might have reflected or even moulded the opinion of particular social groups, their influence on the mass as such was very poor if not entirely absent. Such comparison has a very important limitation in that quite a large number of illiterate and semi literate people heard newspapers being read to them.

In the Beginning the relations between the Government of Mysore and the Press seems to have been quite cordial. The editors of the Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini were on good terms with the British officers. They were not critical of the Government. Though Government did not assist the growth of newspapers, other than those run by missionaries, the Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini and the Karnataka Prakashika were viewed with favour by the Chief Commissioner Mark Cubbon. He had fully exempted payment of postal charges for sending Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini to subscribers in any part of Mysore during 1859, and six months during 1860. For the next six months only half the usual postal charges were collected.
Circulation Data for Mysore Newspapers (1886-1910)

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<th>Sl. No</th>
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<th>1886 No of copies</th>
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<th>1910 No of copies</th>
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<td>Vrittanta Bodhini (K)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mysore Star (K)</td>
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<td>950</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Kasim-UI-Akhbar (U)</td>
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<td>575</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Suryodaya (K)</td>
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<td>Kolar Gold Fields News (E)</td>
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<td>Harvest Field (E)</td>
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<td>1800</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Vrittanta Patrike (K)</td>
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<td>4950</td>
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<td>Sadhwi (K)</td>
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<td>Evening Mail (E)</td>
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<td>Nadegannadi (K)</td>
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<td>1900</td>
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<td>Mysore Standard (E)</td>
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<td>UI-Mysore (U)</td>
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</table>

Index to the Table K-Kannada, E-English, A.E.-Anglo-Kannada, U-Urdu

Adopted from Appendix-III of Circulation of Newspapers of Princely Mysore (Vide Press and Politics in An Indian State-Mysore (1859-1947) PP 165-166

The Government appears to have subscribed to a fixed number of copies of certain newspapers from the days of the British Commissioner. We have a reference\(^{19}\) to the payment of a bill for Rs. 62-8-0 (Rs. Sixty-two and annas eight) only being the subscription for the journal Karnataka Vaggujjivini supplied to schools for the quarter ending 31, August 1881 and the quarter ending 31, May 1881.

In spite of the short span of life of Bangalore's many early newspapers, says M. Fazlul Hassan,\(^{20}\) there is enough evidence to drive home the truth that by the time of Rendition (1881) both the people
and the Government had began to realize the power of the Press. Newspaper industry had now spread to the other parts of the State, more particularly in Mysore City, the place of residence of Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. Here, under the able guidance of M. Venkatakrishnaiah who in later years was popularly known as the ‘Grand Old Man of Mysore’, many Kannada newspapers and periodicals began publication.

During Dewan K. Sheshadri Iyer’s time several newspapers and periodicals were subscribed to by the Government of Mysore. There are several references\textsuperscript{21} to the payment of subscriptions to such papers as \textit{Hindoo Patriot, and The Empress}, both from Calcutta, \textit{Madras Mail, Indian Jurist, Madras Times, Madras News} and \textit{Madras Standard} all from Madras. No doubt, several local newspapers too were subscribed to by the Government of Mysore. Among these were certainly included \textit{Mysore Vrittanta Bodhini, Kasimul-Akhbar, Daily Post (Evening), Karnataka Kesari, Bangalore Spectator} etc. Some newspapers were also supplied with Mysore Gazettes gratis from the Government Press, Bangalore.\textsuperscript{22} Sometimes, the editors of certain newspapers were required to print a large number of copies of important articles in regard to the plague, etc., for free distribution to the people. We have an order\textsuperscript{23} sanctioning Rs. 500 for meeting expenses for such a purpose in 1898.

Even from the days of the Commission the medium of Government advertisements were mainly the newspapers. At first rarely but repeatedly thereafter advertisements given from Government departments are seen in the newspapers of the day. We have an interesting reference\textsuperscript{24} in 1880 of the payment of an advertising charge of Rs. 43-14-0 to the \textit{Bangalore Spectator} by the Deputy Commissioner’s office, Kolar District. It is pointed out\textsuperscript{25} that This is not the first time that Government has been put to expense by reason of a public servant overlooking the clear instructions of the above quoted

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orders. The Chief Commissioner therefore wishes it to be understood that the next time this happens the public servant who is at fault will be left to pay the bills.

For the publication of the advertisements issued from time to time by the various departments of the Mysore Government, a sum of Rs. 2000 per annum was given to the Daily Post from the year 1885. For the same purpose a sum of Rs. 1700 only used to be paid from 1883. Similarly, an arrangement for publication of advertisements free of charge in return for subscription to one hundred copies of the Kasim-Ul-Akhbar at Rs. 600 had been concluded since 1889. A similar grant of Rs. 2000 per annum was allowed from 1 June 1886 to the Bangalore Spectator.

In later years subscription to newspapers and periodicals and also advertisements increased in number and volume as may be seen from the press clipping of the period.

**Government and the Press in Mysore - An Uneasy Relationship**

Following the Nagar disturbances in 1830, the Governor General Lord William Bentinck felt it to be indispensable to interfere for the preservation of the Mysore State and to save the various interests at stake from further ruin. He therefore communicates his intention of resuming the administration of Mysore to the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III on 19th October 1831. It was at that time declared that the British Commission in all matters pertaining to administration only the prevailing forms were to be preserved and also native agency was to be adhered to as far as practicable.

However, very early, Mark Cubbon, the Chief Commissioner, observed that a purely native agency that was moderately trustworthy could not be got together in such a hot bed of intrigue and corruption as Mysore had long become. As Dr. R. Ramakrishnan points out,
Since the Report on the Nagar Disturbance had observed that the Brahmins had corrupted Krishnaraja Wodeyar finally leading maladministration and requesstration of the State, the British Commissioner had a basic distrust of the Mysore Brahmin and began to look outside Mysore for functionaries to run the administration. Further, the Commissioners needed collaborative elite to check and balance the local influences. Naturally the Commissioners began importing men from the Madras Presidency.

During the days of the Chief Commissioner L.B. Bowring, which is chiefly noted for a large number of departmental reforms, a large influx of European officials into Mysore service took place. From about this time started a scramble for power and Government jobs. By the time of Rendition it came to be known as the Mysorean-Madrasi controversy. It was actually a struggle for patronage between the Madrasi Smartha Brahmins and the Srivaishnava Brahmins of Mysore. As M. Fazlul Hassan says,\textsuperscript{33} This agitation was a cry against the policy of recruitment of outsiders, initiated by Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, the Dewan. But the ‘Mysore for Mysoreans’ agitation, in which the local press played no mean part, so perturbed the powerful Dewan that before long the strong arms of the Mysore Government came down heavily upon the agitators and the Press…….

The newspapers published from Madras and circulated in the three towns of Mysore Province-Bangalore, Mysore and K.G.F, were supporters of the Madrasis. The officials recruited from the Madras Presidency by the Mysore Government thought that Mysoreans generally lacked ‘high character’. The Mysoreans retorted by declaring that the ‘high character’ of the Madrasis was nothing but cleverness. They also held that the rulers of the State ‘should keep clear of such sycophants as the Madrasis lest they would plunge the State in to the Charybdis of degeneration. The Mysoreans were upset that the Madrasis who had migrated to Mysore had no locus standi to obtain

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positions of power and profit in the Government.\textsuperscript{34} At the time for the Rendition of Mysore approached, the Contest for power, patronage and lucrative official positions in the administration continued with added vigour. The Chief Commissioner J.D. Gordon's enforced retirements of some Mysore officials drew loud protests. The Karnataka Prakasika charmed him with responsibility for starting the open party stripe between the Mysoreans and the Madrasis. The elevation of C.V. Rangacharlu to the post of the Revenue Commissioner and that of the K. Sheshadri Iyer, his protege, to the post of the Palace Comptroller, vacated by the former, were considered by the Karnataka Prakasika to be the most glaring instances of favoritism by the Chief Commissioner.\textsuperscript{35}

When one year only had remained for the proposed Rendition of Mysore to materialize, the focus shifted to the qualifications and fitness of Chamaraja Wodeyar to rule Mysore. The Madras papers in general like the Madras Mail, the Madras Standard, the Athaneum were critical of the Rendition itself. Papers like the Bangalore Examiner and the Bangalore Spectator too joined in the chorus. But the Karnataka Prakasika opined that Prince Chamaraja Wodeyar X was "neither a thorough European, nor a thorough native; he is a half and half kind of young gentleman with a story and, under the circumstances natural preference for the society of the Europeans.\textsuperscript{36} Briefly put, the Prince had been denationalized and therefore unfit to be the ruler of Mysore. Another worrying fact was that Chamaraja Wodeyar was surrounded by a closely-knit group of Madrasis which bode ill for the future well-being of the state of Mysore.\textsuperscript{37}

After the Rendition of Mysore took effect in March 1881, C.V. Rangacharlu was elevated to the position of Dewan. The Karnataka Prakasika in anticipation of this development took umbrage and made veiled references to the nepotism that the new Dewan would practice in Mysore. The first year's administration of Mysore after the Rendition
was described by the *Prakashika* as barren of interest. It even criticized the Dewan as a ‘great falser’. C. Rangacharlu died on 20, January 1882 and in February, 1883, K. Sheshadri Iyer became the Dewan of Mysore.

During his 18 years long administration of Mysore State, K. Sheshadri Iyer faced a hostile local Press on account of his being an outsider and his autocratic ways. Not only the *Prakashika*, even papers like the *Vrittanta Bodhini*, the *Vrittanta Chintamani*; the *Suryodaya* and the *Deshabhimani* were vehemently critics of Sheshadri Iyer. The Karnataka Prakashika, continually opposed the Dewan for, what it described as his nepotism and even jobbery in the matter of giving appointments in the State on Madrasis.

On one occasion the *Karnataka Prakashika* boldly criticized the Dewan’s policy of appointments to Government service: People may fret and fume no matter. I shall bring my Appan and samy and tack them on to the gradation list. They are left in the cold in the dreary gardens; this highest pinnacle of my glory cannot be everlasting and something must be done to them soon. The charm that I posses is of no ordinary kind and can I not command even waves to retire?......

Another serious charge against the Dewan was that he endeavored to concentrate all power in his own hands and make the Maharaja a mere figurehead. He was also criticized for the turning the Mysore Representative Assembly a mere farce. It was also observed that the Maharaja’s Council was performing no useful functions as it was dominated by Madrasis and possessed no mandatory powers.

So early as 1879, Sheshadri Iyer had sued the editor of the *Karnataka Prakashika* for defamation and collected Rs. 1000 as damages. The determined apposition of the *Karnataka Prakashika* in 1888 and of the *Vrittanta Chintamani* in 1895 to the reappointment of Sheshadri Iyer as the Dewan was too much for even a person of his
strength and stature. On 27, September 1888, in a long letter to the Maharaja he boldly asserted: In conclusion I have in some degree contributed to the credit which has been heaped on your Highness’s rule from the Viceroy down to the poorest peasant, and by the public Press in every part of India.

Referring to the Press, it is not a little surprising that the highest one in India should speak well of me judging me by my acts while the low vulgar local prints should abuse me and base in every case their abuse upon lies concocted for the purpose….. Before the Rendition when your Highness’s best interests were at stake from a grasping clique of officials and weak Europeans officers, I confess I sometimes wrote to newspapers and produced some good results. But since your Highness selected me for the Dewan-ship I never one so much as inspired a single sentiment for any newspapers and even when personally attacked I appealed to your Highness as I did not wish to violate this rule I had set unto myself. Apart from the vile local prints, the public press of India has the highest respect for your Highness’s rule……

There is one other personal matter on which I ask your Highness’s permission to say a few words-the sum total of my offending in the eyes of some local men is that I am filling with my relatives and Madrasees. There can be no greater falsehood than this- of all your Highness’s officers I am the one that has invariably resisted the temptation of employing my relatives….. This cannot I am sure be said of any other of your Highness’s officers, Mysorean or non-Mysorean……

Perhaps the most unpopular measure introduced by K. Sheshadri Iyer was the Mysore Civil Service Examination in 1891, to secure and train properly qualified recruits, and improve the status of the higher grades of the service. Referring to the introduction of the Civil Service Examination the Dewan, in his address to the

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Representative Assembly in 1891, said that considerable difficulties were being experienced in filling suitably the higher appointments of the Executive and Judicial service from among the lower ranks. He had resolved, therefore, to adopt a system under which proper recruits, with a high and liberal education and with talents far above the average, could be admitted as probationers. The scheme envisaged a competitive examination of the standard adopted in Madras for the selection of statutory civilians. The candidates who passed best at such examinations were to be admitted as probationary Assistant Commissioners. An equal number was to be admitted by nominations made by the Maharaja from among distinguished officers of the subordinate service. It will thus be seen, said the Dewan, that our chief aim is to introduce in to our service some new blood and talent which it at present so badly wants......and at the sometime to safeguard in every possible way the interests of the really competent in the present service, whether they are already Assistant Commissioners or are now only in subordinate appointments.

P. N. Krishnamurthy, a Second Member of the Regency Council, who was identified with the Mysorean faction by then, was infavour of restricting the competitive examination to the candidates from the Mysore State. He observed, These examinations were not at all popular and were not acquiesced in by the people of Mysore. In all the three meetings of the Representative Assembly of Mysore, which followed the first examination, this subject was brought up for discussion , although year after year, the Representative members did not meet with any encouragement or success. But the opinion was urged which great vehemence that the examination should be confined to Mysoreans and that at least a knowledge of Kanarese was to be insisted upon in the candidate. This second alternative was suggested as it was deemed sufficient to secure the nomination greatly to the subjects of the Mysore State.....
....These are several who have left over college that can compete with the best intelligence available from outside.....It seems very hard that our students and educated young men should go a begging from Province to Province in quest of employment and that an enlightened Government working for the good of its subjects should practically keep the doors open to admit outsiders on the various pretexts of talent and intelligence and of infusing new blood. Such a measure appears to me to involve a serious injustice to the subjects of the State....

Opposing P.N. Krishnamurthy’s elaborate minute of dissent, Dewan K. Sheshadri Iyer recorded his observations as follows:

....His late Highness elaborated the system after the fullest deliberation and consultation with every important officer in the State: This was in the latter part of 1891, after three years’ experience, he still firmly adhered to it.....“To go and change this system now, in difference to the clamour of a few agitators in the Representative Assembly and for that matter, in the small local prints which pass for newspapers, will amount to a needless confession of error and a weakness for which there is not the remotest justification in sober fact or sound reason.....Our duty should be to do what is right ; if that brings popularity we should be glad of it; if it brings unpopularity we should not be sorry for it; posterity will do us justice, for posterity alone can judge calmly and without the perturbation which unfortunately so often warps the judgement of the present generation.

Continuing he declared, Mysore has always depended upon the surrounding British Provinces for a very large portion of its higher administrative machinery. I fear it must continue to do so for a long time to come......We ought to advance local men to the fullest extent possible consistently with the efficiency of the public service, but if for particular branches of the public service, we require a particular standard of talent not available locally, we should never hesitate to go out of Mysore and get it from where we can find it.
Since Mysore in those days did not have sufficient number of candidates to compete in the M.C.S. examination, graduates from the Madras Presidency formed the majority of the entrants. As may be seen from the M.C.S. Report for the year 1892, 1894, 1897, 1901, 1905, 1907 and 1908, a total of 193 candidates appeared for the competitive examination. Of these 92 were from the Madras Presidency, 89 from the Mysore State and 12 from other places. Only about 46 percent of the candidates had come from Mysore State.

Subsequently, the Mysorean-Madrasi controversy transformed itself into the anti-Brahmin agitation. We need not concern ourselves with this development in the present study. Similarly, the role of Mysore Press in the National Movement, social, economic and cultural life of the State during the period may also be left out. The conflict between the local Press and the Government of the State, however needs further elaboration as it led inexorably to the passing of that Draconian measure-Mysore Newspaper Regulation-III of 1908.

Communication of official secrets to the newspapers has formed an offense in the eyes of the Governments everywhere since long. Previous to the Rendition (1881) of Mysore to the Wodeyars, the orders of the Chief Commissioner regarding the Communication of official information to the public were as follows:

The Government does not think it necessary to issue any general order entirely prohibiting the disclosure, without special authority, of any information received officially. In such matters much must necessarily be left to the discretion and intelligence of officers holding places of trust, and in-charge of duties more of less important. But Government would impress upon all officers the serious responsibility involved in the exercise of their discretion. Whenever there is any room for doubt as the right course to pursue, the orders of the superior authority should be obtained before information regarding public affairs is communicated to any one not officially entitled to receive it.
During Dewan K. Sheshadri Iyer’s administration, the Government officials were prohibited from discussing in newspapers or otherwise the relations between the Durbar and the British Government or the rights and obligations involved.

On 10, January 1901, an order was passed in connection with the disclosure of the contents of official papers to the Daily Post by a Government servant whose name, however, is not mentioned. On this occasion the government felt compelled to convey a strict warning against the commission of breaches of confidence of kind under advertence by its officers on pain of dismissal from service.

This extreme punishment, however, was not inflicted on the guilty official as he was by then on the verge of retirement. It was then ordered that no public servant may, from inadvertence or otherwise, fall into the errors of disregarding the strict prohibition which exists against public servants communicating to the Press any papers except those the publication of which may be duly authorized by Government.

During the administration of Dewan V.P. Madhava Rao, some instances of the unauthorized publication of official information came to the notice of the Government of Mysore. In that connection all Heads of offices were instructed that information received by Government officers in their official capacity, whether from official sources or otherwise, should on no account be divulged, unless from its nature the information is seen to be obviously intended for publication.

In 1908, certain instances of divulging information on official matters again came to the notice of the Government particularly by Secretariat officials who dealt with the papers in the course of official duties. On this occasion it was impressed upon all officials through a memo dated 9, April 1908, that unless all officials loyally obey the rules and discountenance such dishonorable practices on the part of any of their number it may become absolutely necessary in the interest
of discipline to inflict punishment whole sale on all officials through whose hands any paper thus improperly disclosed had passed.

Once the Mysorean and Madrasi controversy petered out and the Backward classes Movement or the Anti-Brahmin agitation was yet to gather steam. Journalists of Mysore turned their attention to critically review the actions of Government on various issues that concerned the people and to enlighten the public on important affairs of the State. They began more actively conveying to the public Government policies, keep Government informed of public needs and opinions in addition to report on events and happenings at home and abroad. This increased and diversified role of newspapers naturally led to situations of misunderstanding and conflict with the public authorities. What course the Press pursued and how the Governments of the day reacted to unfriendly journalists forms an interesting study.

Some of the important incidents that produced and sustained the conflicts between the Government and the Press in the Mysore State are discussed here under.

**Deshabhimani Case, 1894**

The *Deshabhimani* case forms a most interesting episode in the history of journalism in the Mysore State. The *Deshabhimani* was a Kannada weekly newspaper founded at Mysore City in 1892 and edited by one B.C. Srinivasaiengar who also happened to the proprietor. According to the editor the *Deshabhimani* dealt 'with the politics of Mysore with the special object of representing the real public grievances caused by the maladministration of Sir K. Sheshadri Iyeeer'. It was also an active participant in the Mysorean-Madrasi controversy on the side of Mysorean, and give vent through its columns to a variety of sensational news.50
In the year 1894, it gave publication to a series of articles which were considered highly objectionable on account of their obscenity and disloyalty to His Highness the late Maharaja. 51 Four such articles came prominently to the notice of the Mysore Government. The first of these, which appeared 52 in its issue of the 24th February 1894, was in the shape of a dialogue between the editor and a certain Karala (probable referring to the public servant) or the Terrible. In this dialogue, to a question by Karala, is it right to disgrace great men? the editor replies, it is their own deeds that disgrace them. Not we. “When Karala arrogantly remarks, “who cares for the people and what they think?” The editor cautious him, “if you speak this aloud, it may lead to trouble”, when Karala dares the editor to come forward and obstruct what the Government servants are doing, 53 the editor says, it is not because they are afraid of you that the people are inactive. But Chamappa cries. 54 The Dayadi 55 is waiting (his opportunity); that is why they are putting up with all your oppression.

The other three articles made indecent remarks concerning the pontiff of the Parakala Mutt, Guru of the Maharaja, education of women and the Maharaja. Taking cognizance of the contents of these articles, B.C. Srinvarsaiengar, editor and managing proprietor of the paper, was summoned to appear before the Dewan on the 15th March 1894 and to submit any explanation that he might have for the publication of the article in the shape of a dialogue between the editor and an imaginary character named Karala in the issue of the 24th February 1894. B.C. Srinivaraingar wished to be informed in writing the nature of the explanation required and it opined that it would be more satisfactory if he were permitted to submit a written explanation. This was refused. Srinivasaiengar also refused to appear before the Dewan and offer any explanation.

The following order was therefore passed by the Government on the 15t March 1894: 56
The Kanarese newspapers published in the City of Mysore under the name of "Deshabhimani" having, in its issue of the 24th February 1894, published as article in the shape of a dialogue between the editor and a gentleman containing matters which is disrespectful to the Sovereign, seditious and otherwise objectionable, and the said newspaper having on this and other occasions shown itself to be a source of bad education to the people, His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to direct that the above mentioned newspaper be published by suspension of its publication for a period of one year from this date.

As instructed by the Government Deputy Commissioner attached the Press. However, the editor was asked to take back the press and the plant on the 19th April 1894 by furnishing sufficient security for carrying out the order of the newspaper. Srinivarsaiengar not only refused to furnish any security but also accused that the Deputy Commissioner had acted illegally and unauthorized in attacking the press. Repeated requests to the editor to take back the plant and materials by furnishing sufficient security were not heeded by him.

In the meanwhile, Srinivaiengar appealed to the Viceroy of India through a telegram dated the 21st August 1894. He complained that the Government had acted despotically in the suspension of his newspaper and that the Dewan and the District Magistrate were acting like petty Palegars.

On the 12th October 1884, Srinivasaiengar wrote a long representation and circulated it among the members of the Dasara Representative Assembly. He cautioned the members in these words:57

If you remain indifferent even now, as you have been hitherto, these ten years, the Dewan who has already attained his desire: will accomplish the rest of his private ends.....I resigned the appointment I once held under Government and took to editorial work-
starting the journal Deshabhimani for representing to the Government of Mysore the public opinion and the grievances of the people in their true colors supported by the merchant classes of Mysore, hoping thereby to win the esteem of the people and royal favor......

In a similar representation to the Maharaja, dated the 19th November 1894, he boldly declared: Though the officers are supported by your Highness yet they behave in such a manner as to seem to be oblivious of the fact that their actions bring discredit to your Highness, and not only that, they watch for a suitable opportunity and represent to your Highness maliciously that the editor of newspapers who bring to light their faults, are all traitors, and if your Highness begin to bring credence to such they will cause all editors to be beheaded in a lot......Where there are no newspapers the officials will act unchecked, and gaining great power, will even aspire to the Kingship. Therefore editors of newspapers appear like YAMA to bad officials.

Srinivasaiengar steadfastly refused to take back the plant and the materials unless delivered in usable condition and his losses made good by a suitable monetary compensation. Finally, the following order was issued on 13th November 1903 during Dewan P. N. Krishnamurthy's administration:

Governments are unable to consider the question of memorialists claim for compensation as they are of opinion that any loss that he may have sustained or any deterioration that they have taken place in printing plant, is due not to the action of Government but to his own contumacy.

The order also permitted the Deputy Commissioner to return the plant to Srinivasaiengar. Finally following his representation made in February 1904, the Government made him a grant of Rs. 15 acres of land under the old Mirle Channel in the Nanjangud taluk. The editor of

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the Deshabhimani remained adamant and did not take possession of the lands granted by the Government also.

The Mysore Standard, An English weekly (1895-96), owned and edited by one M. Srinivasaiengar and his brother, published a note in its issue of 10th November 1897. It said,^60^ a set of Southern Indian dancing girls have now been displaying a knowledge of their blandishments in the Mysore Palace with a view of obtaining a certificate and a reward from Her Highness the Maharani Regent. Her Highness would certainly have received greater renown by refusing to admit these “fallen-angles” in to the sacred precincts of the Palace....

The Maharani-Regent was much distressed at this news which was certainly false. The Dewan Sheshadri Iyer concurred with her that the statement in question was scurrilous. However, he felt that repressive action against an erring newspaper would ‘send up a howl....from all parts of India against all from Her Highness down wards; The British Resident Colonel Donald Robertson too opined that it was not ‘good policy to suppress a newspaper’, unless strong reasons exist for such a proceeding.^61^

To assuage the hurt feelings of the Maharani-Regent, however, Gopaliengar was sent for who met Thuboo Chetty, the officiating Dewan on December 4, 1897. He readily admitted that he had done wrong in publishing the objectionable para in question, and then and there drafted an apology which, while containing an expression of regret at the publication of the obnoxious para, went on to say in extenuation that it had been written in good faith and in the cause of social reform.

Vrittnata Chintamani Case

The next important occasion for friction between the Government and the Press had to do with a leading article in the Vrittanata Chintamani of the 21st February headed “General Buller”. It said,^62^
“General Buller” is a very great General and, in the opinion of the Mr. Gladstone, has no equal among warriors. Yet he has been repulsed three times running by the Boers in his attempts at relieving Ladysmith. M. Chamberlain thinks that brute force must conquer. But has it ever occurred to him to inquire why soldiers from different European countries and the United State come and flock under the Boer standard..... Many English men in the pride if their power think that they can succeed in the world by trampling upon the weak. The present war will demonstrate better than all the scripture and Puranas in the world that God is ever wide awake in protecting the good and punishing the wicked”.

The Vrittanta Chintamani of 14th February 1900 also had given a full translation of the speeches said to have been made at the meeting of the American held in the Academy of Music Building to express sympathy with the Boers in their struggle for their liberty and to condemn the action of the British in declaring war against them.

Further, the same paper gave with approval a summary of the article in the “New Age” in which the war in South Africa is condemned as a wicked war.

The British Resident in Mysore Donald Robertson wrote a letter to Sir SheshadriIyer on 12, March 1900. Referring to the Kannada Weekly published at Mysore, the Vrittanta Chintamani, the Resident observed thus: This journal is doubtless as obscure as its views are allowed to fulminate in this offensive strain. It is of course undesirable to make confess over such an unimportant incident. I shall however be disposed to think that a warning conveyed personally by the Deputy Commissioner might be good for the editor.

To this, Dewan Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer sent the following answer:

.....I beg to inform you that the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore has sent for the editor and pointed out to him the mischievous
tendency to his writings. The editor...promised to publish an expression of his regret in the next issue of his papers.

In the same letter the Resident was further informed that “The editor is an young man named Subbia, He is also the reputed editor of the English newspaper the Mysore Herald. I respect that his father Venkarakrishnaiah, Head Master of Mari Mallappa’s School at Mysore, does the editing of both the newspapers and puts forward his son’s name as the ostensible editor to save appearances. This matter will receive due attention from me in the Educational Development”.

**Mysore Standard Case**

Between the 6th May 1905 and 14th October 1905, the Mysore Standard published three articles which were regarded as objectionable by the administration of Dewan P.N. Krishnamurthy. The first was a leaderette about one Mahadevappa and the appointment of one Satyajee Rao as Munsiff. Actually, this article charged the Dewan with favoritism. The second with the question of the Dewan article of the 26, July 1905, was headed The Present Discontent-III. It dealt with the question of the Dewan vis-à-vis the Executive Council. This was the subject of a vigorous debate between the Dewan, the Maharaja and the British Resident. Dewan Krishnamurthy put forward the view that the Dewan should be trusted with more powers and the Executive Council should be changed into a Consultative Council. The Resident, however, did not favour this view and advised the Maharaja to the contrary. The “Mysore Standard”, while discussing this subject quipped, the Dewan must be subservient to the Council. The term must in future be, the Maharaja in Council decides so and so. This article in the nature of dialogue accused the Dewan with having kept out the Mysoreans from participation in local affairs. The leader of the 14, October 1905, headed The Dewan and the people, while referring to the Dewan’s address to the Dasara Representative Assembly observed that he had
filled about 26 pages of empty words with the sole object of making the people believe that he had done everything that lay in his power”. It further remarked that the people have not been benefitted in the least, that the service is disorganized, and the departments have gone out of control, and we hear of official frauds and defalcations twice in three months.\textsuperscript{68}

A notice\textsuperscript{69} was issued to the editor and proprietor of the Mysore Standard, M. Gopaliengar, and to M. Srinivasa Iyengar, printer and publisher of the same, calling upon them to appear in person on 13, November 1905 to explain the objectionable features of the articles above mentioned.

To this, M. Srinivas Iyengar replied\textsuperscript{70} that Gopaliengar was not the editor and that he was not in Bangalore but at Madras since October 1904. He did not commit himself to appear before the General and Revenue Secretary on the 13th November 1905 as directed before taking such advice as may be necessary.

Referring to the “objectionable” articles, in question,\textsuperscript{71} Srinivasa Iyengar, as editor, printer and publisher of the “Mysore Standard,” asserted that they were published in good faith either on information received from reliable sources or as communications from respectable correspondents, or with a view to help the administration. If Government will, in the meantime, pointed put the words or expressions which are considered to be objectionable and give me sufficient time, I shall be perfectly willing to explain all of them, and......to remove any possible misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the sentiments conveyed there in ...... He also explained\textsuperscript{72} that, there has never been a desire on our part to say anything which would in the least reflect on our absolute loyalty to the Government of Mysore and His Highness the Maharaja or to the great veneration his person is held by us.
The Government, however, found it difficult to reconcile this explanation with a statement such as that contained in the first of the three articles.....to the effect that, "the real ruler of the State who, the official world knows lives at “Purna Prasada” and not in the “Palace,” and with the similar sentiments expressed in the article of the 26, July 1905. Lastly, the unseemly anecdote of “Mandamati,” published on 14, October 1905, was deemed by the Government, as directly intended to bring the administration in to contempt.

In view of the attitude of the editor and proprietor of the Mysore Standard, the Government of Mysore reiterated their earlier orders prohibiting the supply of official information to this paper withholding advertisements and also subscription to it at public cost. A formal warning was also conveyed to the editor and proprietor and the printer and publisher that the publication of articles calculated to bring His Highness’ administration in to contempt will be followed by summary action.

Following the Memorial of 22, January 1905, addressed to the Maharaja of Mysore by the editor of the Mysore Standard praying that the privileges withheld from him might be restored, it was directed that the privileges withdrawn from the paper in earlier orders are restored.

**Suryodaya Prakashika Case**

On the 4th February1907 under the heading His Highness the Maharaja’s Tour to Calcutta the *Suryodaya*, a Kannada weekly, published from Bangalore, wrote as follows:

It is well known that His Highness our Maharaja has returned safe from his tour to Calcutta......There is a rumour that at the interview with his Excellency the Viceroy, the latter broached the subject of making over (to the British Government) the districts of Bangalore and
Kolar. The Maharaja seems to have said that he knew nothing about the subject, and when His Excellency showed the statement the Maharaja turned towards the British Resident who, however, remained silent.\textsuperscript{76} The Yuvaraja then seems to have got up and said to the Viceroy. The whole country to yours, two districts will not matter much (why only two districts?). If no desired the whole province may be taken up. His Highness then expressed his concurrence in what the Yuvaraja said.......His Highness and the Yuvaraja are two priceless gems to the Mysore State, and as long as they are alive our people need not fear anything.

This article came to be noticed by the Government of Mysore. Thereupon, the Secretary of the General and Revenue Departments wrote a letter\textsuperscript{77} to the editor of the \textit{Suryodaya Prakashika} in which he said:

I am directed to inform you that the whole of this alleged conversion is a fabrication from beginning to end; and His Highness Government will be pleased to receive any explanation that you may desire to offer regarding the publications in journal of falsehoods which are alike injurious to the reputation of the British Government and derogatory to His Highness the Maharaja.

In their reply\textsuperscript{78} the joint proprietors and editors of the \textit{Suryodaya Prakashika} stated as below:

..........We are glad to be asserted that the rumor is no founded upon fact and that it is a fabrication. We thought as such, and while expressing our reliance on His Highness that the Maharaja’s able conduct, we felt our duty to give publicity to the rumor...... with the object that the Government may set the whole thing at rest by a word of contradiction. This you have been now pleased to do and we have taken the earliest opportunity of publishing this contradiction. The article in question was not intended to reflect anything upon the
prestige of the British Government or the dignity of His Highness the Maharaja.

In publishing it we were actuated solely by bona fide motive and with a desire to prevent the very injurious consequence which such a rumor would have created, if not discredited.

The rumour in question did not emanate from our office. We are unable to trace its source........As the mouth piece of the public, we deemed it our duty to give publicity to the rumor with our own observations thereon. We had our own doubts in the matter which we have started at the very outset.........

Government, quite rightly, were not satisfied with the stand taken by the joint proprietors and editors of the Suryodaya and pointed out that the rumor in question could have been verified from the Secretariat before publication. Instead of taking this obvious course, you straightaway proceeded to publish this mare’s nest, although you now admit that you believed the account to be a fabrication. His Highness’s Government are both to believe that you publish it merely with the motive to excite a sensation, regardless of the truth or falsity of what you were writing and reckless of the mischief that you might cause.

His Highness’s Government cannot accentuate too strongly the fact that it is not to any criticism of Highness’s administration that they take exception. Criticism when well informed they are prepared to welcome heartily; and when it appears to be spiteful, they are ready to accord it the fullest toleration. They draw the line, however, at the dissemination of absolute untruths which are calculated to excite apprehension among His Highness’s subjects as to the good faith of the British Government and which reflects injuriously no less upon the person that upon the administration of His Highness the Maharaja........

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Finally, the Secretary emphatically asserted\textsuperscript{80} that the Government of Mysore are unable to form any other opinion than that, in this instance, you permitted yourselves to publish in your paper falsehoods of a mischievous tendency, and omitted to take any reasonable preconditions before doing so to satisfy yourselves of the accuracy or otherwise of what you printed. They trust that you will accept this criticism as being as well meant as you would no doubt desire your own criticisms of His Highness’ administration to be regarded. And I am further to convey to you the friendly warning that .........mischief making of this kind must be carried on, if at all, elsewhere than within the territories under the administration of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

**Thorny Road to the Press Regulation**

As Dr. R. Ramakrishnan observes,\textsuperscript{81} Throughout the history of the Press, the State had always considered it necessary to place the freedom of the Press under some restriction. The argument was that, unrestricted freedom would become license and this in turn would become detrimental to society.

Referring to the Post-Rendition period of Mysore’s history, particularly to the time of Dewan P.N. Krishnamurthy and Dewan V.P. Madhava Rao, M. Fazlzu Hassan observes,\textsuperscript{82} It was a time when Indian Nationalism had began to emerge. These were also forces in operation to smother it. A progressive State like Mysore, could not remain unaffected by the tremendous political events which were awakening the masses of India. A clash with peoples interest was inevitable in a bureaucratic set up. And so, in 1908, Dewan V. P. Madhava Rao introduced the Newspaper Regulation, the first legislative measure to control the press in the State.

Although the history of the press in Mysore may be traced to the year 1859, till the coming in to force of the Mysore Newspapers
Regulation No–III of 1908 there was no statutory provision to control writings in the newspapers. However, the Press and Registration of Books Act XXV of 1867 had been introduced in to the Mysore State in September 1867. The aim of this Act\textsuperscript{83} was to regulate the printing presses and Newspapers, the preservation of copies of books printed in British India, and registration of such books.

This Act required that, every book or paper printed within British India shall have printed legibly on it the name of the printer and the place of printing, and (if the book or paper be published) the name of the publisher and the place of publication.

Clause 5 of this Act further laid down certain rules as to publication of printed periodicals containing public news:

No printed periodical work, containing public news or comments on public news, shall be published in British India, except in conformity with the rules.....

The printer and the publisher of every such periodical work shall appear before the Magistrate within whose local jurisdiction such work shall be published, and shall make and subscribe, in duplicate a declaration regarding fact of printing or publication and the place of printing or publication. Any change concerning the above had to be brought to the notice of the Magistrate through fresh declaration.

In the year 1891, an order regulating the publication of newspapers and other printed works in territories administered by the Governor-General in Council beyond British India was introduced in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore. It laid down as follows:\textsuperscript{84}

No newspaper or other printed work, whether periodical or other, containing public news or comments upon public news, shall without the written permission......of the political agent, be edited, printed or published after the first day of August, 1891, in any local area.
administered by the Governor General in Council, but not forming part of British India.

Violation of this order was punishable by deportation of such person from that local area. The Government of Mysore endeavored in vain to get the above law extended to the State.

In the year 1907, Stuart Fraser, British Resident in Mysore, observed in a report to the Government of India that the vernacular papers in Mysore had become ‘malicious’ and mischievous and hence need to be suitably controlled. In the year following he repeated the allegation and remarked that the Press in Mysore was absolutely free.

In July 1907, Resident Fraser obtained the approval of the Government of India for the introduction of a Newspaper Regulation in to Mysore by the Durbar. He had impressed upon the Government of India that the Mysore Durbar’s action in introducing a newspaper regulation was based on ‘the highest considerations of policy and public duty and showed an understanding of the responsibilities based upon more that local considerations....’ The Governor General congratulated the Mysore Durbar for having reached a ‘wise and patriotic’ decision.

The Council met in the public offices, on 5, August 1908 to consider the “Mysore Newspapers Bill” under the President ship of Dewan V. P. Madhava Rao, T. Ananda Rao, the First Councillor and K. P. Puttanna Chetty, the Second Councillor were present as Ex-officio members of the Council. Among all six additional Member, namely, A. Rangaswami Iyengar, H. J. Bhabha, M. Muthanna, S. NarayanaRao, M. Kantaraj Urs and K. S. Chandrasekhara Iyer, and all the five non-official Members namely, C. Srinivasiengar, V. N. NarasimmaIengar, M. C. Rangaiengar, B. Nagappa and Syed Amir Hassan were present.

T. Ananda Rao moved for leave to introduce a bill called the “Mysore Newspapers Bill” and, in so doing said as follows:
The Government of Highness the Maharaja have had under consideration the question of placing the publication of newspapers in Mysore under better control, and of providing more effective means than are available under the existing law for dealing with that section of the Public Press in Mysore which has for some time past been creating considerable mischief by misrepresenting the actions of the Government and attributing unworthy motives to it, and by indulging in remarks calculated to promote racial hatred and in objectionable criticism of the British Government in its relations with its own subjects as well as with the native states. His Highness’s Government view with extreme disapproval the attempt made by organs published in the State to mislead and prejudice the people of Mysore against the Paramount Power.

Action of the kind contemplated is all the more necessary in view of the pernicious effects this class of writing is calculated to have on the minds of ignorant and uninformed persons generally and of students and young people in particular, by undermining the feelings of reverence associated with Highness personally and by destroying all respect for authority. It would be a grave error to underestimate the degree and the extent of these evil effects, since newspapers are in these days no longer limited in their circulation to the better educated classes who are in a position to discount misstatements. On the country, owing to the policy of Government in promoting elementary education among all classes, every section of the community, rural as well as urban, is now exposed to the influence of the press, whether for good or for evil; and, consequently, a new responsibility is imposed upon the Government to protect the ignorantly credulous from evil influence which it is within their power to control.

He went on to elaborate that the language used would imply that the Maharaja is not responsible for the actions of his Government and that he is not interested in the administration. While all fair, honest and
bona fide criticism is welcomed, comments which tend to bring his administration into contempt, and misrepresent the motives and actions of the officers, could not be permitted. To the common people every-thing which appears in print has the authority of matter published in the Government Gazette. That is why patent medicines advertised in the vernacular newspapers are eagerly purchased. Again the false news about the assumption of the Kolar and Bangalore districts by the British Government published in some local newspapers was believed as true by the common people. The Mysore Government was duty bound to prevent the publication of reckless and mendacious statements which undermine the loyalty of the people to the British Government. In Mysore Government has at all times been ready to place at the disposal of the press information regarding its actions and objects. On the table of the Press Room the Proceedings of the Government intended for publication are place. The meeting of the Representative Assembly too give the members the opportunity for ventilating public grievances and feelings.

T. Ananda Rao, the First Councillor then emphatically declared that since the basis on which Government rests is autocratic in its nature, the Maharaja has absolute power to regulate the public press. In this connection, he referred to the executive action taken in 1894 in The Deshabhimani case, and to the warning publicly given to the editor of the Suryodaya in 1907. He asserted that, it is advisable to introduce the present general measure which, while not imposing any harassing restriction on the legitimate liberty of the press, will serve to remind the editors and publishers of newspapers of the obligation attaching to their responsible calling and of the penalty which will follow violation of the same.91

It was further observed92 by the First Member of the Council that The present Bill is almost entirely a reproduction, with necessary variations to adopt it to Mysore, of the British enactment now in
operation in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore; the only addition that is made is with reference to the forfeiture of the printing press. It is obvious that an enactment of this kind, passed with a view to enable the Political Agent to deport black mailers who may take shelter in tracts situated within native territory, but administrated by the Political Agents, presupposes the power on the part of the Native State to deport such blackmailers and disseminators of dangerous falsehoods from its own territories.

While maintaining that the necessity for a Regulation of this kind was imperative, he gave assurance that it does not follow that it will be put into force in regard to all or any of the newspapers published in the State. He concluded by saying as follows:93

If the various evils to which reference has been made.......are to be effectually remedied, if the weakening if His Highness’s authority by persistent misrepresentation of his Government is to be put a stop to, if the attempts to promote racial hatred are to be checked, and above all, if the rising generation is to be protected from a demoralization, which under present condition, is facilitated by that very spread of education which it is the duty of the State to encourage, and which, by the recent action of the State in making vernacular education in classes of primary schools completely free, will reach all section and grades of the population.....We must not hesitate to adopt a law of the kind which is the only effective means of keeping editors and publishers of newspapers in mind of their duty to society and of the limitations under which a business having so important a bearing upon the well-being of society can be conducted.

While seconding the motion Syed Amir Hassan, among other things, observed,94 that, irrespective of the other mischief done, the prestige of the public authorities has suffered much during the last 25 or 30 years as the result of such irresponsible journalism and ....... it is high time the source of evil was checked.
While approving the principle of the Bill, Rangaiengar observed that, Liberty of the press within the limited act by law and morality, is productive of incalculable good. But when it transgresses those limits, it degenerates into license and yields enormous power for mischief and evil…….

H.J. Bhabha stressed on two points relating to the ways in which badly conducted papers have for many years past done serious harm to the administrative work of government and to the character of the growing youth of the country. He further observed that, The important law which is about to be passed will…..rid the state of an infamous press and its disastrous effects on the minds of boys at school as well as the ignorant public….. I feel perfectly convinced that in the present State of India it is absolutely necessary in the interests of good government and the education of the rising generation to curb the unrestrained license of an irresponsible and scurrilous press.

It is not felt necessary to elaborate the arguments made by other member of the Council which more or less similar and fully supportive of the Government view point. The Dewan, V.P. Madhava Rao pointed out that the liberty of the press had gone to such lengths and had become such a source of public danger that they might count on the support of all members of the legislative council, both official and non official, in giving the Government the very necessary power that they proposed to take under the Regulation.” He noted further that, “in Mysore there exists a Press which rejoices in the possession not only of freedom but of unbridled license. He next said that the local press fits the description of newspapers written in English to in the vernacular given in the Indian Nation.

But there is another portion of the Press, written in English or in a vernacular, which is in the hands of imperfectly educated men and which can only hope to keep itself going by things sensational. The most sensational of all things in writing is piquant abuse. Therefore the
stock in trade of some journalists comes to be abuse, either of the Government or of individuals......Their motive is personal grudge, and their abuse is personal abuse. They indulge in statements most of which are lies. Their great satisfaction is that they can sit in judgement over all the world and can abuse men under the safe cover of an anonymous ‘we’.

Continuing, the Dewan further noted, what these newspapers would appear to claim is absolute freedom from all restraint. Such is the terror inspired by them that the Government officials will do anything to secure immunity from abuse in the papers or to be in the good graces of the editors. The different professions have their own customary codes which guide and regulate the actions of those that follow them. But journalism is still foreign to the genius of India, and in the hands of half-educated and undisciplined men, it may prove dangerous to society as in actually happening before our eyes.

The evils which the Mysore Newspapers Regulation was designed to meet were mainly two.

1. The abuse of the Government in a manner calculated to affect the royalty of the people and their respect for Maharaja; and

2. Attacks on the British Government with a view to mislead and prejudice the people of Mysore against the Paramount Power.

In this the local press was imitating the actions of the press in British India. The Dewan hoped that while the proposed enactment would have a restraining influence upon newspapers given to manufacturing public opinion, genuine public opinion will be left untouched by it.

The council unanimously passed the motion. From the foregoing discussion it appears that the reasons for introducing the Press
Regulation, 1908, were many. The above discussion is self explanatory on the points involved. However, these may be summarized as below:

1. The Government was concerned with irresponsible and scurrilous journalism in the State.

2. The impression it had gained by experience with the local press was that it used to encourage false complaints and insubordination with a view to destroy the loyalty and good feeling of subordinate officials.

3. The credulous and ignorant public and students were mislead and taught to look upon Government officials as their natural enemies.

4. Destroying the feeling of customary reverence to the Maharaja of defamatory writings.

5. Writing intended to injuriously affect the interests of the Paramount Power.

6. Writing intended to affect adversely the relations between the Paramount Power and the Mysore Durbar.

7. Dissemination of deliberate falsehood with ulterior motives.

8. Mischievous and scurrilous writings about the Maharaja, high officers of Government, and other influential public men.

It must be admitted that it would have been impossible to carefully and regularly monitor all the newspapers published in the State and prosecute the guilty ones for libel or sedition. It therefore appears that the Government of Mysore did have some valid grounds for the introduction of the Newspaper Regulation.
We may now turn to a consideration of the various provisions of The Mysore Newspapers Regulation,\textsuperscript{103} 1908

The Mysore Newspapers Regulation III of 1908 required that no newspaper or other printed work, whether periodical or other, continuing public news or comments upon public news should, without the written permission of the Government of Mysore, be edited, printed or published within Mysore territories (Sec. 2). Any permission so granted might be withdrawn at any time by the Government (Sec.3). Editing, printing or publishing newspaper without permission or after withdrawal of permission would result in

a. expulsion of such person within seven days from the territories of Mysore, and

b. prohibition from reentering the Mysore territories without the written permission of Government, and

c. forfeiture of printing presses and all other materials, implements, utensils etc., used for printing and publishing such newspaper or other work.

Liability of offender in respect of clauses (a) and (b) of section 4 would be forcible expulsion from the Mysore State. Newspapers from outside Mysore State coming under the purview of section 4 of the Act and papers prohibited under the Newspapers (Incitement of offenses) Act VII of 1908, were not be circulated within Mysore State. (Section.6). Violation of the prohibition of section 6 would also involve forfeiture of all copies of such newspaper or other printed work wherever found; and, any person who circulated, or attempted to circulate, or attempted to circulate, or abetted the circulation of an such newspaper or other printed work within the Mysore State might be dealt with under section 4 and 5 of the Act (Sec. 7)

This Regulation was defective in certain respects. It did not contain any provision for formulating rules for operation. It did not
prescribe the qualifications required of the editors, printers and publishers; nor, the circumstances when the permission could be withdrawn specified. The Act was in force for a period of thirty one years without any amendments. Finally, this regulation had no provision in it for judicial review of actions taken by the Government under its clauses.

To mark their protest against the Mysore Newspapers Regulation five newspapers, namely, Mysore Herald, Mysore Standard, Vrittanta Chintamani, Bharati and Nagegannadi discontinued publication. There were widespread criticism of the new press Regulation from all over the country. A leading Mysore lawyer wrote\textsuperscript{104} as follows:

\textit{….I, for my part, I am spending sleepless nights over this piece of legislation which renders us as slaves of the Executive and abolishes with one stroke all the noble traditions of the past, not to speak of the utter destruction of the liberty of the press and public opinion. I am at a loss to know what to do for the poor unfortunate people of Mysore. Even Europeans are not enamored of this monster in its present condition. A greater calamity than this would never befall a Native State......Here after none can question, with safety, the most egregious conduct of our officials, unless one is prepared for expulsion. What shall we say of our so-called non-official members, who heartily supported the monster with eloquence? Why did they not take poison and die after they left the Council Hall rather than show their faces to the people whose liberty they have trodden down?.....}

The Indian Patriot remarked\textsuperscript{105} that the press was an instrument of intellectual and moral progress and to destroy the freedom of the press would be to impair the moral and intellectual stamina of the people. It was pointed out\textsuperscript{106} that ordinary laws were sufficient to control delinquent journalists. It was even pointed out\textsuperscript{107} that the authors of the Regulation were non-Mysoreans. Mysore’s reputation of being a Model State was adversely affected by it. Some critics observed
that this Regulation cut at the roots of freedom itself: Some newspapers considered this as an extraordinary, drastic, disgraceful, despotic and outrageous law, a serious blow to good Government, an insult to the honorable profession of journalism, and a retrograde step marking the abolition of the reign of law in Mysore.

The most adversely criticized and unpopular part of this law related to section 4 and 5 which laid down that any person contravening the provision containing in section 2 might be required to leave Mysore within seven days and prohibited from returning without permission; the press and all its plant might be confiscated; disobedience of such order might be punished with expulsion. The circulation in Mysore of prohibited papers might entail on the offenders similar punishments. The reactions of the Anglo-Indian Press may be known by the following comment of the Times of India:

"...the Mysore State has passed an Act which can be enforce without difficulty, which will entail no trial for sedition, confer no notoriety on the offenders, but will quietly suppress them and have their appliances confiscated. The simplicity of the punishment is one of the chief. The Mysore Government apparently expect that, in consequence of its efficiency, it will hardly ever be necessary to put their Act in force, so that the desired result of checking seditions utterances will be obtained. The thoroughness of the Mysore measure throws an unfavorable light on the weakness of the Government of India’s Press Act of June [1908] which applies only to newspapers that contain incitement to murder or certain acts of violence and involves all the legal formalities of a conditional order, an absolute order, an exparte, order for attachment, the taking of evidence, an appeal to the High court—all these proceedings involving...the chance of an acquittal of the offender and the certainly of an advertisement of his seditions writings."
Discussion in the Representative Assembly

The Mysore Newspapers Regulation was come up for discussion in the Representative Assembly as Subject No. 7 on----. One Mr. Shankaranarayan Rao, Advocate, Shimoga, observed that there was no necessity for the Regulation, in as such as the Penal Code in force in the State contained ample provision for punishing the dissemination of sedition or the Commission of other offences by newspapers editors. He argued that no occasion had arisen for such a legislation, which, besides curtailing the liberty, dispensed with the judicial review, omitted to specify the acts which would be offences there under and rendered the offences liable to deportation. He requested that the Regulation might be repealed -. If that was not possible, he put forward certain amendments, namely

1. That the provision relating to licenses might be removed;

2. That the offences punishable under the Regulation might be set fourth clearly; and

3. That a judicial trial might be provided for.

The Dewan in reply stated that the Regulation was passed after the legislative Council was convinced of the necessity for such a measure. He assured the Assembly that the powers conferred by the Regulation would not be exercised by Government in any arbitrary manner or according to the discretion of any particular officer or member of Government. The conduct of the newspaper would be watched and if any newspaper habitually indulged in writing of a seditious character or calculated to cause racial hatred, or to endanger the safety of the State, or to violate public morality and decency, the editor would be warned. On the second and subsequent repetition of a similar offence, the press would be attached and the person deported from Mysore territory, if necessary.
The Dewan further stated that every case in which permission was refused or withdrawn, or in which the other penalties provided in the Regulation were enforced, would be considered by the Council of the Maharaja after giving the editor every opportunity of explaining his case and that every case would be submitted to the Maharaja for orders.

With regard to licenses, Dewan V.P. Madhava Rao pointed out that the system obtained in the case of other professions like that of a pleader or an advocate. He said that the license would be usually given as a matter of course; and cases refused or withdrawn of permission would be considered by the whole Government.

As regards the proposed to define the offences under the Regulation, the Dewan stated that it was a preventive and not a punitive measure; and no necessity existed for specifying the offences under the Regulation; and further that the rules to regulate the actions of Government would be framed in future, if found necessary. He observed that it was the Government and not the courts that were competent to judge when the safety of the State was threatened. The Dewan added further that while repealing the Regulation was not possible he had no objection to amending it and laying down a procedure on the lines of the British Indian Newspaper Act.

Raghavachar, Advocate, Mysore wanted that the Government should call for an explanation from the editor and allow him to appear and plead his case before the Council and to be represented by counsel, if necessary. But, if the editor refuses to appear before the Council, what then? countered the Dewan. Raghavachar was then forced to admit that if he does not appear, orders may be passed ex parte.

On the 11th October Subbanna, Advocate, Bangalore and some other members accepted the need for the newspaper Regulation to prevent offences against the State and the publication of the
confidential information. However, they observed that the punishment
of deportation was unnecessary and that ordering the cessation of the
publication of the paper would suffice. The Dewan assured the members that the cases in which the Press Law would have to be enforced would be rare. He referred the law in force in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore which had not been enforced even in a single case during the past 18 years. The Dewan also pointed out that deportation only meant removal beyond the limits of Mysore, and a man would be deemed out of Mysore if he stepped out of the limits of the city and entered the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

Krishna Sastry, a land owner from Mysore, observed that The Regulation was preventive rather that punitive and that it should be retained in its present form. Gopalachar, a land owner from Bangalore, expressed similar opinion. Another land holder from Mysore, Narasimhaiya pointed out that certain vernacular papers contained writings of a vile character unfit to be read by women and children. He thought that such papers should be impressed. He also preferred deportation to imprisonment.

After some further discussion, the sense of the Assembly was ascertained by a show of hands and it was found that out of 173 members present 137 were in favor of the Regulation and only 36 were in favor of repeal.

**Working of the Press Law**

On 13, August 1908 a notification was issued by the Government of Mysore that applications for the permission required under section 2 should be made the Secretary to Government in the General and Revenue Departments. Another notification was also issued thereafter granting general permission under section 2 of the Mysore Newspaper Regulation for the Publication and Circulation. Within the limits of Mysore of all newspapers edited and printed outside
Mysore except those the publication of which might have been prohibited by the British Government.

As regards papers printed and published within the State of Mysore permission was granted in a number of cases after enquiry made as to the character and antecedents of the applicants. Between 13th November 1908 to 29th March 1909 permission under section 2 of the Mysore Newspaper Regulation III had been given to 20 newspapers and periodicals. In the case of another 17 papers or periodicals permission had been declared unnecessary during the same period. In only five cases permission had been refused. These includes (1). The Jagadguru, Mysore; 2). England in Mysore, Mysore; 3). The Mysore Advertiser, Mysore; 4). The Mysore Patriot, Mysore; and 5) The Mysore Mirror, Mysore. The grant of permission in the case of the Mysore Mirror, an Anglo-Vernacular daily newspaper, and the Mysore Patriot, an Anglo-Kannada weekly newspaper, was refused as the applicants were reported to be young men of very little education who were only name lenders, the real persons behind the ventures keeping in the background.

In the Memorandum, dated 19th March 1909, Dewan V.P. Madhava Rao had actually recommended grant of permission in the two cases referred above. He had also suggested that a notification may also be issued defining the circumstances in which alone the power to withdraw permission will be exercised. He had also submitted a draft of the Regulation he proposed for the orders of the Maharaja. But, the latter overruled the Dewan and said, I am not in favor of amending the Press Act at present.
Notes and References


3. Ibid, P 343


5. Barnes, Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department, dated 14 May 1902, P.230.

6. Fazalul Hassan, Bangalore Through the Centuries; Historical Publication: Bangalore, 1970, P, 166.


8. Ibid

9. Report on the Administration of Mysore for the respective Years


12. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Op, Cit., P. 6

13. Mysore Gazette dated 7 April, 1866

14. Translated from the original Kannada passage that appeared in the issue of 17, November 1882

15. Issue dated November 17, 1882

16. V.A. Smith, The Oxford History of India, (Edited by Percival Spear); OUP: New Delhi, 1990, P. 723.

17. Translated from the original passage in Kannada P.158.

18. Ibid, P. 7

19. Govt. order No. 1506-403 dated 27, May 1880 (Vide General Miscellaneous File No 2 of 1877, Sl. No. 14 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore).

21. File No 34 of 1895, Sl. No 13 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

22. File No 34 of 1895, Sl. No. 13 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

23. Govt. order No. 3883-84- September 1898. Pg 21-96dated

24. Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Mysore in the General Department (Finance), dated 18th May 1880

25. *Ibid*

26. Chief Commissioner’s circular No. 10652-213, dated 17th February 1879

27. Memo in File No. G.M. 34 Sl. No. 19 of 1895 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

28. *Ibid*

29. Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Mysore No. 1824-49 dated 5th July 1887

30. India Political Consultations, 30, March 1835 No. 73, Sl. No., Para 7 National Archives of India, New Delhi

31. General Memorandum on Mysore

32. *Ibid*, P. 24


34. *Karnataka Prakashika*, 31, March 1877

35. *Ibid*. 4, November 1878, 19-5-1879

36. *Ibid*. 22, March 1880, 5, April 1880

37. *Ibid*. 29 March 1880 and 30, August 1880

38. *Ibid*. 22 March 1880 and 30, August 1880

39. *Ibid*. 29, June 1885

40. *Ibid*. 30, August 1886, 29, September 1887, etc., Vrittanta Bodhini, 14, October 1892, VrittantaChintamani, 12, July 1888

41. *Karnataka Prakashika*, 21, June 1886; Vrittanta Patrike, 30, August 1888

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42. *Ibid*. 31, March 1879, 8, September 1879, 6, October 1879, 29, March 1880 and 12, April 1880


44. Govt. order No. 407-22, dated Mysore, 1st November 1891

45. Mysore Civil Service comprised the following offices: Assistant Commissioners; Sub-Division Officers (Revenue) Town Magistrates; Deputy Commissioners; Sub-Judges and Registrar of the Chief Court; District Judges; Under Secretary; and Chief Secretary


47. *Ibid*, PP122-123

48. After Sir M. Visveswaraya became the Dewan of Mysore, the conditions for entry to the M.C.S. were revised. It was laid down in 1913 that only Mysoreans by birth or domicile or graduates from one of the colleges in Mysore were eligible to compete in the M.C.S. Examination

49. Govt. order No. 10781-G-217 dated the 21st February 1879

50. No. C.298-331-Gen 10, December, 1893

51. No. 8802-40-Mis 1914, dated the 10, January 1901

52. *Ibid*.

53. Govt. order No. G.2772-2810-G.M. 151-06-1, dated Bangalore, 1, November 1906

54. General & Miscellaneous File No. 100 of 1908 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

55. *G & R. S.*, G.M. No. 184 of 1903 Sl. No. 1-14; Srinivaraiengar's Memorial to His Highness the Maharaja dated 23, October 1902. N.M.R. for 1892 and 1893, noticing the Deshabhimani Case.

56. *G&M* File No. 42 of 1906-07 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

57. That is, the Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar X who is spoken of in the singular. The liberty taken in abbreviating the Maharaja’s name was certainly disrespectful.

58. Literally a distant paternal relation; but generally refers to an envious person waiting the chance of a quarrel to enforce some imaginary claim. Here, the reference is to the British Government that had already once (1831) effected a resumption of the

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Government of Mysore and would be expected to repeat the act if favorable circumstances offered themselves.

59. Govt. order No. 23, dated Mysore, the 15th March 1894


61. Ibid.

62. Ibid.

63. Mysore Standard, 10, November 1897; G & M File No. 87 of 1897; Campbell to Dewan dated 28, November, 1897


65. Ibid. P.235

66. Ibid.

67. G & R. S. File No. G&M 135 of 1905 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore

68. Mysore Standard, 6 May 1905. Also Vide correspondence regarding the Reforms of the Council

69. Ibid, pp 79-80

70. Confidential Memorandum 10, November 1905 in the File No. G&M 135 of 1905-06 op cit

71. Letter dated Bangalore, 12, November 1905, Sl. No. 47 of File No. G&M 135 of 1905-06 op cit

72. Ibid. Para 3

73. Ibid.


75. Govt. order No. G 1938-77-GM (135-05) 1, dated 20, October,1905


77. No. D.O. 88, dated Camp Mysore, 2 June 1906


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79. The British Resident in Mysore at the time was and the Viceroy of India was Lord Minto (1905-1910)

80. No. G 5866, dated the 25th March 1907

81. Letter No. S. 2 dated 3, April 1907, to the Secretary to Government, General and Revenue Departments (Vide Proceedings. of the Govt. of Mysore, General, dated 25, April 1907)

82. Letter No. G 6622, dated 25, April 1907, from the Secretary To Government, General and Revenue Department, to the Joint proprietors and Editors of the “Suryodaya Prakashika”, Bangalore


85. *Ibid*. P. 170

86. *Preamble of the Press and Registration of Books* Ac No. XXV of 1867, dated 22, March 1867

87. *Ibid*, clause 3

88. Appendix A of the orders No. 2651-I dated the 25th June, 1891. Clause-1

89. *Ibid* Clause 2


91. Confidential Note on Mysore, Proceedings Nos. 15-17 of 1908 (Microfilm Reel No. 5)

92. *Foreign Department. Govt. of India. Proceedings* No. 135 of August 1908 (Deposit-I) Letter from the Resident in Mysore to Harcourt Butler, dated 1 July 1908.

93. *Ibid*.


95. The reference was to the anti-Madrasi stance of the Mysorean newspapers generally.

97. Ibid.
98. Ibid.
99. Ibid.
100. Ibid.
101. Ibid.
102. Ibid.
103. Ibid.
104. Ibid.
105. Ibid.
106. Ibid.

107. Published in Part-III of the Mysore Gazette of 20, August 1908 at pages 210-11 as Regulation No.III of 1908. It received the assent of the Maharaja on 8 August 1908. It was brought into force with effect from 10th September, 1908.

108. The Mysore Standard, August 15, 1908. Press Clippings collection in the Divisional Archives, Mysore Vol-2 (a),


110. The Hindu, dated 6, August 1908, Madras Standard, dated 7, August 1908, Tribune, dated 9, August 1908., Mysore Herald, dated 10, August 1908; Tribune (date not given), PGIM pp 74-76; Kathiawar Times, dated 2, September 1908., Indian Patriot, dated 10 August 1908, PGIM, pp 31-32; Indian Social Reformer, dated 9 August 1908, PGIM, p.343; Bengalee, PGIM, dated 15 August 1908, p37; United India and Native State, dated 15 August 1908, PGIM p 49; Hindu, dated 6 August 1908. PGIM, p, 9; Tribune, dated 9, August 1908; Mysore Herald, dated 17, August 1908, PGIM pp. 48-49 and many more, Dated November 7, 1908. p. 128 Palace Clippings, Vol. 2(b)

111. No. J 484-Legis, 5-08, No, G. 1491-G.M. 87-08-12, dated 2, September 1908.


113. Ibid.
114. Ibid.
115. Ibid.
116. Ibid.
117. Ibid.
118. Ibid.
119. File No. G.M. 87 of 1908 in the Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore.
120. Notification No. G. 1491/G.M. 87-08-12 dated 2 September 1908.
121. File No. G. M. 87 of 1908, Part-“A”
122. Ibid, Part-“B”
123. Ibid, Part-C. B.C. Srinivasayyengar of the Deshabhimani fame was the editor the “Jagadguru” which was being published from Mysore. His application to edit, print and publish an Anglo-Vernacular bi-weekly by the name of England in Mysore was turned down on 27th March 1909, four days before Dewan Madhava Rao relinquished his office.
126. Ibid.
127. Ibid. II order of His Highness dated 24th March 1909.