

LAND LEGISLATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH (1800-1950)

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PART ONE

LAND TENURES and tenancy are two basic issues that conditioned the development of any agricultural economy, not excluding that of India. They act through the sense of security they create in the agricultural classes, and the incentives thereby created for raising production and general economic well-being. A study of the historical evolution of these institutions in India is needed to understand the implications and achievements of the post-independence measures of land reform.

B. P. Baden Powell brought out a monumental work in three volumes, entitled *Land Systems in British India*, in 1892. That was intended to educate the European officers posted for service in revenue and forest departments. As such it devoted considerable attention to matters of assessment of land revenue and the administrative set-up, failing to give, in detail, the development of land legislation and its implications.

Primarily, our interest centred round tracing the history of tenurial and tenancy legislation since 1900. But where such a discussion was compelled to draw heavily on the previous laws, it became necessary to start from an earlier date. That is why 1800 was selected as the starting-point for the discussion of the Andhra Pradesh land system.

Another gap in the volumes of Baden Powell is that they did not deal with any of the native States and principalities not governed by the British. As we have dealt with them, it became necessary to bring to the fore whatever information we had on the past relevant to the study. Hence 1800 has been taken up as the starting-point even for the parts of the erstwhile dominions of the Nizam of Hyderabad that now form part of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The State of Andhra Pradesh could be conveniently divided into three units for the purpose of this note, in which the evolution of the system of land laws as they existed in 1950 is considered. The three