

History of Poona Cantonment

1818—1953

Compiled by

M. H. MOLEDINA,

Vice-President, All India Cantonments' Association; President, Poona & Kirkee Association. Vice-

Board, KIRKEE; Cantonment Board.

RARE SECTION

OF THE FAR EAST; Ready in Law; Sixty Years'

of Poona Suburban Municipality.

Assisted by

M. N. MERCHANT,

(Civil), A. M.I. E. (India) A. M.I. Struc E (London)

Published under the auspices of the Poona and Kirkee Cantonments' Citizens' Association.

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AUTHOR OF

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P R E F A C E

In November 1896, Lt. Col E. D. NEWNHAM SMITH, the then Cantonment Magistrate, POONA, compiled a small Pamphlet called "THE POONA CANTONMENT LANDS," and thereafter a general survey was made by Mr. C N MEHTA, who submitted his comprehensive report on this Cantonment in the early years of 1900. But Since then, there has been no publication which could throw more light on the subject of Cantonment, its establishment, its Administration, the lands problem and general information of public interest. Mr. M. N MERCHANT, B. E. (Civil) A. M. I. E. (India) A.M. I. Struc E (London), a retired Cantonment Official, persuaded me to take up this useful and informative work and with his able and experienced assistance, I have compiled this little volume, which I am sure will be of interest, not only to the property owners holding Government lands, but also to the general public who will get a glimpse into the working and administration of the Cantonment.

The major problems with which an average resident of the Cantonment, and even the land-holder and property owner, is unaware of are (a) the tenures of lands in Cantonment, and (b) the Administration of the Cantonment, more particularly that of the Civil Populated Areas. In this little book, I have endeavoured to give detailed information on these two vital and important subjects, so as to make it as useful as possible to all concerned. How far I have been successful in this attempt, is for my readers to judge. If my work is appreciated, I shall consider my labours rewarded.

In conclusion, I sincerely thank Mr. M. N. MERCHANT, who worked along with me to compile this book and usefully assisted me.

M. H. M.

POONA 20th September. 1953.



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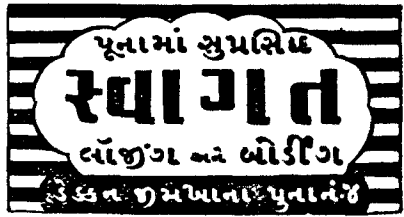
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SEATED FROM LEFT: Mr. Rustomji Byramji, Vice-President Cantonment Board, Poona; Mr. N. C. Sarin, Cantonment Executive Officer; Brigadier Harbhajan Singh, Sub Area Commander; Raj Kumari Rajendrasinhji; Lt. Gen. Maharaj Shri Rajendrasinhji; Rani Saheba; K. B. M. H. Moledina, President; Mr. W. J. Castelino; Mrs. Gulbai Muluk Irani.

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POONA CANTONMENT

A BRIEF HISTORY



CHAPTER I.

(A)

The defeat of the Peshwas at Kirkee in 1817, and their complete overthrow at the battle of Koregaon, in 1818 by the British, rendered Poona a conquered City, in their hands. After this conquest, Poona was selected for the formation of a Military Station for the accommodation of the Military and sites near the villages of Mali, Munjeri, Ghorpuri and Wanowrie, were occupied and some other lands known as Garpeer and Burunjethul were also taken up, far beyond the outskirts of the city. The Cantonment at Sirur, commonly known as "GHOD NADDI", for its famous river was abandoned.

On the termination of war against the Marathas and the Pindaris, it was considered by Government that the Military had passed the state of war, to that of peace. It was at this time, that Government thought of fixing the limits of this Cantonment and the administration of the

civil population, who were assigned lands for the purpose of building premises for their shops and dwellings. This civil population, which comprised mostly of business people, were commonly known as "CAMP FOLLOWERS", and were catering for the needs of the Army. On 15th of April 1819 Regulation I of 1819, was published in this respect and the General Officer, in consultation with the civil authority or as was then commonly called, "THE CRIMINAL MAGISTRATE", was ordered to fix the limits of the Cantonment. The boundaries of the Poona Cantonment were first settled by Colonel *Gifford* and the Collector of Poona, Captain *H. D. Robertson*. Later on, in the year 1822, on the arrival of fresh troops, regiments, battalions, including cavalry, it was found necessary to expand the boundaries of the Cantonment and to spread further, even to include the village of Scindia at Wanowrie.

The question of acquiring these lands, from the owners, Inamdars, Mirasdars, as also from the Jagirdars of these lands, upon payment of compensation, had to be considered. The Collector of Poona, Captain *Robertson*, on the 24th of September 1822, wrote to the Commissioner of the Deccan, Mr. *William Chaplain*, stating that the owners of the lands, from whom he had been receiving daily complaints, should be suitably

compensated for depriving them of their lands/ for the use of troops and that he should be permitted to make suitable arrangements to indemnify them for the loss they would sustain by their being deprived of their rights. He also suggested for the consideration of the Commissioner, the question of propitiating Scindia and his villagers for the lands at Wanorie.

After some correspondence and consultations between the Army authorities and the Commissioner of the Deccan, it was settled that no land should be acquired or taken without adequately indemnifying the holders of the lands. On 23rd August 1823, Captain *Robertson*, laid down a statement of amount to be paid to the holders, both at Wanowrie and Ghorpuri. The rates suggested by the Collector were not acceptable to the Commissioner and hence further surveys, valuations and correspondence, lasting till the 2nd

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January 1824, ensued. Thereafter, the boundaries of Poona Cantonment were finally settled and sanctioned on the recommendations of Sir *L. Smith*, the Collector of Poona, in the year 1827. The Governor in Council accorded his approval on the 31st of March that year and the following General Order No. 122 of 1827 was published in the Gazette:—

“ The Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the following description of the Poona Cantonment, be published in the General Orders” :—

WESTERN LIMIT — From the North-west angle of Captain NUTT'S compound, the line runs south, along the street and then takes a direction round a small village occupied by some Camp followers and touches the Nulla, making it a boundary for 3 furlongs and 80 yards; it then runs south until it reaches the Nulla, which it follows until intersected by a line, drawn west of the Pagoda on Practice Hill.

SOUTHERN LIMIT -- The above mentioned line drawn from the Pagoda continued to the distance from the last extreme point towards the East, as far as the Horse Artillery wells.

EASTERN LIMIT -- From the Horse Artillery wells, taking the Nulla for the boundary to a

native garden, from which point it changes, and runs to the Pagoda, on the Ghorpuri Road.

NORTHERN LIMIT — Runs from the above-mentioned Pagoda in a direction North-west 6 furlongs 80 yards, from which point the Western Boundary is completed by a line drawn to the North-west angle of Captain NUTT'S premises.

The Plan of these boundaries, then prepared, is still in existence in the Office of the Assistant Quarter Master General. This, in short is the history of the formation of the Cantonment of Poona and its limits.

ADMINISTRATION

(B)

Thus, the limits and boundaries of the Cantonment having been fixed, the next question, as I have stated above, was as regards the administration of the areas occupied by the civil as well as that by the Military. It must be remembered that policy of the Military Authorities was to preserve the Cantonment Area purely, for the residence of their Officers and their Camp followers. For this reason, the area of the Cantonment was divided into two parts, the Military Area and the Bazar Area, known as 'SADAR BAZAR.' The Military or the Station

area, was meant exclusively for the residence of the Military Officers, who built Bungalows, and the Bazar area, was reserved for the Camp followers for their trade and residence. The Cantonment Magistrate was put in charge of civil administration and was assigned numerous offices, with full powers as a Magistrate, a Civil Judge, the Registrar of documents; head of the Police, within the Cantonment, Municipal Commissioner (in this capacity he was locally termed "BAZAR MASTER"); Superintendent of the Jail, etc. This all powerful individual practically ruled the Cantonment, in all matters mentioned above and in addition to these, he generally acted as an adviser to the House-wives in the matters of their domestic servants and requirements. Gradually, as time went on these powers were reduced from time to time. It is interesting to note, that no Indian was assigned this post all those years, but the last of such Officer, was the late Khan Bahadur *M. H. Dastur*. At a later stage, the civic ad-

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ministration was placed under a body known as "CANTONMENT COMMITTEE", which was a Military Municipality, with a few nominated members, selected from the respectable and well-to-do civilians and high Military Officers, but the "BAZAR MASTER" continued as Municipal Commissioner known as Secretary, Cantonment Committee and his powers were detailed in the Cantonment Code, under which such Committees were constituted.

My readers must bear in mind that this change in the civil administration, came only as a result of growing civil population in the Cantonment and a strong agitation against the autocratic rule of one individual, having his hold on practically, every department of Government, affecting the civilians within the Cantonment, both executive and judicial. But even then the autocratic rule prevailed. The civilian members of the Committee, were regarded as figure heads (being nominated) and were termed as "YES MEN" to Government. This kind of administration went on for many years, but then as the civil population still increased and the awakening among them, for the democratization of the administration of the Cantonment, there came on the statute the Act of 1924, known as the Cantonments Act-II, 1924, due entirely to the efforts of our

political leaders, both inside and outside the legislature. This Act gave the members of the public a right to elect their representatives on a common vote with certain restrictions, but on communal lines, reserving seats for different communities, but still Government retained its hold in the administration, in two particular manner, viz.-

- (i) an official majority over the elected members, and
- (ii) appointment of Executive Officer, to be detailed by the Central Government, which officer was as of rule, a Military Officer, generally of a rank of a Captain.

Thus the new form of administration went on.

The agitation of the people and the leaders did not rest with this. Further demands for more municipalisation of the Cantonment Boards, were made by the civilians, more particularly for the areas populated by the civilians. It was stressed that the civil areas should be exclusively under the administration of the civilians without any interference from the Military Officials. After nearly eleven years of struggle, persistent demands and agitation, there came an amending Bill in the Central

Legislature, in 1935. This amending Bill not finding favour with some of the members of the legislature, interested in Cantonment affairs, Government appointed a select committee, to consider the amendments proposed in the Bill and make their recommendations. But with the greatest regrets, I must say, that the personnel taken on that Committee, had no knowledge whatsoever of the administration of the Cantonment Act, 1924, and, if I may say so, were mere novices. The result was, that the so called improvements made in the old Act, were the introduction of joint electorate, discarding the communal elections and the implementation of Section 43-A in the Act, empowering all Cantonment Boards constituted under Section 13, in Class I or Class II Cantonments, to appoint a Committee called "BAZAR COMMITTEE", of the elected members' plus the Health Officer and Executive Engineer, for the administration

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of the Bazar areas declared by the Central Government as "BAZAR AREA", with Vice-President of the Board as its Chairman and the Executive officer its Secretary. The Cadre of Executive Officers' services was changed and civilians were permitted to join this cadre, which was made purely civilian. Recruitments being made through the Public Service Commission.

The provision of Section 43-A in this Act, was one of the features of the Cantonments Amendment Act, 1935, creating thereby a Bazar Committee, with a view to give wider powers to the elected element of the Board, in all matters relating to Health, Sanitation, Public Works, Drainage, Markets etc., which are within the limits of the Bazar Areas, and notified by the Central Government, under Notification No. 385 dated the 22nd May 1937, issued by the Defence Department, whereby Bazar Areas were declared in this Cantonment. But the entire spirit and object of this Section 43-A, is completely defeated, when the Act lays down that the functions of the Bazar Committee are subject to the directions and control of the Board and its proceedings, subject further to the confirmation by the Boards, before they are enforceable. Thus, it will be seen that, though the Legislature intended to give wider Powers to the elected members within the civil populated areas,

yet they were bound down to the Board, for its direction, control and confirmation of its proceedings. The Committee has no control over the staff nor on the finances. It can only act in those matters, which are delegated to it, by the Board and approved and published. Thus, the function of this Committee becomes impotent and the statutory provisions merely remain on paper, rendering this Committee, merely an advisory Committee to the Board and nothing more. I am thus justified in saying that the Select Committee had not that talent on it, which had the knowledge or experience of the working of or the administration of the Cantonment Act.

The All India Cantonments' Association has been agitating for a number of years for reforms in the Cantonment Municipal administration and the Act. It has been urging constantly for the democratization and Municipalisation of the Cantonment Boards; asking for a majority of elected members with an non-official, as its President. Practically at all its conferences, the last two of which in recent years held in Poona in June 1951 and at Jubbulpore in October 1952, resolutions requesting Government for these reforms were passed and for a settled lands policy in the Cantonments. Instead of considering these questions, Government appointed a Committee called the Central Committee on Canton-

ments, on the strength of the Resolution passed by the conference of the Ministers of Local Self Government, to deal with the question of excision of civil areas from the Cantonments and for amending the present Cantonments Act. Once again the personnel from the civil side taken on this Committee, were not even the residents of any Cantonment, leave aside the question of their experience of the Cantonment administration or the Cantonment lands problems. I will deal with this subject in the chapter following.

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CHAPTER II

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON CANTONMENTS.

The Local Self Government Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on 7th. of August 1948, assembled to consider the question of approaching the Government with a view to appointing a Committee to go into the question of amending the Cantonments Act, 1924, and at the same time to consider the question of delimiting the areas of cantonments, passed the following Resolution:—

- (1) The Conference recognises that for reasons connected with security and health of the troops, the areas where troops are quartered, should be under the general control of the army Authorities.
- (2) The Conference recommends that the Central Government should, in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerned, appoint a Committee to examine the question of delimiting the areas of Cantonments and the desirability of amending the Cantonments Act."

In pursuance of this Resolution, Government under their letter No. 6/1/G/D-8(a)/49/394-G dated the 17th January 1949, appointed a Committee designated as "The Central Committee on Cantonments." Its personnel were-

- (1) Shri S. K. PATIL, M. P., Chairman,
- (2) Shri R. K. RAMDHYANI, I. C. S., Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Vice-Chairman,
- (3) Shri HARGOVIND PANT, Representing U. P. Government,
- (4) Lt. Genl. K. S. MASTER, Director General, Armed Forces Medical Service. (He retired and his place was taken up by Lt. Genl. D. R. THAPAR, C.I.E., O.B.E.)
- (5) Major Genl. S. B. S. CHIMNI, Quarter Master General,
- (6) Shri L. T. GHOLAP, I.C.S., Representing Bombay Government. (He was replaced by Shri D. S. JOSHI, I. C. S.,)
- (7) Shri A. L. FLETCHER, Representing Punjab Government, (He was replaced by Secretary, Local Government and Industries Department, by office),
- (8) Shri R. K. SIDHWA, Member, Constituent Assembly,

- (9) Shri RAMRAKHIANI, Under Secretary,
Ministry of Defence,
(10) Sardar RACHPAL SINGH, Director,
Military lands and Cantonments
(Secretary).

Following is the text of the letter under which this Committee was constituted:-

N. 6/1/G/D-8(a)49/394-G
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
NEW DELHI, 17th JANUARY 1949.

To:-

The General Officer Commanding-in Chief,
Eastern Command (50)
Southern Command (40)
Western Command (30)

**EXCISION OF CERTAIN CIVIL AREAS FROM
THE CANTONMENTS AND CONSEQUENT
DELIMITATION OF THE BOUNDARIES
THEREOF.**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the Resolution passed by the Conference of Local Government Ministers, convened by the Ministry of Health on the 7th August 1948. The Resolution recommends the appointment of a Committee to examine the question of delimiting the areas of Cantonments and the desirability of amending

the Cantonments Act. The need for re-examining the boundaries of Cantonments has already been felt and in the late Defence Department No. 489-R/D. 4 dated the 23rd May, 1938 (copy forwarded with Army H. Q. letter No. 41699/Q-3 (B) dated the 17th August 1948), instructions were issued to examine the question of excision of Bazar areas from Cantonment areas. This matter was, however; held in abeyance for the period of the war. The Government of India have now re-examined the question and have come to the conclusion that the boundaries of Cantonments should be re-examined with a view to separating the Cantonment from civil areas, which have little or no direct connection with the troops and establishments of the Armed Forces and to make such other adjustments in the boundary as may be suitable from the administrative, security and health points of view, the need for amending the Cantonments Act, 1924, in the light of the present circumstances also requires to be examined.

2. The Government of India considers that the most expeditious and convenient way of dealing with the question is by the appointment of primary committees, which will be able to examine the position of each Cantonment in detail in the first instance. The reports of these committees will be consolidated by the General Officer Comman-

ding-in-Chief, of the Command who will submit a report, which will cover all the Cantonments in the Command. A Central Committee will be appointed to review the position as a whole and to make final recommendations to the Government of India.

3. The Primary Committees will be composed as follows:-

- (1) Officer Commanding the Station, (Chairman).
- (2) Vice-President of the Cantonment Board (Non Official elected member).
- (3) Senior Executive Medical Officer (who is also Health Officer of the Cantonment).
- (4) Magistrate, Member of the Cantonment Board (as representative of the Provincial Government).

This committee will examine the position in respect of the Cantonment concerned and make recommendations for modification, if necessary and feasible, of the boundary of the Cantonment and will also make recommendations regarding any amendments considered appropriate in the

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Cantonments Act. In recommending the excision of Bazar Areas, if any, the committee should report in the manner specified in para 9 of the Government of India letter No. 489-R/D. 4 dated the 23rd. May 1938. The recommendations of the committee should be sent to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, of the Command within two months of the committee being set up.

The Recommendations of the Primary Committees will be examined by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, who will in particular ascertain the views of any Provincial Government interested, which is not represented in the Central Committee before submitting his report. The report of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief will cover all the Cantonments in the Command and will take into consideration the recommendations made by the local or Cantonment Committee. His recommendations may in addition to recommendations regarding the boundaries of the Cantonment and amendments considered necessary in the Cantonments Act report on such important General aspects as are relevant to the administration of Cantonments. The recommendations of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, will be forwarded through Army Headquarters to the Government of India within a month of the receipt of the recommendations of all the Primary Committees.

The recommendations of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief and the Local Committees will be examined by a Central Committee as follows:-

1. Mr. S. K. PATIL, Member, Standing Committee of Legislature (Chairman).
2. Mr. R. K. RAMDHYANI, Joint Secretary (A) Ministry of Defence (Vice-Chairman).
3. Quarter Master General (India).
4. D. G. Armed Forces Medical Service.
5. Mr. R. K. SIDHWA, Member, Constituent Assembly.
6. Representative of the Government of Bombay.
7. Representative of the Government of U. P.
8. Representative of the Government of East Punjab.
9. The Director, Military Lands and Cantonments, will act as Secretary to the Central Committee.

This Committee will make its final recommendations to Government and it will cover-

- (i) The recommendation of the boundaries of Cantonments,

- (ii) Amendments of the Cantonments Act,
- (iii) relevant General aspects.

Yours faithfully,

SD/- G. A. RAMRAKHIANI,

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The above letter gives us a background of the formation of these Committees and is a connecting link with the views taken by the late Defence Ministry in the year 1938. I will not reproduce the whole text of that letter, but will only quote paragraph 9, which is relevant and that reads thus:-

A report on each Cantonment should be prepared by the Deputy Director, Military Lands and Cantonments and should show-

1. Where excision is possible and is recommended-
 - (a) a Plan of the exact area recommended for excision,
 - (b) the civil population of the area to be excised,
 - (c) the civil population that will remain in the Cantonment,
 - (d) the character of the civil population in the Cantonment to be retained,

- (e) the existing and the proposed arrangements for water supply, lighting, education, markets, slaughter houses, hospitals, octroi, terminal tax etc., for the two areas,
 - (f) the financial effect of the excision and the apportionment of the receipts and expenditure between the area to be retained and the area to be excised, whether a grant-in-aid will be required for either area and if so, how much,
 - (g) details of Government buildings in the area to be excised and the immovable property belonging to the Board,
 - (h) recommendations for the disposal of Government land in the area to be excised.
2. If excision is not possible, the reasons and total civil population should be stated."

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These were the broad lines on which the late Ministry of Defence wanted to consider and examine the question of excision, delimitation and amendment to the Cantonments Act and the same principle was adopted by the present Defence Ministry with an improvement of appointment of Primary Committees for each Cantonment.

The Central Committee held its first meeting on the 14th May 1949 and thereafter a series of meetings in the course of over two years. In a preliminary manner, it first decided the following:-

1. Issue of departmental instructions for the preparation of electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise, pending amendment to the Cantonments Act in this respect; postponement of election to the Cantonment Boards, and extending their life by one year. These suggestions were considered by the Parliament and section 27 of the Act was amended whereby adult franchise was incorporated in the Act. By amending Section 15 of the Act, the Parliament extended the life of the Cantonment Boards, allowing them to function until the next general elections.

2. The Committee approved the questionnaires and issued them to-

- (a) the Commander-in-Chief,
- (b) the State Governments,
- (c) the General Officer Commanding-in-Chiefs of the Commands,

- (d) Officers Commanding the Stations
- (e) Cantonment Boards,
- (f) Municipalities, adjoining Cantonments,
- (g) Associations, and
- (h) persons interested in Cantonment administration.

It received about a thousand replies to this questionnaire and the reports of the Primary Committees formed the basis of material for its consideration. On the 3rd February 1951, the Chairman Shri S. K. PATIL, visited Poona and Kirkee with Quarter Master General.

3. After examining the materials before it, it decided to divide the Cantonments into three categories, for it thought that there are many Cantonments where excision was not possible. All such Cantonments in which large areas redundant to the requirements of the Army and which could be excised and formed into separate local body and were placed in category No.1. Such of the Cantonments, in which the civil area is not large enough to constitute a separate local body by itself, but could be merged in the adjoining Municipality, were included in Category No. II and the rest of the Cantonments in which the civil areas, by reason of their size or situation, are not covered by Categories I and II, were

placed in Category No. III and were decided to remain as at present to be administered under the Cantonments Act, 1924. Particulars in respect of each Cantonment in regard to their area, population, and position of the Bazar Area were also examined and their Categories determined, which are as follows:-

CATEGORY NO. I

Ambala

CATEGORY NO. II

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Agra | 2. Ahmedabad | 3. Ahmednagar |
| 4. Allahabad | 5. Benaras | 6. Belgaum |
| 7. Delhi | 8. Deolali | 9. Ferozepur |
| 10. Jhansi | 11. Kanpur | 12. Kirkee |
| 13. Landour | 14. Meerut | 15. Nainital |
| 16. Poona | 17. Sagar | |

CATEGORY No. III

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Almora | 2. Amritsar | 3. Aurangabad |
| 4. Bakloh | 5. Barrackpore | 6. Barielly |
| 7. Cannanore | 8. Chakrata | 9. Clement
Town |
| 10. Dagshai | 11. Dalhousie | 12. Dehra Dun |

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- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 13. Dinapore | 14. Faizabad | 15. Fatehgarh |
| 16. Jalapahar | 17. Jubbulpore | 18. Jullundur |
| 19. Jutog | 20. Kamptee | 21. Kasauli |
| 22. Khas Yol | 23. Landsdowne | 24. Lebong |
| 25. Lucknow | 26. Mathura | 27. Mhow |
| 28. Nasirabad | 29. Pachmari | 30. Ramgarh |
| 31. Ranikhet | 32. Roorkee | 33. St. Thomas
Mount cum
Pallavaram |
| 34. Secundrabad | 35. Shajanpur | 36. Shillong |
| 37. Subathu | 38. Wellington. | |

Having decided upon the allotment of the Cantonments to these Categories, the Committee left it to Government to set up such machinery, as they may deem fit for the purpose of excision or merger.

Poona Cantonment had raised a strong protest against any excision of its civil populated Area, for this purpose the local Association, then known as the Poona and Kirkee House Owners' Association, had specially invited the All India Cantonments Association to hold its annual conference here, which was held on 2nd and 3rd June 1951 under the presidentship of Mr. R.K.SIDHWA, Member, Constituent Assembly and the Central Committee on Cantonments. At this conference speeches were delivered in strong terms against excision and Resolutions passed, protesting against any such move.

The Central Committee then settled themselves to tackle the question of the amendment to the Cantonments Act, 1924. The main feature of the amendments suggested by Associations; Local bodies; State Governments and individuals were:-

- (1) Further democratization of civic administration in Cantonments,
- (2) Uniformity of procedure
Vis-A-Vis municipal laws,
- (3) Removal of the ambiguity in the construction of the various sections of the Act, and
- (4) Delegation of powers of Cantonment Boards to their Officers, in respect of functions of routine and of urgent nature.

All these suggestions were considered by the Committee in two sittings and made recommendations for the amendment of the Act, which are of very trifling a nature. No change in the constitution of the Boards is recommended. Recommendations have been made for the increase of powers of the Executive Officers in respect of purchase and contracts by raising the financial limites. Beyond this, the Committee has not made any such recommendation as would bring a radical reasonable or substantial change in the constitution or the administration of the Boards. The

Committee unanimously rejected the plea of the All India Cantonments' Association, for the provision of an elected majority on the Boards and an elected President. On this question the Committee was of the opinion, that Cantonments were Military Stations primarily and not Civil Towns. The Committee further says in rejecting the suggestions of the All India Cantonments' Association, that it has considered it desirable, that Cantonments should in fact maintain, as far as possible, in the forceable future their original characteristic of Military Stations. It also apprehended the fear of taking chances in transfer of the administration of Cantonment Boards to civil majorities and therefore did not think it possible to contemplate the change suggested by the Association. Thus the labour of over two years and the cost of considerable sum of money of the tax payer, resulted only in suggesting minor changes in the Act purely for administrative reasons and nothing more. At the time of writing, the amending Bill is before the House of People, having passed through the Council of States and the Select Committee, for its consideration and in course of time will become law. Thus the efforts for further municipalization of the Cantonment Boards did not materialise and the question will perhaps be shelved for another decade.

The above is in very brief the history of the administration of the Cantonment Boards.

CHAPTER III

LANDS IN POONA CANTONMENT

Before I enlighten my readers on the tenure of lands in Cantonments, I must give them in brief the historical aspect of Poona in general terms. Much of the discourse in this chapter is taken from the compendium of information compiled by Captain BENSON in the year 1883 in which it is revealed that the name "POONA" is derived from Sanskrit word "PUNYAPURA" which means CLEANSER, perhaps referring to the meeting of the three rivers in those days viz. Moola, Mutha and Nakzhari and then known as "TRIVENI SANGAM." Allauddin Khilji, the Muslim Emperor of Delhi first conquered this city in 1294 replacing the rule of Devagiri Yadow King Dynasty, which ruled the Deccan previously. The Fort of Sinhagad, then one of the greatest stronghold of the Marathas in the Deccan, fell to the Moguls in 1340. An independent Muslim rule of Bahamani Dynasty was established as the result of the Deccan Chiefs in the year 1346. An independent Muslim Dynasty ruled here for 150 years, and on its decline, the territories of Poona became subject to the Kings of Ahmednagar, which was then the chief power in the Deccan.

In 1649 Shivaji conquered the strong-hold of Sinhadgad and Purandhar from the Mussalmans and after twelve years, this founder of the Maratha Empire, surprisingly captured the city of Poona and established a Maratha rule. In 1674 Shivaji was crowned King at Raigad and on his death, his son succeeded him. A Mogul force from Ahmednagar under the leadership of Khan Jahan advanced on Poona in 1685, stormed and took the city, changing its name to "MOHIYABAD." once again a Muslim rule was established. After a lapse of twentyfive years, the Muslim King appointed an influential Maratha in the person of Balaji, as the Peshwa or Agent in Poona, to the Muslim Government. After him came his son Bajirao and then his grand son Balaji. Under these rules of Peshwas, the maratha Empire was once more established independently, with Poona as its recognised capital.

In 1756 Balaji Peshwa sought the British help against French aggression, which the English

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willingly gave finding it favourable for British trade, and a Treaty was drawn up.

In 1761, after the defeat of the Peshwa's Army at Panipat and still after two years of that event, Nizam Ali lead a force of Mogul Army and advanced to Poona, but, owing to inclement weather, had to return back to Aurangabad and the Peshwa was able to re-establish his Government.

In 1768 a British Envoy was appointed in Poona and after seven years, viz. in 1775, the Treaty of Purandhar was concluded between the Peshwas and the British. Thereafter dissensions arose in Poona, partly by French intrigue in Hyderabad and then in the year 1778, an English expedition was dispatched from Bombay but, due to mismanagement, it had to return back without achieving any of its objects, though they were only eighteen miles from Poona.

After the accession of the last of the Peshwas, BAJIRAO, there followed a period of great disturbances; extortion and cruelty, as a result of which in 1802, the City of Poona became a target of plunder, and the Peshwa was expelled. It was at this stage that General WELLESLEY, appeared on the scene and saved the City from destruction and restored the rule of the Peshwa.

It was in the year 1803, when the British captured the fort of Ahmednagar and the conquest of the surrounding places, that British Armies were placed at Ahmednagar, Poona and Sirur, and the supremacy of the British in the Deccan found ground. BAJIRAO in the year 1816, stirred up against the British and ultimately burst into war, which is known as the 'battle of Kirkee in 1817, The result was the routing of the Maratha Army and the flight of the Peshwa. The scene of battle then shifted to Koregaon in the following year, where Captain STAUNTON routed a Maratha force of 30,000 men thus giving BAJIRAO a second defeat. BAJIRAO, himself surrendering, and the Fort of Purandhar was captured by the British, where their Flag was for the first time hoisted on 16th. March 1818, after the surrender of the Fort of Sinhgad.

Having given the above discourse on the events, which my readers must have judged as to how the British came into picture and conquered this great City of historical events, on 17th. November 1817 and established their Cantonment here after the second battle with the Peshwa at Koregaon in 1818, which resulted in the complete overthrow of Peshwa. It was then that the entire contingent of the British Troop was brought here from Sirur.

I have already given in some details in Chapter

I, the establishment of the Cantonment of Poona, its boundaries and the mode of administration, as it shaped at various stages. I shall now deal with the Land tenure in the Cantonments.

TENURES OF LANDS

In the early days of the British occupancy, barrack accommodation not being available, the troops were placed in huts outside the towns and lived a camp life. It must be remembered that all towns were surrounded by waste land, utilized purely for pasturage of cattles kept within the walls of the towns. It was only after the Pindari war that Cantonments were established in Poona, Ahmednagar, Malegaon, Satara, Ahmedabad etc. These Cantonments were naturally established in Camp fashion and the Troops were located according to tactical or strategical necessities of the case. In Poona important lines of communications were guarded such as

- (a) by establishing a Regiment at Ghorpuri, to guard the line of communications between Poona and Ahmednagar, and
- (b) at Wanowrie, guarding the line to Sholapur and the Ghauts leading to Satara.

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Now all the land became the property of Government in two ways:—Firstly by RIGHT OF CONQUEST; and secondly by SALE TO GOVERNMENT. These lands were placed at the disposal of the Military Authorities with full powers of control and even legislation in respect of such lands. The Quarter Master General under the orders of the Commanding in Chief, allotted lands for occupation by Military Officers; by the Barracks for the Lines for the Native Troops, as also for Bazars, which were usually situated in a central place for the benefit of the Troops. Plots of grounds given to the Officers for constructing their quarters were built up with kutchha structures, practically of temporary nature.

The earliest trace of the nature of such occupancy that we find is in Government General Order of the 3rd July 1793. This Order, indicated that it was never the intention of Government to allow Houses of permanent nature and were not to be considered as civil buildings, as they actually formed part of the Cantonments and were subjected to Military Regulations and that no House could be transferred without the previous sanction of Government. At the same time all residents in Cantonment were subjected to Military Law. The civilians desiring to reside in the Cantonment and carry on trade, obtained their permission from the Commissariat Officer, who also granted them plots of land, within the limits of the space

allotted by the Quarter Master General for such purposes. Such permission given to the civilians to occupy land was subject to their ejection under the orders of the Commissariat or General Officer. Such powers were also vested in Commanding Officers.

After the promulgation of Regulation 1 of 1819 on the 15th. of April that year, the limits of the Cantonment were settled and sanctioned by the Governor in Council, but nowhere do we find any mention about tenure of ground. The entire area of the Cantonment was treated as Camp and with a view to further the trade and expand it within the limits, it was ordered that no ground rent should be levied from anyone who was permitted to settle himself in Military Bazar.

Certain irregularities having been committed by the Officers prior to 1827 in the sale of lands or Houses, Government issued an Order known as "Government General Order" No. 14 of 16th. January 1827, which was published. This Order was issued with a view to rectify the mistakes made, which reads as under:—

"The honourable the Governor in Council thinks it Necessary to Explain in General Orders that any Permission which officers, not provided with public Quarters, may

receive to erect houses on ground within the fortress or Military Cantonment confers on them no right of property whatsoever in the ground allotted to them for that purpose, which continues the property of the state, and resumable at the pleasure of Government.'

With a view to further impress upon the persons holding lands in cantonments, that the occupiers have no proprietary right in the ground given to them, Government at various stages issued similar Government General Orders. The second of such Order came on 22nd. August 1835.

Paragraph 5 of which reads:—

"It is to be understood that permission to occupy ground within the Limits of a Cantonment, Confers no Proprietary right on the occupant."

G. G. O. No. 260 of 7th. May 1838, is an additional Order issued to the effect:—

In all practicable cases, one month's notice of resumption will be given and the

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value of buildings which may have been erected thereon as estimated by a committee will be paid to the owner."

My readers must have noticed a complete change in this later G. G. O. from the first two issued These changes are—

- (a) One month's notice of resumption, in all practicable cases, to be given to the owner, and
- (b) payment of compensation for the buildings standing on the land as per the estimate of a Committee.

Thus the occupant acquired under this G. G. O. a right to claim one month's notice before his holding is resumed and secondly his claim for compensation, the estimate of which is to be determined by a Committee.

We now enter into another phase of the question. Government in the year 1855 published a separate General Order, which prohibited the sale of such lands, as the holder of the land had no proprietary right and that the said land continued to be the property of the State. Seven years later viz. in 1862 another G. G. O. No. 338 dated the 29th. March 1862 was issued, in which the following addition to the above G. G. O. was made with the sanction of Government. This reads as under:—

“But the right of occupancy of an allotment in the Sadar Bazar of a Cantonment may be sold where a fixed rate has been established by the Brigadier in conjunction with the Cantonment staff and approved by the Commander in Chief, it being clearly understood that it is only the occupancy that is to be sold, subject to the conditions specified in this paragraph, it being further understood that where more than one candidate comes forward for the same lot, that an auction will be held, and the right of occupancy knocked down to the highest bidder. in case of resumption of the ground the price paid for the right of occupancy will be repaid to the occupant.”

After the issue of this Order on 8th. July 1862, the commander-in-Chief, on the recommendation of the General Officer Commanding, Poona District Area, sanctioned a rate of Rs. 6/- for each 100 Sq. Ft. in the Sadar Bazar for building purposes. This rate was subsequently revised in August 1863 to Rs. 10/- and further increased to Rs. 20/- in March 1868 and finally on 18th. August 1871, this rate was further raised to Rs. 50/- per 100 Sq. Ft. for grounds granted in Main

Street (Now Mahatma Gandhi Road); Centre Street (Now Vallabhai Patel Street); Convent Street; West or Gutta Street; Taboot Street and all other grounds on the outskirts of Sadar Bazar were kept at Rs. 20/- per 100 Sq Ft. Rates for lands in Ghorpuri and Wanowrie were kept at Rs. 10/- per 100 Sq. Ft. But the records do not show, nor there are instances where this has been followed.

In 1867, Act III of 1867 was passed to make provision for the administration of Military Cantonnments in the Presidency of Bombay. In this Act, provision for framing of rules for regulating the use of Government lands within the Cantonnments by Private Persons was made, in particular as to the conditions under which Government may resume possession of such land, and under which compensation shall be paid to persons occupying or using the land so resumed.

But for reasons best known to the then Government, this question was not considered and no such rules were made. Under Clause 4 to 6 and 8 to 11 of Section 11 of the said Act III of

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1867, provision was made for the maintenance generally of the Cantonment, in a proper sanitary condition, which empowered the Cantonment Magistrate, with the sanction of the Cantonment Committee, to give notices, in writing, to the owners of any ruined House or Building within the Cantonment, and which in the opinion of the Committee, was objectionable on sanitary grounds, or causing obstruction or inconvenience to the public; to repair the same or to demolish it within a reasonable time, failing which, the Cantonment Magistrate was authorised to take possession of, and remove the same and clear the grounds. It also provided that upon such an action, the owner was to be paid compensation for the value of the property so removed, after deducting the cost of such removal. It also provided for payment of compensation for land and property taken possession of for public purposes. On this subject, there have been several conflicting opinions by leading lawyers. Solicitors to Government, Advocate Generals and even the Judges of the High Courts, as to whether compensation was to be paid or not, if the ground, over which the occupier has no proprietary right, was taken over for public purposes.

A dispute arose in the year 1869 regarding the ownership of the old Assembly Rooms in Poona,

which was later changed into Soldiers' Institute. This dispute pertained to the building only. In giving his opinion on this vexed question, Mr. HEARN, Solicitor to Government opined:

“Who were then the owners in this case? They were, in my opinion, the persons to whom the ground, on which the building stood, belonged i. e. to whom the right to occupy the ground belonged. Government cannot, in my judgement, go further than to the ground to find the owners of the building upon it. True it is that permission to occupy ground in a Military Cantonment confers no proprietary right, that is, such as belongs to an absolute owner. But so long as the permission to occupy the ground lasts, a clear proprietary RIGHT IN THE buildings upon it is recognised in the owner to whom Government pledge themselves to pay the value of all buildings erected thereon in the event of their resuming possession, and the owner is, in my opinion, the occupier, whose interest in the land, so long as his permission to occupy continues, I take to be very similar to that of a tenant under an ordinary lease. The Lease-Holder's interest is absolute under certain conditions until determined by effluxion of time or some other agreed event. The interest of the occupier of ground in a military Cantonment is absolute



Turf Club House Ball Room.



Scene of Mahatma Gandhi Road

under certain conditions until determined by one month's notice of resumption by Government. The rights of occupiers of grounds in Military Cantonments indeed, considered generally, are larger than those of Lease-Holders so considered, in as much as the former are, in all cases entitled at the determination of their tenancy to receive the value of the buildings thereon, whereas the lease-holder, except by special agreement in his lease, (which is unusual), is not so entitled."

Thereafter followed several rulings by the High Court, giving different opinions on the subject discussed above. Thus, my readers will realise that the tenure of lands in Military Cantonments were not governed by any statutory rules, but under the Government General Orders issued from time to time. Much of the information on this subject has been taken from the notes of tenure of lands in cantonments, by Brigadier-General ADAM, Quarter Master General, Bombay published in the year 1889.

In the year 1899, Government brought a Cantonment Code, known as "1899 Code", which was

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the first of its kind for regulating the tenure of lands in Military Cantonments. Under this Code, leases were offered to the public in perpetuity, in some cases upon payment of ground rent and in some cases free, in two forms. These forms were-

- (a) sites for public purpose; Railway Company; or for a Hospital, a School and;
- (b) for any other purpose, other than those mentioned in (a).

The procedure for obtaining sites under this Code took a different shape. The applicant was asked to put up an application indicating the location or the exact situation of the site; the purpose for which it was required; its area and the material to be used in the intended building. This application was to be accompanied by a site plan, showing the boundaries and all buildings intended to be built upon it. He was also required to give an approximate statement of intended outlay on the buildings and the rent he would charge, if rented to a tenant, and finally makes a declaration to the effect that in the event of his application being sanctioned he would execute a lease.

Such applications used to be verified and certified by Officers of no less a rank than of a Cantonment Magistrate and the Executive Engineer. The Executive Engineer was to verify and

certify whether the said plot of land, in his opinion, likely to be required for any public purpose or not. Thus after all these formalities were over, the final sanction remained with the Commanding Officer of the Cantonment or the General Officer of the Command.

From the above, it would be seen that the system of granting sites under different Government General Orders, either directly to a person intending to establish himself in the Military Cantonment Bazar, or putting such sites for public auctions, if there were more than one applicant, was changed. Now this Code of 1899 remained in force for nearly 13 years.

Then came the Cantonment Code of 1912 which made a few important changes in the grant of sites. The first type of grant remained the same. The second type was a form of lease for an indefinite period or term, but such grant was only given where the applicant applied for an extension of the original site held by him. Such grants were made with a view not to disturb the perpetuity of the old holding. The third type of lease was for a certain determined period of years.

Government having felt that their title to the lands was being frequently attacked in various High Courts and even in the Privy Council, (that famous Poona Cantonment case of K. A. Ghaswala

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vs. the Secretary of State, in which Ghaswala claimed that the ground on which his building stood, was his personal property, is a glaring example. Mr. Ghaswala ofcourse could not succeed in his claims,) introduced Cantonment Land Administration Rules in the year 1925. The salient features of these rules were that, they sought to seek all possible Military requirements and to prevent absolutely any further encroachment on Government rights. For this purpose, it provided a detailed procedure for the management of all Cantonment lands based upon classifications and complete record of every piece of land in the Cantonment. Certain lands were placed under the management of the Cantonment Authority as Agent, acting on behalf of the Government. It was also designed to safeguard the financial interests of the Government Funds, by leasing out lands on favourable terms to private persons and also to secure the benefit of the advice from the Civilian Officers of the Local Government.

Thereafter in the year 1937, under defence Department No. 874 dated the 20th. November

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1937, came the latest Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, to improve upon that of 1925. Under these Rules, the classifications of the lands were more clearly defined. But this, I must say, was a sensational revolution in the history of the lands policy of the Government, which I shall deal later on.

Under these Rules, such of the lands in the Cantonment, which is vested in the Crown, are divided by the Central Government into three classes, viz. Class "A" land, which is required or reserved for specific Military purposes, Class "B" land which is not so required nor reserved, but is retained for effective discharge of the duties of the Central Government in respect of Military administration; and class "C" land vested in the Cantonment Boards. I will now deal with each Class of these and other lands in the following paragraph.

CLASS "A" LAND-This class of land is divided into two sub-classes viz. CLASS "A" (1) which is actually used or occupied for the purpose of fortifications, barracks, stores, arsenals, aerodromes, bungalows for Military Officers (which are the property of Government), parade grounds, Military Recreation Grounds, rifle ranges, grass farms, dairy farms, brick fields, soldiers' and hospital gardens and all other official requirements of the Military Authorities.

CLASS "A" (2) LAND:—this class of land is reserved, though not actually used or occupied by the Military Authorities, to be allotted, or declared, to be desirable, by the Central Government in the interest of the discipline, health or the welfare of the Military Forces, or the safety or defence of the Cantonment and its inhabitants.

CLASS "B" LAND:—This class of land is divided into four categories—"B" (1), "B" (2), "B" (3) and "B" (4).

CLASS "B" (1) indicates the land which is actually occupied or used by any of the departments of the Central Government, other than the defence department, or by Railways.

CLASS "B" (2) is the land which is held or occupied or used or is under the control of the Provincial Government.

Class "B" (3) is the land which is held by any private person under the provisions of these land Administration Rules or is held under the provisions of the Cantonment Codes of either 1899 or 1912, or under any executive orders previously in force, (by this, it means the lands granted under the old Government General Orders, and commonly known as "OLD GRANTS"), subject to the proprietary rights of Government.

CLASS "B" (4) is the land not included in any of the foregoing sub-classes.

CLASS "C" land vests in the Cantonment Boards on which all places of public utility and purpose are put up by the Board, such as, Markets, Slaughter Houses, Manure and Night Soil Depots, Water Works, Sewers, Drainage, Culverts etc.etc.

Having described the classes of lands, I will now very briefly deal with the disposal of these lands. The disposal of lands is done in various ways, such as, by public auction; by private agreement; by special leases for the regularization of Old Grants (this does not confer on the holder any new land, but is a lease meant for regularizing the old holding, upon payment of a nominal sum of Rs. 5/- and entering into a perpetual lease) Such leases are granted by the Military Estates Officer, upon application, without any reference to the higher authorities, as is laid down in Rule 27 of these Rules; by leases for specific periods on special terms etc. But the most mischievous type of lease is that under Schedule VIII. This Schedule provides for a lease of a site for a period of Thirty years in the first instance, renewable at the option of the lessee upto Ninety years. Such a lease, as in all other cases, gives the lessee the right of

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occupancy only on payment of premium, (which varies according to the locality or the situation of the site and its area) and rent charged according to the Standard Table of Rents prepared by the Military Estates Officer, in consultation with the Collector of the District.

After the applicant has paid the requisite amount of premium and rent, he is given a lease for a period of thirty years, at the close of which period, the lessee expresses his desire to exercise the right of option and asks for the renewal of the lease for a further period of thirty years. He is then called upon to pay an enhanced rent by fifty percent over the original rent. After this is agreed and done, the lessee continues in the occupation of the land for another thirty years. This period being over, he seeks further and final renewal of his lease. which is granted under similar conditions. Finally at the close of the period of ninety years, the lease terminates in very peculiar manner. The lessee not only surrenders the land, but also hands over the buildings standing thereon in a fit state of repairs to Government, without any compensation. This is regarded as most unjust, unfair, unbusinesslike and beyond any canon of fair play.

The above rule does not only apply to new sites granted, but to cases also where an exten-

ion to the original site is asked for; it also applies in cases where the building is to be demolished and rebuilt; or an additional building is to be put up. The following illustration will show the consequences of such a lease:-

First the rent is determined. Say for instance, it is fixed at Rs. 100/- per annum. Then the premium or the valuation of the land is determined, which varies, as there are no fixed rules or rates laid down. It may be five times; ten times or even twenty times. I will for the purpose of this illustration take up the last one, twenty times, which brings the figure of premium to Rs. 2000/- The lessee pays this premium of Rs. 2000/- and Rs. 100/-, annual ground rent, making a sum total of Rs. 5000/- in the first instance for a thirty years lease. At the close of this period, he renews his lease and his rent is increased by fifty per cent viz. Rs. 150/- per annum. he then pays Government during the second period of thirty years a sum of Rs. 4,500/- thus the total sum paid by him amounts to Rs. 9,500/- The second period of lease being over, he renews the same for the final period, when again his rent is increased by fifty per cent viz. Rs. 225/- per annum. Thus again during this final and last period he pays Rs. 6,750/-, making a total of Rs. 16,200/- which amount the lessee has paid to Government for merely occupying the land for a period of

ninety years to be surrendered at the close of that period, along with the building or buildings which may amount to thousands or lacs.

During the recent years, there have been strong protests against such a policy. Memorandums and Resolutions have been submitted to Government requesting them to revise and settle its land policy in Cantonments to the satisfaction of both the Government and the occupiers.

This in brief is the history of tenure of land in Cantonments and it is sincerely hoped that Government will once for all settle this ticklish problem.

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CHAPTER IV

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION

As the Cantonment Magistrate was all in all in the Cantonment, as an Administrator, naturally all public Institutions, such as Jail, Police Chawls; Dispensary; Hospital; Market; Burial Ground; Gibbet (hanging place) etc., were all located within the limits of the Cantonment.

The Police line or the Sepoys Chawls were scattered in three places, Sachapir Street; West Street (now Sk. Jan Mohomed Street) and behind the present Cantonment Store Yard. Of these two were demolished and one has been converted to house the Cantonment sweepers. If one were to look at these quarters, he will find that how miserably our Policemen in those days were quartered.

The old Jail was situated at the place where the present Albert Edward Institute stands on Sir Ebrahim Jaffer Road. The old reminances of that old jail, still remains at the rear side of the compound of this Institute in the shape of its old walls which now form a compound of the Institute. The Gibbet (Hanging Place) was located where at present St. Vincent's High School stands.

In 1886, the present Connaught Market was constructed at the site then known as "Stafford Square", to meet the demand for the increased trade. Another Market, to accommodate the influx of the Refugees from Pakistan, for their trade, was built in 1949 and named as "MAGAN-BHAI PATEL MARKET", just opposite to the Connaught Market.

Towards medical relief came the generous donation of Rs. 9,000/- in the year 1893 from the late Sir D. M. PETIT, the first Baronet, and a Dispensary was built in that year and named as "Sir D. M. PETIT DISPENSARY". In 1900 a small Hospital was provided near Modikhana (New) which remained there till 1913, when a decent Hospital was constructed on Satara Road, which is now known as "Cantonment General Hospital." In 1928, a Maternity section was added to it. In the same year Khan Bahadur MANEKJEE N. MEHTA (now a Knight) gave the Hospital two wings, one for the Out-Patients and another for T. B. cases, in memory of his late son Mr. NAVAL MEHTA. The T. B. Section at a later

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stage was discontinued. Khan Bahadur SK. JAN MOHOMED and the Jain Community gave three additional Maternity Blocks to the Hospital. As the number of Out-Patients increased, an additional Out-Patients' Establishment was provided by the Cantonment Board and was opened on the 28th. of July 1953 by Mrs. SHRINAGESH, the wife of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, the Command.

There being no arrangements for the treatment of Infectious Diseases cases in this Hospital, the Cantonment Board has entered into an agreement with the management of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Poona, for treating patients from this Cantonment area, upon payment of its share of expenditure on percentage basis. This Hospital is situated on Kennedy Road, next to Raja Bahadur Poona Mills Ltd., and is managed by the City Corporation, assisted by a Committee of Management.

The Cantonment Slaughter House was originally located, with the consent of the Collector of Poona, in the year 1847, near the old Commissariat Cattle Pound, now New Modikhana and remained there till the present one was built on Kondwa Road, beyond the Bakri Hills, in 1868. After the partition when the influx of Sikh Refugees came to Poona. a separate Section was

reserved for slaughtering "*Jhatka*", This arrangement was not there previously. The City Corporation of Poona also takes advantage of this Slaughter House.

The Poona Arsenal was built in the year 1822 on Lothian Road.

In 1873. the villages of Ghorpuri and Wanowrie were placed under the Cantonment Magistrate, for sanitary purposes.

The Poona Club originally stood on the land within this Cantonment but in the year 1890, this portion of the land was excluded from the Cantonment limits.

The first Cemetery that was established in this Cantonment was in the year 1823 and was in use till 1846 and is situated behind the Tayabiya Orphanage on Sir Ebrahim Jaffer Road. Another Cemetery that we find is on Satara Road, which dates 1845. There is yet one more at Ghorpuri dating from the year 1864. All these are not in use for a number of years. The one that is in use now is situated on Poona-Sholapur Road near Hadapsar and dates back to the year 1881. It will be of some interest to know that several of the French Officers are buried in this Cantonment. One grave in Ghorpuri points out the date as 1817. Although, there are several such graves scattered both in Ghorpuri

and on Satara Road, the earliest date we find is in Ghorpuri, as stated above.

SCINDIA'S CHATRI

One of the interesting land mark in this Cantonment, is the "SCINDIA'S CHATRI", at wanowrie. Mahadaji Scindia, who for nearly thirty-five years was a most powerful and influential of the Maratha Chiefs, died in his Palace at Wanowrie on 12th. February 1794 and was cremated on this spot. Construction of a Mausoleum on this spot was taken in hand by his great grandson Jankoji Scindia in about 1830, but owing to the Civil Wars amongst the Marathas, it was left unfinished and its beautiful plinth was hidden away in debris. The present magnificent "CHATRI" was constructed by the late Maharaja Mahadavrao Scindia with a view to perpetuate the memory of his ancestor, on the same plinth in 1910. The Architects of this beautiful monument were the firm of Shapurjee N. Chandabhoy of Bombay. The old palace of the Scindias is just opposite to it in ruinous

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state and the present site where the modern palace now stands, was granted to the Maharaja in lieu of the old palace site.

WATER TUNNELS AND ACQUADUCTS

My readers who are old residents of Poona or who have the geographical knowledge of this cantonment, must be aware that there are two tunnels and two aquaducts running through this cantonment. One of the two tunnels runs through the compound of the Widows Home on Sholapur Road and carries canal water to Poona Cantonment Water Works and the other takes water from the Water Works, to the Empress Gardens. The two aquaducts are not generally known to the residents of this cantonment. One of these carries water from a well far away from Kondwa to Rasta's Wada in City and the other runs through Bhawani Peth further down in the city into Chowdhry's Wada.

GHASIRAM'S TANK

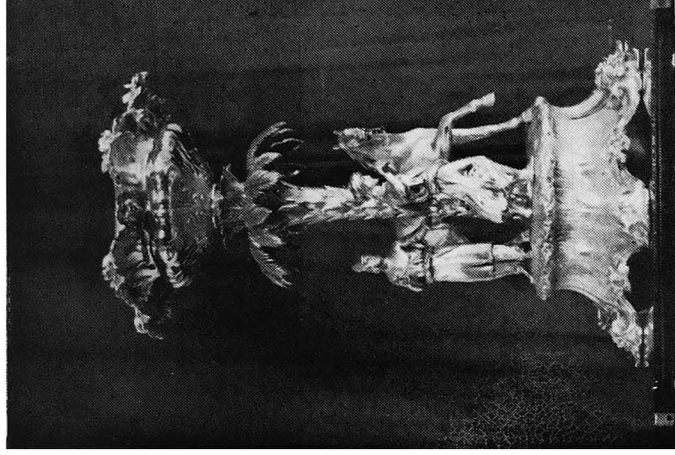
Among the ancient and old places of interest in this cantonment, is the Ghasiram's Tank, which is of some importance from the historical point of view. One Ghasiram, a Kanaujia Brahmin, adventurer from Aurangabad, was in charge of the Police Force of the Peshwas. Nana Fadnavis was the Principal Minister of the Peshwas and

weilded much influence in the court of the Peshwas. Ghasiram had a beautiful daughter by name LALITAGAURI, who came in contact with Nana Fadnavis and as a result of this influence of the daughter over Nana Fadnavis, Ghasiram came into power. However, that is besides the point. Ghasiram having gained power became a terror and caused the death of 21 Telagu Brahmins. who were from the Deccan, by confining them in a small room for the simple reason that they were found loitering on the streets after the curfew gun had been fired at 11 P. M.

Ghasiram had built up a tank just facing the St. Mary's Church on Staveley Road and adjoining the R. I. A. S. C. Bakery on Sholapur Road. It was a beautiful tank in those days, but now has been dried up. To the west of this tank, Ghasiram had built a Temple, his residence and a garden. This is just behind the R.I.A.S.C. Bakery on Sholapur Road. It was here that these Telagu Brahmins were murdered in a brutal manner in a room, which can safely be called the "BLACK HOLE OF POONA." A remnant of this building still remains till to-day, near the R. I. A. S. C. Bakery. The murdering of these Telagu Brahmins by Ghasiram naturally infuriated the Brahmins here against Ghasiram, who was chased from the City of Poona to this Temple and was stoned to death, killing him most mercilessly.



Mirza Alimohamed Khan Cup



Abdul Wahab Ben Tummer Cup

CHURCHES IN CANTONMENT

The Garrison Church, which is known as St. Mary's Church on Staveley Road, is the oldest Church in Poona Cantonment. The site on which it stands, was originally that of the Temple of Mahadev and was built by Lieut. NASH of the East India Company. Its foundations was laid in 1821 and consecrated by Bishop HEBER in 1825. It can accommodate a Thousand worshippers and was meant both for the Army and the Civilians. Its Organ reached Poona somewhere in the year 1869. The Bell in the tower replaced the original one and the present one was brought from a Church in Kaira.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (Roman Catholic) on Prince of Wales Drive, next to the Empress Gardens, was opened for public worship on 8th December 1850 by Rev. PATRICK SAHAN, S. J. and was blessed by the Right Reverend A. HARTMAN, Bishop of Bombay, in the year 1885. The first Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Poona was enthroned in this Church on the 6th of March 1885. his name was Right Rev. B. BEIDER LINDEN, S. J. He died in the year 1907.

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This Church can accommodate a Thousand worshippers.

There is an historical event connected with this Church, and that is, it has a historical bell in its belfry. The Church records reveal that this bell was an old Portuguese Church bell from Margao and a close inspection of the bell shows that it bears the year 1686 engraved on it. This bell was traced by Mr. J. C. LANGHNAN, District Judge of Dharwar as being kept in a Hindu Temple at Nargoond. It will be recalled that some of the territories of Goa, including Margao were invaded by the Marathas and this bell was taken away from one of the Churches as a booty in the 17th Century. Mr. LANGHNAN, who was transferred to Poona exerted himself to restore this bell to a Catholic Church, succeeded in removing the same from the Hindu temple of Nargoond and placed it in St. Patrick's Church in the year 1858.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIERS CHURCH—In the year 1860, Government granted a site for the building of a Church in the Sadar Bazar for the benefit of the Catholics living in the civil areas of the Cantonment. The site is the same on which the Church now stands on St. Vincent's Street. It has a seating accommodation of 300 and was opened in the year 1873.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (Church of Scot-

land) This Church was purely meant for the Army belonging to the Church of Scotland and is situated on Sholapur Road, near the Poona Cantonment Water Works. It is distinguished by a St. ANDREW'S Cross on the top of the Belfry. The original Church building was constructed in the year 1861, but was found to be too small to accommodate a large congregation. When the Scot Regiment was stationed in Poona, it was pulled down and the present building was constructed in 1895, It has a seating accommodation for 800.

SCHOOLS

There are Twenty-three Primary Schools in this Cantonment, recognised by the Educational Department of the State Government of Bombay and aided by the Cantonment Board. These Schools cater for all classes of children and teach different languages, such as, Marathi, Gujrathi, Urdu, Tamil, Hindi etc., and no less than 5,557 children take advantage of these Schools. It is, however, regretted that the State Government has not extended the provision of Free and Compulsary Education Act within the Cantonment, with the result that many school going age children, could not take their education.

Besides, these Primary Schools, there are not less than Twelve High Schools, Seven for Boys

and Five for the Girls. Of these, the very oldest Schools, are the following:-

(1) THE BISHOP'S HIGH SCHOOL- This School was founded in the year 1864 (date and month unfortunately could not be traced), by General MANSFIELD and Bishop HARDING, and opened with 15 pupils only. It was housed in the very present building, 5-A Staveley Road, where the Principal himself stayed in a portion and still used as residence of the Head Master. There were no other buildings attached to this property. Later on, as the School developed and progressed, additional buildings were added with the help of Government and the savings made by the School itself. As the School still grew up by degrees, there came a munificent contribution of an additional building from Sir NES. WADIA. The School is controlled by a School Committee of which the Lord Bishop of Bombay is the Chair man. It is run on the best acknowledged traditions of the English Public Schools and chiefly works towards the Cambridge School Certificate, and Character building activities through games and

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sports which forms a main part of the School's aims. There are, at the time of writing, 333 boys, 112 Boarders and 221 Day Scholars.

(2) ST. VINCENT de PAUL'S HIGHSCHOOL
It was on the 6th April 1867 that Father JOSEPH BRUNNER and Father Mac-DONOUGH came to Poona under the orders of Bishop LEO MEURIN S. J., to open a School in Poona for Boys. Three days later, on the 9th of April that year, a School was started with a strength of 5 pupils in a rented Bungalow, then belonging to one Mr. CHARLES COOK, on rent.

Within three months of its establishment, the strength of the School rose to 150 scholars, mostly Catholic Goans. In December of the same year, the property of Mr. CHARLES COOK was purchased by Bishop MEURIN. Additional buildings were put up by Brothers JOHN MULLER and HERMAN LAU. As the St. Vincent de Paul's Society had originally initiated the move for such a School and had also contributed some sums of money, the School was named as "St. VINCENT'S". It was registered for grant-in-aid by Government in the year 1868, to be precise, in the month of October, as a Primary English Teaching School. In 1875 its status was raised to that of a High School. After some minor additions to the building, in

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the year 1882 an Upper storey was raised under Father NUCKEL. The Fathers' Bungalow, which was in a dilapidated condition, was pulled down, after its roof had collapsed and nearly killed Father F. X. GALLATI, and in April 1909, the adjoining piece of ground was purchased on which a new solid structure was put up to house the staff of the school, by Father A. BRUDER under the supervision of Brother JOSEPH HAEGELE and occupied in the year 1910.

In 1920 further extension as per the original design was taken in hand and it was on the 12th. December 1920, that the Honourable Mr. J. G. COVERTON, the Director of Public Instruction, laid its foundation. This extension it seems cost the School over one Lac of Rupees and was formally declared open by His Excellency Sir GEORGE LLOYD, the Governor of Bombay, on 19th. July 1921.

Bungalow known as "LAVINA HALL" in the same vicinity was purchased for a Hostel in March that year. The Play Ground to the West of manik Nallah was acquired in 1923. Later on more additional and commodious buildings were erected to meet the growing demand.

(3) SARDAR HOSHANG BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL - This useful Institution was founded

by the late Khan Bahadur MEHER HOSHANG DASTUR and was housed in No. 2 Lotlian Road, which property was purchased out of the generous charities and contributions of the local Parsee Community and was formally opened on the 1st. of January 1912. to perpetuate the memory of the late SHAMSHUL-ULEMA, Sardar Khan Bahadur Dr. DASTUR HOSHANG JAMASP, Ph. D., C. I. E. The School now caters for nearly 300 Boys, and has its own Play Ground. Wadia and Tata Trusts helped the School in adding additional buildings and Mr. SHAWAKSHAW ADENWALA contributed a fully equipped Gymnasium Hall.

(4) DASTUR NOSHERWAN GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL - This School was opened in memory of the late Sardar Khan Bahadur DASTUR NOSHERWAN JAMASP, the then High Preist of the Parsees, who died in the year 1884. The name of Sir JAMSHEDJEE JEEJEEBHOY C. S. I., the second Baronet is closely connected with the establishment of this School. THE "BAI BEHMANBAI BUILDING" was donated to the School by the late Sardar Khan Bahadur Dr. DASTUR HOSHANG in memory of his sister, who died in December 1894. The School is a progressive one and teaches all the arts needed for the knowledge of girls.

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(5) CONVENT OF JESUS AND MARY -

This is an ancient Institution having been founded in 1863 and the buildings built out of public subscription collected from every class of people. This School has three separate Sections:-

- (a) St. Joshep's Boarding School;
- (b) St. Francis Xavier's Day School,
- (c) St. Anne's Day School.

(6) HUTCHINGS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL-

Established in 1879, it was named as Taylor High School and was a mixed School both for Boys and Girls. In 1879 this arrangement was changed and separate sections for boys and girls were opened. In 1888 an Anglo Indian Home was founded, but was amalgamated with the Taylor High School in 1914. The Girls School was named as Hutchings High School after the name of Mrs. E. H. HUTCHINGS, who served as its Principal until the year 1930 right from 1914. In 1896 the present premises were purchased on Phayre Road and gradually expanded and improved. The latest addition being the Nursery School. It caters for 180 Students.

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(7) MOLEDINA ANGLO URDU HIGH SCHOOL—Originally this Institution was a Primary School known as Abdul Wahed School, over a century old. The author of this Book took its charge in 1927 and soon developed it into a High School, retaining the old Primary School as well. It caters for nearly Two Hundred and Fifty Boys of all Communities, with a well trained staff. The generous and charitable minded heirs of the late Mr. RAMJOO MOOSA of R. Moosa and Sons, (ABDUL RAHIM & ABDUL LATIFF) added a fully equipped Commercial School in memory of their late Father, who died at Mecca in the year 1951, when on visit for pilgrimage. (May his soul rest in peace).

(8) ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL—This is another oldest School in the Cantonment catering for the educational needs of the girls. It was founded in the year 1866 as a small Day School and was run under the auspices of the Army Authorities and was housed in a small building at Wanowrie. In the year 1871-72, the Archdeacon STEAD, representing the Diocese of Bombay, financed the School and the present building—where the School is located, was purchased, on Staveley Road. Till the year 1878, it continued to function, under Army supervision when, as a temporary measure, it was placed in charge

of the Community of St. Mary the Virgin, at Wantage, England. But, though the arrangement was a temporary one, it has ever since continued. In 1942 the School opened a Nursery School. Its Training College acquired its independent existence in 1903. The School is under the management of a Committee with the Lord Bishop of Bombay as Chairman. In 1878, the average attendance was 96 girls and now in 1953 it is 430.

THE ALBERT EDWARD INSTITUTE AND

THE CAWASJEE HALL & LIBRARY .

It was in the year 1873 that the citizens of this cantonment assembled to consider the question of commemorating in some suitable manner, the visit in the year 1872 to this City of His Royal Highness Prince ALBERT EDWARD, who was the first member of the British Royalty and the heir to the throne, to visit India, after the advent of the British Rule. Several suggestions were put forth, chief being-

- (1) erection of a Clock Tower, or
- (2) providing a Dispensary, or
- (3) opening of a Museum and so on.

But finally it was decided to have a public Library in the Cantonment, as the one in the City, which

was established in the year 1848, was too far away from this Cantonment. Subscriptions, on voluntary basis, were collected and finally in 1874 the Committee set itself to finalize the opening of this Institute, which was decided to be named as "THE ALBERT EDWARD INSTITUTE". In 1875 in a very modest way, the opening ceremony of this beneficial Institution was performed. There are no records to show as to where this Institute was originally located and opened. But when we come to the year 1878 we find that the present site, where the Institute is located, was granted by the Military Authorities, free of cost. This site as my readers, will remember, I have mentioned in the foregoing chapters, was a Jail. The new building was completed in 1881, and on the 12th October of that year, was formally opened by the Governor of Bombay, Sir JAMES FERGUSSON. An influential Committee of Trustees was appointed with Sardar DORABJI PUDUMJI, as its Chairman.

Members of this Institute having begun to grow in strength, it was felt necessary to expand the

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existing building as also the Library. In 1900, Mr. CAWASJEE DINSHAW, a philanthropist businessman of Aden, visited Poona and generously promised to donate an addition to the existing building and also to transfer his Library from Bombay. Unfortunately this generous and philanthropic gentleman died in that very year, but his four sons abiding by the wishes of their late father, gifted to the Institute an additional building and a full Library under a regular Trust Deed. The CAWASJEE DINSHAW HALL and Library are therefore named after that generous donor and is a boon to the citizens of this cantonment.

GARDENS IN THE CANTONMENT

There are in all three gardens in this cantonment, two of these are maintained by the Cantonment Board and the third, the "Empress Garden", is managed by the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India, to whom the Poona Cantonment Board pays an annual grant-in-aid. The two Gardens maintained by the Board are—

(1) JAMSHEDJEE JEEJEEBHOY GARDEN—situated behind the West-End Cinema on Booty Street. This Garden was laid out at the same time as the Jeejeebhoy Bund was erected near the Bund Garden. It has a very large fountain which was built for storing drinking water pumped from the Jeejeebhoy Bund. It was from here that water was distributed in parts of the cantonment.

(2) CANTONMENT PUBLIC GARDEN—On the junction of Sachapir Street and Sir Ebrahim Jaffer Road, was laid out on a plot of land given to the Cantonment Authority by a generous citizen and lover of Gardens and plants. Later on, the Cantonment Board leased out a portion of land out of this Garden to the late Khan Bahadur M. H. DASTUR, for building shops, facing Sachapir Street and though the work had already begun, the lease had to be cancelled, as the land given was for a specific purpose. Khan Bahadur Dastur had to be compensated by the Cantonment Board. This Garden also has a cistern, where water used to be pumped from Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Bund and distributed for drinking purposes.

(3) THE EMPRESS GARDEN—Popularly known as “ Soldiers’ Garden ”, was originally the property of one Sardar VITHALRAO PURANDHARE and General FINJER managed it. In 1838 Government acquired it. In 1845 it came in occupation of Sir CHARLES NAPIER and was in possession of General Officer Commanding, Poona Division and was known as “ Garden of Dr. DON.” When Queen VICTORIA acquired the title of “Empress of India ” this Garden was named as “ Empress Garden ”, but as I have already said, it is popularly known as “ Soldiers’ Garden”, for the reason that the British Soldiers frequented it for recreation.



Empress Garden



The Canal

No history of this garden is available between the year 1845 and 1892 and how and when it came in the hands of the Bombay Government, who in 1892 transferred it to the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India, one of the oldest Society of its kind in this country, having been established in the year 1830. The present President of the Society is SIR CHINTMAN D. DESHMUKH, C. I. E., Finance Minister to the Government of India. The total approximate area of this garden is Fifty-nine acres and the chief produce of the Garden are Mangoes, Tamarind and cut flowers. Mr. B. V. BHAGWAT, is its energetic Superintendent.

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CHAPTER V

WATER SUPPLY

Originally and, even before the reign of the Peshwas, not only this cantonment, but the entire city of Poona, was dependent on a number of wells as well as the river Mutha for its supply of water. This system was not regarded satisfactory. It was during the regime of the Peshwas that four different water-works of masonry Acqeducts were constructed. These were—

- (1) Katraj Acqeduct
- (2) Nana Fadnavis Acqeduct
- (3) Rasta Acqeduct, and
- (4) Chowdhry Acqeduct.

In spite of these four acqeducts making a supply of nearly 8,50,000 gallons per day, a large population had to depend on river for water. During the month of February naturally, the stream ceases to flow and hence people dug pits in river beds where water stagnated and the supply was drawn from such pits. This was not only injurious to health, but caused epidemics. The question of supply of water to cantonment areas was still difficult, it being on a

higher level and even the wells did not prove successful.

With a view to having a never-failing supply of pure water to this cantonment, the Jamshedjee Bund was constructed over the two rivers Moola and Mutha, near the Bund Garden. The work was started in the year 1844 and completed in 1850, at a cost of Rs. 2,57,499-0-0, of which Sir JAMSHEDJEE JEEJEEBHOY, the first Baronet, himself contributed a sum of Rs. 1,73,050-0-0. Water from this Bund used to be pumped into reservoirs constructed in the cantonment for the use of its population, both Civil and Military. The fountains and cisterns both at the JEEJEEBHOY Garden and the Cantonment Garden, are still the remembrances of those reservoirs. A cistern, known as Malcolm Tank, named after Sir JOHN MALCOIM, to whom BAJIRAO surrendered after his defeat at Koregaon, was another source of drawing water from this Bund. This cistern was commonly known as "CHAR BOWRY", or four wells, behind the shrine of HAZRAT BABAJAN,

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on Sk. Jan Mohomed Street. These cisterns were, for sanitary and hygienic reasons, filled up and a decent fountain was constructed, which remained for some years and later on removed behind the shrine of HAZRAT BABAJAN.

Later on, it was felt that all these sources of drawing water was still not satisfactory, in view of the growing population of both civil and military areas of Poona, from health point of view, Government therefore appointed Lieutenant Colonel FIFE, in 1860, the Superintending Engineer, for Irrigation, on special duty, to improve the water supply of Poona. Colonel FIFE, selected a site just upstream of the river Mutha near the village of KHADAKWASLA. The work was commenced in 1869 and in 1879 completed the construction of a lake which was named as "LAKE FIFE", eleven miles from Poona. This lake supplies water to four important water-works, which are the City Water-Works; Poona Cantonment Water Works; Kirkee Water Works and the High Explosive Water-Works, by means of canals and pipes. The Poona Cantonment Water-Works is eighty years old and was completed in or about the years 1875, the principal designer being Colonel FIFE himself, and is regarded as the second best in the East. Prior to 1875, the water supply arrangement

included a water wheel, which furnished the motive power. It was 16' in diameter and 13' wide and stood in the bed of the Canal. Due to initial working of this wheel and its memory, this water-works is still known to many as "Punkha". In 1914, it was found that water borne disease was on the increase. Government ordered an investigation into the cause of such a disease, which resulted in the introduction of an effective method of filtration and in 1916, Paterson Rapid Filters were installed, which is supplying sterilized water ever since. Much of the other improvements were carried out by Mr. R. A. COLLECT, C. I. E., Consulting Public Health Engineer to Government, now retired. This water-works is under the control of Mr. S. E. WADIA, Public Health Engineer and is supervised by Mr. M. V. BOPARDIKAR. The average consumption of water from this water-works is seven million gallons per day.

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CHAPTER VI

STREET LIGHTING

The lighting of streets, prior to the establishment of this Cantonment, was in vogue, and only kerosene lamps were in use and the same practice continued for a number of years. At a later stage after the establishment of the Cantonment, the lighting system was to some extent improved, by the introduction of Washington Lights at important Centres and Cross Roads.

It was in May 1890 that Lt. Col. NEWANHAM SMITH, the then Secretary, Cantonment Committee, thought of electrifying this Cantonment. He selected a few important roads, such as Main Street (now Mahatma Gandhi Road), Centre Street (now Vallabhai Patel Street) a portion of the cross road then known as Malcolm Tank Road (now Rao Saheb Kedari Road). It was the scheme of Col. NEWANHAM-SMITH, that if the experiment on these roads proved successful, this lighting arrangement would be extended to the whole of the Sadar Bazar and the Station Area and consequently House to House lighting, if financially possible. Much correspondence followed between Lt. Col. NEWANHAM-SMITH and one Mr. W. W. BIDDULPH, an expert in matters

electrical, and the Assistant Adjutant General, Poona District, and after all these correspondence, the scheme of electric lighting was placed before the Cantonment Committee for its consideration on the 14th of October 1890. The records show that this proposal was given the best of the Committee's consideration, which referred this question to a Sub-committee for further consideration, elucidation and its recommendations. Major W. H. DUPRIER of the Royal Engineers, was appointed its Chairman. Mr. BUDDULPH submitted the proposals of Messrs. WOODHOUSE & RAWSON, electrical Engineers of England, which laid down the following conditions.

- (1) 40 Years monopoly for given area, to be divided into compulsory or optional;
- (2) at the end of 40 years, purchase to be carried out by the authorities at the market value of the plant, as a going concern, plus good-will based on the profits of the past working period;
- (3) the Cantonment Committee to obtain $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. of the capital required from local resources;
- (4) customers to guarantee at least three years rental;

- (5) the capital necessary for the lighting, including engine, boilers and all necessaries, may be taken at about five lacs per 16 c. p. lamp.

This proposal of Messrs. WOODHOUSE & RAWSON appears, not to have found favour with the Committee, as it was then opined that electricity was not considered as a paying business, even in England. This subject was therefore shelved.

It appears that in 1907, Messrs. KILLICK NICKSON & CO., applied for a licence. Cantonment Committee considered this application and was at first against granting of any licence. but then agreed on condition that within two years, the Company would supply electric energy within certain compulsory areas, for public use. Those areas were Lothian Road, Arsenal Road (now Moledina Road), Elphinstone Road, East Street (now Sir Ebrahim Jaffer Road), Main Street (now Mahatma Gandhi Road), Centre Street (now Vallabbhai Patel Street) and Sachapir Street.

Nothing appears to have been done nor the scheme materialised, until the year 1913. when

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another move in this direction was made by Messrs. CROMPTON & CO., LTD., Bombay, who in their letter dated the 31st. March 1913, suggested that as they were applying to the Government of India for a licence to supply electric energy to Poona City, they would be willing to extend their supply to the Cantonment as well but the Cantonment Committee did not agree to the proposal of giving supply of electricity for LIGHTING PURPOSES ONLY. My readers will mark that the later portion of the Committee's resolution was quite vague, and none would understand the clear meaning of the words "*for lighting purposes only.*"

In spite of the refusal of the Cantonment Committee, Messrs. CROMPTON & CO., obtained a licence under, the Electricity Act, 1910, including the area of the Cantonment as well. After the grant of this licence, the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, addressed a letter to the General Officer Commanding (6th Poona Division), on the 5th. September, 1914 seeking clarification of the wording of the resolution of the Cantonment Committee, as stated above, viz. "*for lighting purposes only.*"

Much correspondence on the subject then followed and finally electricity came to this

cantonment in 1918 when planting of poles along the road sides commenced. Originally a very few roads were taken in hand, such as Mahatma Gandhi Road; Vallabbhai Patel Street; Sir Ebrahim Jaffer Road; Moledina Road; etc., and gradually extended to other parts of the cantonment. In May 1920, the then Cantonment Magistrate (Secretay, Cantonment Committee), applied to Messrs. CROMPTON & CO., for electrical lights in cantonment, after the poles had been laid out and the street lighting was finally switched on in the year 1921.

In the year 1934 Messrs. CROMPTON & CO. LTD., changed hands with Messrs. THE POONA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD. At present there are total number of 1602 lights in the cantonment, which, as I have stated above, were extended from time to time and include 624 halfnight lights and 978 full night burning lights, with 16 Mercury Vapour Lamps on important junctions and cross roads. Mr. V. K. SHAH is the present Manager of the Poona Electric supply Co. Ltd.

This, in short is the history and background of street lighting in this cantonment.

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CHAPTER VII

THE DRAINAGE SCHEME

In December 1918 Mr. SEDDAN, the then Commissioner, Central Division, convened a Conference of the representatives of the three Local Bodies, viz. the Poona City Municipality, the Poona Suburban Municipality and the Poona Cantonment, to discuss the drainage scheme for these areas. Nothing definite was decided at this Conference, but a proposal for a central Drainage Board, consisting of the representatives of these three local bodies, with the Commissioner as its Chairman, was adopted. The next step in this direction was taken by the Local Government, who, under their order dated the 1st July 1919 said, "In view of the admittedly insanitary condition of the City and Cantonment of Poona, the Governor in Council is of opinion that, an effort should be made to introduce a single drainage system as much as possible of the areas comprised within the jurisdiction of the three Municipalities, and to appoint a strong Central Board of Management, on which the Local Government, the Military Authorities and the representatives of three Municipalities be represented." Nothing or very

little, appears to have been done until the year 1923 when a scheme for a main Common Out-fall Sewer and Disposal Plant was prepared by the technical advisers to the Government of Bombay. Government were to construct the same out of the monies to be advanced by Government. Details of the incidence of cost to each local body were ascertained. At this period the re-organization of Cantonment Administration was in progress (Cantonment Act II of 1924 was to be passed) and there was no Cantonment Board, but the Officer Commanding the Station, was in charge of the administration as "Corporation Sole", who intimated the willingness of the Cantonment to join the scheme provided its share of cost did not exceed Rs. 263,600/-and further that Government of Bombay should advance this amount as a loan at a very reasonable rate of interest.

The proposal of loan from Government and the extent of the amount to be spent by the Cantonment was not acceptable to the Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Bombay, who forwarded his own proposals which laid down that the Poona Cantonment Authority does agree to join the scheme; that it agrees to finance its own share for the Common Out-fall and Disposal Works; that an estimated nett annual contribution

by the Cantonment Authority for the first three years would be Rs.37,500/-; that the Cantonment Authority decide to carry out the internal drainage work on main sewer, within the Cantonment, at a cost of Rs. 2,63,000/- (this amount did not provide for constructing any subsidiary or tributary drains within the limits, which according to the estimate was Rs. 12,21,400/-).

The Cantonment Authority, viz. the "Corporation Sole" agreed to these terms and the construction of the Common Out-fall Sewer and Disposal Plant, was taken in hand by the Government of Bombay and completed in the year 1927. By this time, the Cantonment Act II of 1924 became law and came into force and a regular Cantonment Board was established. The new Board took the question of this scheme seriously and after investigation found that the entire project would cost the Board about Rs.17,00,000/-. It however,agreed to join the scheme, but did not favour the previous proposals of the Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Bombay, which was accepted by the Officer Commanding the Station as "Corporation Sole". The Board resci-

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nded that agreement and resolved to approach the Central Government for Grant-in-aid of Fifty per cent on the capital and recurring cost to be borne in percentage both by the Board and the Military, 60% by the Board and 40% by the Military Authorities.

Thereafter ensued a dispute between the Sanitary Engineer to the Bombay Government and the Cantonment Board, the former maintaining that the Board was definitely committed to the participation in the scheme and that the expenditure already incurred on capital works, must be paid and that the Board could not, after two and a half years, go back to their previous resolution. Government of Bombay also, in August 1927, supported and confirmed this view of their Engineer. Government of India were approached by the Board for a grant-in-aid of Fifty per cent of the capital cost, but without success. At the same time the Collector of Poona, on behalf of the Bombay Government, issued a demand for over Rupees Forty Thousand against the Cantonment Board, as share of capital cost and interest etc. for the year 1931-32.

The scheme of Water Borne Sewage being an ambitious one, the Cantonment Board, had all the honest intentions of joining this scheme, subject to Government, either the Central or the

Provincial, making an advance of the money required. But all attempts to raise this money failed. On the other hand the Bombay Government were holding the Cantonment Board liable for its annual share of sinking fund, interest etc., and the Cantonment Board had no capital of its own. This dilemma put the Cantonment Board in a very picquent situation. In August 1932, the Cantonment Board requested the late Khan Bahadur M. H. DASTUR, its Vice-President, to submit his suggestios regarding the financing of this scheme. In his report dated the 6th. September 1932, Khan Bahadur DASTUR expressed himself against raising of any loan and was also against any increase in taxes, but suggested that all lands held by the landlords under the Old Grant terms in Bazar Area, be converted into perpetual leases under Schedule IX of the Cantonment Lands Administration Rules, upon payment of a Premium based on six months rental value of the House, and a nominal annual ground rent of Rs. 5/-. He was of the opinion that if this system was adopted, land-holders would willingly enter into such leases and at the same time Cantonment Board would have sufficient amount of money to finance the Drainage Scheme. This suggestion, it appears did not find favour with the Board, for we see that the scheme of converting the Old Grants into Perpetual Leases upon payment, did not fruitify.

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In 1933, the Board decided to investigate a modified scheme, under which the Bazar Area could only, for the time being, be drained, the cost of which was estimated at Rs. 500,000/- approximately. It also felt that by raising the taxation to the level of the other local bodies, it could collect sufficient funds for extending the main sewer and constructing subsidiary sewers, with the ultimate object of providing complete water borne sewage system throughout the Bazar Area. This economical scheme was submitted at the end of 1933 to the Government of Bombay through the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, which provided:—

- (1) Its allotment in the Common Out-fall sewer be reduced by one-half and the annual recurring charges by way of interest on capital expenditure etc., be halved, in order that the Cantonment Board, can meet this expenditure from existing revenue;
- (2) that the Cantonment Board be permitted to raise its House Tax by 2%, in order to raise the money necessary for

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the gradual extension of the sewer system in the Bazar Area;

- (3) that the Cantonment Authority be permitted to construct its own works and thus save the 30 1/2% overhead charges, which would be leviable if the works were executed by the P.W.D.

This modified scheme, it was thought, could be put into operation immediately, as the Board had already provided a sum of Rs. 1,00,000/- in their Budget and this amount could be spent on constructing a main sewer through the Bazar, which could link up with the Common Out-fall sewer. It was also felt that by the increased revenue year by year, from the increased taxation could be expended on making tributary sewers until the whole Bazar was sewered and all Houses joined up.

Much correspondence, interviews and conferences with the Local Government Officials provided a failure and it was suggested that unless and until the Poona City Municipality accepted the half share, which the Cantonment Authority wished to surrender, in order to reduce the annual recurring charges, no reduction in the charges to the Cantonment could be made. It will thus be seen that after ten years of fruitless negotiations, waiting and asking for loans or grants, the position remained the same.

Government of Bombay continued in pressing their demand for the arrears, as stated above, and finally this matter was referred to the arbitration of the late Justice Mr. S. S. PATKAR, who decided to settle this claim for Rs. 3,00,000/-. After this award of the Arbitrator, much correspondence ensued with the Government of India and finally it was settled that the Government of India should advance a loan of this amount, repayable in instalments in a period of 30 years, during which period, the loan amount was to be liquidated and that Government of India should also bear its share proportionately for a period of thirty years towards their share of this liability. This was agreed to.

In the year 1942 a Conference was held at which the Solicitor to the Government of India and the Deputy Director, Military Lands and Cantonments were also present. This Conference decided the advisability of the Cantonment Board participating in the scheme on the basis of 1.5 Million Gallons its full quota. The Cantonment Board agreed to this proposal and sanctioned the provision of under ground drainage for the Bazar area. The Military also in the same year agreed to join the scheme. Plans, drawings, estimates (revised) were prepared and the work was divided in several phases and the first stage was taken in

hand in the Budget year of the Board in 1943-1944 and is now in its final stage so far as the Bazar Area is concerned, although some parts of the Military Areas, such as Queen's Garden, Elphinstone Road etc., have also been completed.

This in short is the history of the Drainage Scheme in Poona Cantonment.

MASONIC ACTIVITIES

Freemasonry is an ancient institution taking its origin from the time that King SOLOMON built his Temple at Jerusalem and spread itself to the four corners of the world. Although Masonic Lodges did exist in several parts of the globe, yet there was no united organization to control, supervise or promote Masonry as such, until the year 1717, after the Rebellion in London was over, that the few Lodges in London thought it fit to unite under a Grand Master, as the centre of union and harmony, and hence, on the 24th of June 1717 the Grand Lodge of England came into existence, and the first Grand Master was ANTONY SAYER. Thereafter several Royalties were elected to this coveted office which included, H. R. H. The Duke of Kent in 1813, H. R. H. The Duke

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Veteran Freemason. Mr. F. D. Bilimoria.

of Sussex, 1813-43; H. R. H. ALBERT EDWARD, Prince of Wales, K. G., (afterwards King Edward the VII), 1874-1901; H. R. H. The Duke of Connaught, K. G. 1901 till his death.

Ten years later in 1727, similar Grand Lodge was established in Scotland with Headquarters at Edinburgh. Masonry thereafter, in an organised form, spread to different countries, such as, Ireland, Turkey, Germany, Italy, China, York, etc. It was, however banned in two countries, viz. Turkey by KEMAL ATATURK and in Germany by HERR HITLER.

Freemasonry came to this country in the 17th century, when Lodges were opened in Bengal, Madras and Bombay. In those days these Lodges were known as "Regimental" or "Military Loges" and were exclusive for Europeans, no Indians being admitted. In 1823, a Military Lodge "Orion in the West" was founded in Bombay Artillery, and later on shifted to Poona. This Lodge having no Warrant of appointment by the Grand Lodge of England, was not recognised in England. However a Warrant was later on given to this Lodge. Being a Military Lodge, all its Members went to Boer War and thereafter for nearly twenty years were absent from Poona and on their return, their activities began afresh. Since after independence this Lodge has been shifted to England.

In 1836 Grand Lodge of Scotland appointed Dr. BURNES as Provincial Grand Master of Western India and its Dependencies and then in 1838 a Provincial Grand Lodge was formed. The appearance of Scottish Freemasonry in India, attracted attention and many Masons of the English Constitution even detached themselves from their English Lodges. For nearly 12 years, therefore, English Masonry declined in this country and Scottish Masonry flourished until the year 1848, when Lodge St. GEORGE of the Grand Lodge of England was again formed in Bombay for admission of Indian Gentlemen. Scottish Freemasonry admitted Indians to its fold and the first Lodge to be consecrated in Poona was "Lodge St. Andrews in the East" No. 343 in the year 1844. Originally this Lodge, as also Lodge Orion in the West, held their meetings in the premises now occupied by the Y. M. C. A. on Burnett Road and then later on Major-General BURNETT gave these two Lodges a plot of land on Exhibition Road, where the Masonic Temple now stands. Lodge Burnett in Poona, is named after that distinguished personage. In Poona, there are three Lodges, both of English and Scottish Constitution. Among the oldest active Masons in Poona and Kirkee, who need mention are-

- (i) Rt. Wor. Bro. HORMASJI N. MERCHNT and
(ii) Rt. Wor. Bro. Prof. D. D. KAPADIA.

I must also mention the name of another Veteran Mason, Wor. Bro. F. D. BILIMORIA, who for over Twenty years has been the Secretary of practically all the Masonic Institutions in Poona and is not only an enthusiastic Mason, but keen as well. If my readers are interested in Masonry, they will do well to consult Wor. Bro. BILIMORIA, at Poona Hotel.

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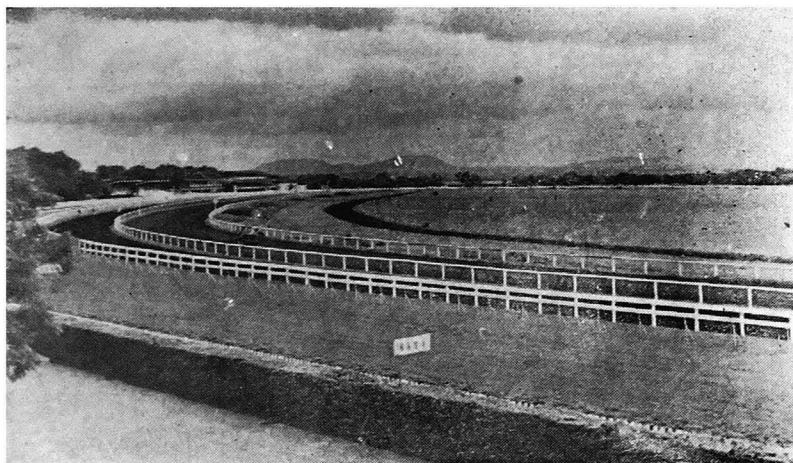
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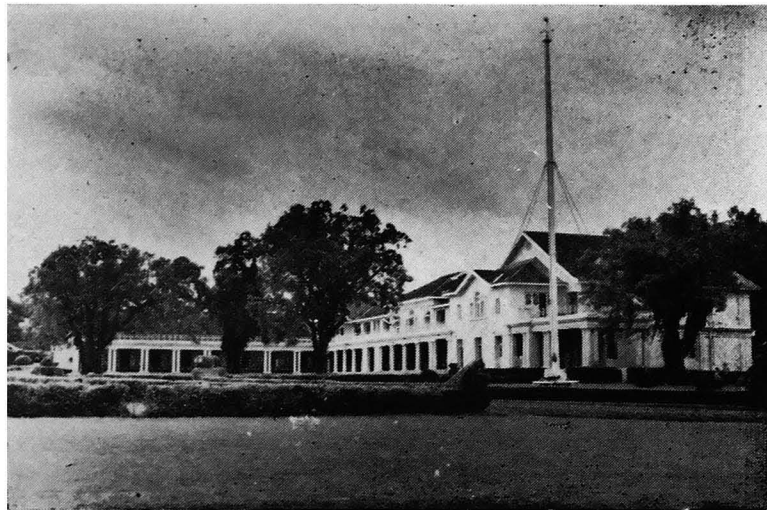
CHAPTER VIII
POONA RACE COURSE
I

Horse Racing is doubtless the most universally enjoyed of all racing sports and is popularly known as the "*Sport of Kings*". In some sections it has fallen into disrepute on account of the demoralization that comes from the betting ring. On occasions, owners of the horses manipulate to have "*fixed*" or made-up races, in the sense that they decide beforehand what horse should win; and whenever this is known to the public or it comes to their knowledge that the contest, in that particular race, was not between the horses but between betting rings, they loose interest. In the United States of America, horse racing has become so interwoven with gambling that it is forbidden by law in several States. Whereas in Great Britain, betting through Book-Makers or by means of the Totalizator, has been made legal.

Coming to the question of racing in these parts of India viz. Bombay State, although no specific data is available, yet from relics and information, it is found that this sport came into existence in Bombay at the old Byculla Club grounds even before 1817. I have seen old relics of races in



Race Course



Turf Club House.

Bombay preserved till to-day by the Turf Club House of the Royal Western India Turf Club at Poona, which dates as far back as the year 1817. One of the relics, my readers will be interested to know, more particularly those of the racing fraternity, is a "Thousand Guinea Gold Cup" presented by Mr. CHARLES FORBES on 3rd February 1817, for Maiden Horses, 9 Stones, 3 Miles Heat. Then comes the second one which dates the year 1846, when ABDUL WAHABBEN TUMMER presented yet another cup, the third one, I have been able to discover is Mirza Ali Mohomed Khan Cup, which was won by Colonel STALKER C. B. at Bombay in February 1850. It would thus be seen that racing in this State is not of recent origin but is practically over a century and a half old. Racing in Poona, I shall discuss in the following paragraph.

History and records are very silent on the point as to when, what year, and how racing took its life in Poona. But it is evident that racing did find its place in this city before the year 1870, the old

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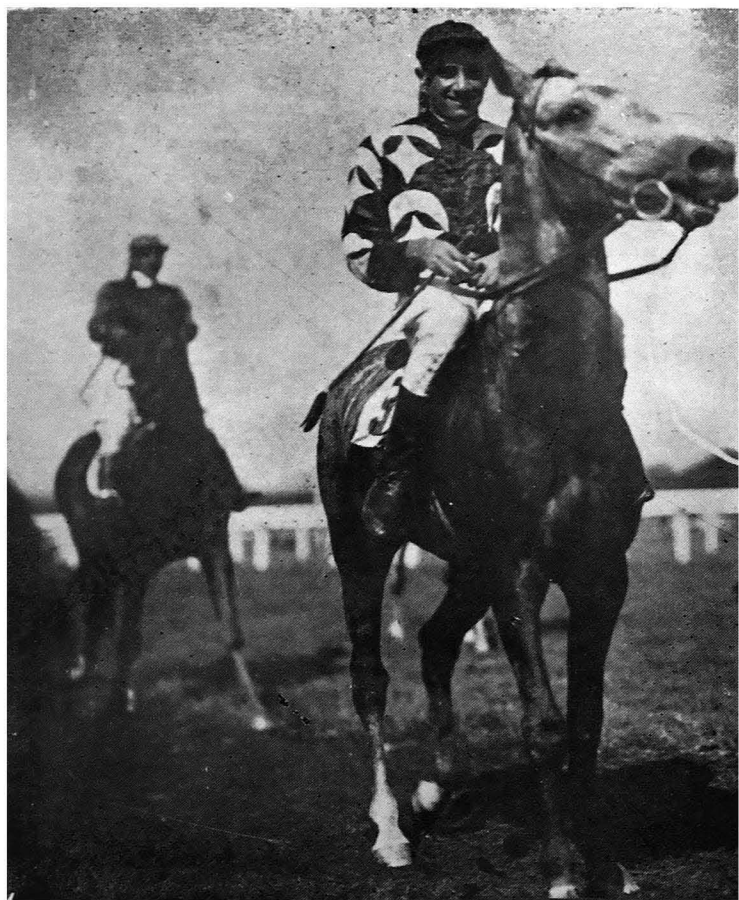
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Race Course being located at the banks of the river Mutha, which is now popularly known as Boat Club Road. For how many years racing existed on that spot and as to when it began, I am not able to tell my readers, but the fact remains that there was a race-course on the banks of Mutha River according to records, until such time that in the year 1870 it was shifted to its present location, when the Western India Turf Club came into picture. The present racecourse land was given to the Turf Club by Major General BURNETT in that year. I shall in the second episode of this chapter give a short history of this land, which will interest my readers.

The first Stewards of the Club in the year 1870 were:-

Mr. J. D. WARD; Mr. C. A. SHILLINGFORD;
Dr. D. PICACHY and Mr. J. M. BECHER,
with Mr. J. L. SHILLINGFORD, as Honorary Secretary.

The first Governor's Cup that was run at the Poona Race-Course was in the year 1883 and was won by Mr. A. RAHMAN'S "Young Sinner", ridden by Jockey RYDER and the last to win were Sir SHANTIDAS ASKURAN'S "Lord Wavel" ridden by Jockey W. T. EVANS and Mr. K. PARMANAND'S "Jowdat-Al-Iraq" piloted by Jockey SHANKAR P., which dead heated for the

first place. Governor's Cup was discontinued in the year 1948, after the advent of the Congress regime in this State and was replaced by the Southern Command Cup, which was won in the first year viz. 1949 by Mr. C. J. SHAH'S "Jan-e-jigar," mounted by Jockey B. T. DUFFY.

It was in the year 1908 that the Aga Khan Cup was introduced and was won by Mr. J. C. GAULSTON'S "Black Wolf" piloted by Jockey A. FERGUSSON.

The highest amount of stake that was paid in Poona was Rs. 30,000/- to the winner in the Atlantic Stakes in the year 1925, and the lowest was just under Rs. 1,000/- for Arab winner in 1899. The highest dividend that was paid was Rs. 17,109/- on a horse named "KLETITOR" owned by HUSSAIN KADAM, ridden by Jockey REYMOND in 1923, and the only lucky punter was one Irani gentleman by name Mr. AWARI. In this race there were in all 24 horses who participated. In the year 1935, the Western India Turf Club was designated as "*Royal*" and since then it is known as "*Royal Western India Turf Club*"

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The present Stewards of the Club are:-

Mr. A. C. ARDESHIR; Dr. A. KARMALLY

Mr. A. C. CLARKE;

Mr. A. I. RAHIMTOOLA and

Mr. RAMNIWAS RUIA

with Mr. F. K. VAKIL, as Secretary and the following officials:-

Mr. P. R. MEHTA, Assistant Secretary;

Mr. S. R. CAPTAIN, Stipendiary Steward;

Mr. N. K. PUDUMJEE, Stipendiary Steward;

Mr. T. M. GOKULDAS, Stipendiary
Steward;

Mr. G. H. KHAIRAZ, Judge;

Mr. M. K. ALIKHAN, Starter;

Mr. M. DHALLA, Handicapper;

Mr. E. NEWNES, Manager Totalizator

TURF CLUB HOUSE

A useful amenity was added to the Race Course in the year 1922 in the shape of a Club House, when the Club purchased the old Wellington Soldiers' Club, adjoining to the Race Course and renovated it to suit the comforts of the Members who either attended the races or spent their week ends in Poona during the season. This old Wellington Soldiers' Club was established in the year 1918 when its foundation stone was laid by His Excellency the Governor and Lady WILLINGDON in October 1918, but as the then Governor Lord WILLINGDON was a lover of sports, transferred

this building to the Turf Club and to-day it is indeed a boon to those who take advantage of it. The Club House is under the management of a Committee known as the Club House Committee with Mr. DOSTMOHOMED F. CHENOY, as its Chairman and Mr. N. S. MURTHI an experinced person as its Manger. This Club House besides providing excellent housing accommodation, comprising of 21 rooms, 11 double and 10 single, also provides for recreational games such as Billiards. It also has a Card Room and a Ball room (the floor of the last named room is one of the best in these parts of India). The Club House is only open during the Poona Monsoon Season.

II

RACE COURSE LANDS

Reliable and authentic information reveal that all the lands of the Race Course was Inam lands called " Kazi Watan Emolument, " granted to the Kazi of Poona by the Muslim Kings for his services to the community and was known as Kazi Patti. These lands were confirmed as Inam lands by the British in the year 1860 when an Inam Commission was appointed which examined the titles and Sanads of all such Inams. It appears that at a later stage in 1862 the heirs of the original Kazi, whose name was Kazi Mohomed Abbas, alineated these lands under a Karar Nama

in favour of one Vadoo Sait of Messrs. Ludha Ebrahim & Co. of Bombay and Poona. Such alination was not permissible under the terms of either the Inam Sanad or the "*Faisalnama*" (decision), of the Inam Commission. Government therefore resumed these lands from the Kazis, included them within the Cantonment limits and in the year 1870 Major General BURNETT handed the same to the Western India Turf Club. No agreement whatsoever of any nature appears to have been entered into between the Military Authorities, or the Government and the Club, but records show that in the year 1907, to be precise, on 16th. February 1907 a lease was executed between the Secretary of State for India in Council and Lt. Col. GEORGE HENRY BULL, M. D., I. M. S., and Honourable Mr. LOUIS PITMAN RUSSEL, Judge of Bombay High Court, as Trustees of the Club, wherein, inter alia, it was agreed that the Club was to pay Rs. 20,000/- to the Army Authorities to be spent by the General Officer Commanding the 6th. Division (Poona) for laying out recreation and Polo Ground for the use of the Garrison at Poona and to pay an annual

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ground rent of Rs. 1,200/- through the Cantonment Authority. The total area assigned under this lease was 118.5 acres.

III

AN INTERESTING EVENT

Until the year 1908 the Cantonment Authority had assessed the letting value of the Race-Course property at Rs. 5,038/- and charged the Western India Turf Club a tax at Rs. 201/- per year. On 8th. October, 1908, however, a notice was served upon the Club by the Cantonment Magistrate, who was also the Secretary of the Cantonment Committee, that the said property under the Poona Cantonment Taxation Regulations, was valued at Rs. 2,46,000/- and that the annual tax payable by the Club was Rs. 9,840/-, by this notice the Club was further asked to lodge its protest or complaint to the Cantonment Magistrate within three days. But the rules regulating the Magistrate's action in this respect required that the complaint or protest against his valuation was to be made to him within three days before the date fixed in the public notice and that the date so fixed must not be less than fifteen days from the publication of the notice. But the Magistrate confirmed the assessment. Club appealed to the Cantonment Committee, which was rejected.

On 28 November 1908, the Club paid a sum



The Thousand Guinea Gold Cup

of Rs. 4,819-3-10 under protest, this cheque was cashed by the Cantonment Gommitee on 27th May 1909. The Club thereafter in March 1912 filed a suit for a declaration that the increased assessment was illegally levied and asked for the refund of the increased tax paid by it under protest. The suit was decided in favour of the Club. On this judgement of the lower Court, the Secretary of State appealed in the High Court of Bombay, contending that the Court had no jurisdiction to entertain the suit and that the portion of the claim was barred by article 62 of the Indian Limitation Act, 1908.

On these points the High Court held that the action of the Cantonment Magistrate was not Warranted by the Regulations, in as much as reasonable time was not given to the Club to take advice as to the increase in the rate from Rs.201/- to Rs. 9,840/- and that the Cantonment Magistrate had wholly disregarded the basis upon which the rate was to be assessed, and that therefore the jurisdiction of the Civil Court was not ousted the money having been claimed and received from Club without the shadow of a right.

2. That the claim to have a refund of the excess in the payment of Rs. 4,813-3-10 was not barred by the provisions of article 62 of the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, for the limitation ran, not from

date of the delivery of the cheque, but from the date of the receipt of the money by the payee.

Thus the Cantonment Authority lost its claim on the assessment of the Race Course buildings. This interesting case is reported at 16 Bomay Law Reporter, 121, *Secretary of State vs Hughes*. The present annual rental value of these premises is Rs. 54,444-0-0.

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CHAPTER IX

CINEMAS AND CLUBS IN POONA CANTONMENT

The year 1912 saw the birth of " Travelling Cinemas " in this Cantonment when Mr. A. C. PATEL, the pioneer of Cinema Theatres in Bombay, introduced this entertainment here. Three centres were selected by him and those were Wanowrie, Ghorpuri, and Kirkee. Having been encouraged by the popularity of such shows, Mr. PATEL acquired from the Military an important piece of land at the cross junction of Moledina and Mahatma Gandhi Road and for the first time, this Cantonment saw a Cinema House in 1914, which though constructed of purely C. I. sheets, became very popular. Its name was " Napier Cinema. " Later on, in the year 1917, Mr. PATEL put up a Pucca Theatre in the same compound, which is now very popularly known as "West End Theatres" and run by the Western India Theatres Ltd., Until the year 1931, it was a silent picture House when it was converted into a Talkie Theatre.

The second Theatre that came into being, is the Capitol Cinema on Sir Ebrahim Jaffer Road. The premises of this Theatre were origina-

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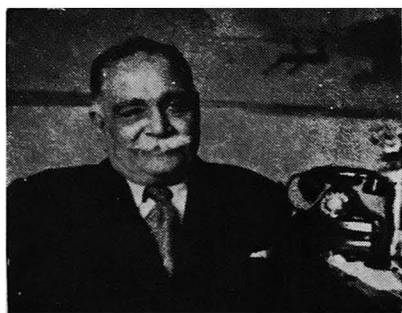
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Mr. A. C. Patel
PIONEER OF CINEMA

lly the Show Room and Offices of Messers. Ludha Ebrahim & Co., but later on, in the year 1935 converted into a Talkie Theatre.

The third Cinema that was built again by Mr. PATEL was in the year 1944, the horrible days of war to give entertainment to the British Troops. This is situated on Parade Ground Road and was originally known as "Wavel Talkies," named after the British Field Marshal Lord WAVEL, who was then the Viceroy of India. Its name was changed twice thereafter, "Ashoka" and is now known as "Liberty".

The oldest Club that was in this Cantonment was the "CLUB OF WESTERN INDIA," established in the year 1830, exclusively for Europeans. Year by year the Club acquired adjoining lands together with the structures standing thereon, but the final expansion of the Club was completed in the year 1897, when several Blocks of residential buildings were built in an area of about twenty acres of land. These buildings were built at an approximate cost of Rs. 2,00,000/- subscribed to by the Members in shape of Debentures. It had a Membership of four to five hundred permanent

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members, besides temporary visiting members as also honorary members. The Club was located on the highest peak in the Cantonment and the situation an ideal one.

After independence the Britishers began to leave this country in 1947 as a result of which The Club decided to go into involuntary liquidation and the entire premises were sold to Government, for Military purposes. It has now a Mess known as "Station Mess", purely for the Army personnel and a small section has been placed at the disposal of the State Government to house their civil officials.

This Club was one of the best in Western India with all facilities for its Members.

POONA CLUB LTD.

The site where the present Club stands, was originally known as "Edward Gardens" where in 1862 recreation rooms were built, for the use of the military troops and were known as "Assembly Rooms or "Soldiers' Institute." This Institution remained there until the year 1880, with DADABHAI DORABJEE BOOTTEE, as its President. In that year the same was changed into Poona Gymkhana Club. His Highness the Aga Khan was its first founder Patron. The land continued to be with the Committee of the Assembly Rooms till 1885. In 1886, an agreement was entered into between the Poona Gymkhana Club and the Secretary of

States in Council. The old buildings of the Gymkhana Club were constructed somewhere in the year 1882. These buildings unfortunately caught fire in the early mornings of 29th. April 1945, gutting down the entire beautiful building, that being a dance night. Later on, the Poona Gymkhana Club was changed into Poona Club and was registered in the year 1931 as a Limited concern. The site of this Club was delimited from the Cantonment limits and included with that of the Poona Suburban Municipality in or about 1890 and is now under the jurisdiction of the Poona City Corporation. The strength of membership of this Club reached to a gigantic figure of 2000.

The rest of the clubs are of recent origin and number three in all. They are "Ladies' Club" on Lothian Road; "New Club" on Rajendrasinhji Road and "Parsee Gymkhana Club" on Kahun Road.

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CHAPTER X

POONA CANTONMENT BOARD

" ITS ADMINISTRATION "

Soon after the establishment of the Poona Cantonment, steps were taken for its Civil Administration and the entire duties were entrusted to the Cantonment Magistrate, who, as I have described in the earlier chapters, was the sole authority and all powerful man, and was commonly known as "*Bazar Master*". The earliest name that I find is in the year 1868, that of Colonel G. C. EVEZARD, previous records are not available. The population of the Cantonment then was very negligible with a very few number of Bungalows, Houses and Shops. Two small Markets were built on Solly Flood Road which till this day stand and are now used as Rationing Shops.

As the population began to increase, trade expanded and many more Houses and Bungalows were built, a demand came from the public for a share in the administration of the Civil Areas and for minimising the powers of the *all powerful* Cantonment Magistrate. This resulted in the appointment of a Nominated Committee consisting of a few Military Officers and Civilians. The distinguished amongst the Civilians, who were

taken on this Committee were-

The late Dr. E. X. DIAS,
Late Mr. ABDULLA ABDUL WAHED,
Mr. A. A. KHAN, M. A. LL. B.
Lt. Col. D.D. KHAMBATTA.

I have already stated in the previous chapters about the general administration of the Cantonments and how after years of agitation and representations, the Cantonments Act II of 1924 came into existence. The Present Cantonment Board, therefore is constituted under that Act and Poona Cantonment being declared to be a first class Cantonment, has fifteen Members, seven of whom are elected by the public, three are Ex-Officios besides the President and four nominated. The area of this Cantonment is 3442.91 Acres, with a civilian population, according to the latest census, of 46,589, though I must say, this figure since then has considerably increased. Population in Military area, as usual, fluctuates, but in any case, they are over 12,000.

RATES AND TAXES

Unfortunately records are not available to judge the rates of Taxes imposed a century ago and to compare them with the prevailing rates. However, I can see that the incidence of taxes in this Cantonment is quite reasonable comparing



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with other Local Municipalities, at the same time maintaining self sufficient and well balanced Budget Thanks to the Executive Officer, Mr. N. C. SARIN, M. A., for his economical and able administration.

Octroi is one of the chief sources of Cantonment income. Poona City Municipality, from the very beginning is in charge of collecting this Tax and is distributed to the rest of the Local Bodies on *Pro rata* basis. This decision of distributing the share of the Octroi revenue on population basis was taken with the approval of the Government of Bombay in the year 1896 and came into effect from 1st. April that year. Total Revenue of the Board is nearly Rs. 14 Lacs.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

No less than Twenty-three Primary Schools in this Cantonment receive financial aid from the Board, in shape of annual Grant-in-aid, which amounts to nearly a lac of Rupees. Till recently, Cantonment Board was making similar grants to Secondary Schools as well, but later on it was felt that the Primary Education was

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suffering at the alter of Higher Education, discontinued this grant. Besides this, the Board is also helping other educative, recreational and humanitarian Institutions financially.

PUBLIC HEALTH

I have already dealt with, in the foregoing chapter, the Drainage Scheme in this Cantonment, which, when fully completed, will be a real boon to the Bazar area, more particularly where there are slums. Poona Cantonment is noted for its cleanliness and good health. The Administration Reports of the Board declare that there have been no serious epidemics, such as, Plague or Cholera. The Health Department of the Board, I May say, must be congratulated.

PUBLIC SAFETY

I

Only such of the roads which are within the Bazar Limits are managed by the Cantonment Board and are maintained well. Recently it has been observed that small lanes and bye-lanes are being paved to render them more cleaner and healthier.

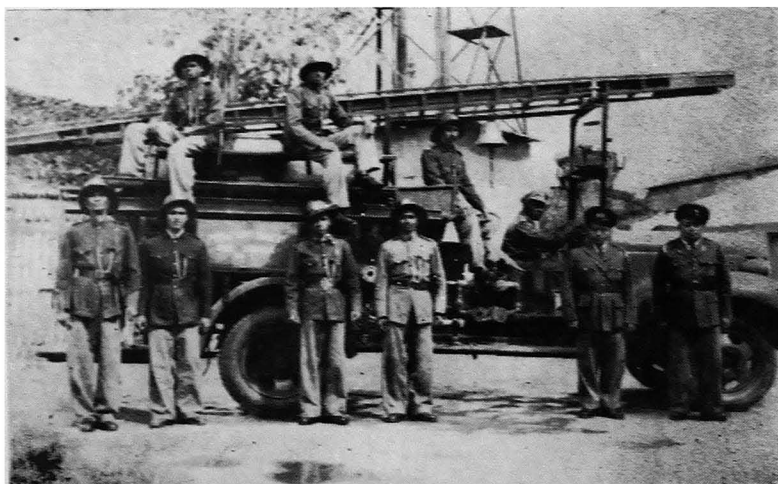
STREET LIGHTING

II

On this Subject I have fully dealt with in an exclusive chapter in this booklet, which will give my readers full knowledge and information about the street lighting.



Cantonment General Hospital



Cantonment Firebrigade

FIRE BRIGADE

III

Before the year 1882 this Cantonment had three Manual Fire Engines, (Pumps) and were under the supervision of the Police Superintendent and were worked by four Lascars, Lamp Duty Men and Police Constables. There were only 14 fire plugs and mostly water was carried to the place of fire in bullockcarts and then pumped through these Manual Engines. These carts, which numbered four in all, were always kept ready for any emergency and records gives us a story of how the Cantonment Manual Engine extinguished a fire which took place on the 13th. of March 1882 at Yeravda on the Eastern bank of Mulla-Mutha River, burning a stack of kadbi (Cattle Fodder) belonging to one TUKARAM ROWJEE, causing him a loss of Rs. 300/-. These Manual Engines were not the property of the Cantonment Committee, but those of the Police Department. Under Government Resolution dated 20th. March 1883, the Cantonment Committee was authorised to maintain a Fire Brigade and the Engines were transferred to it with understanding for mutual co-operation with the Police. In 1905 the Cantonment Committee purchased a "Steam Fire Engine" and appointed a third grade Engineer by name SK. EBRAHIM to work on it.

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This arrangement went on until the year 1926, when a regular Fire Engine was purchased and in the following year, a 35 Ft. long ladder was added to this Renault Engine. During the period of War, one Mr. FOX was appointed by the Government as Fire Master and the old Renault Engine was taken over by Government to be replaced with the present one. This useful and essential branch of the Cantonment Board, is fully equipped with adequate staff and machinery. There are in all 270 Fire Hydrants now, scattered all over the Cantonment. Mr. S. N. KEKRE, is in charge of this Brigade.

NAMING OF ROADS IV

After the sad and tragic death of Mahatma Gandhi, the FATHER OF THE NATION, the Board re-named "Main Street," an important business centre as "Mahatma Gandhi Road," and similarly, "Centre Street" was re-named as "Vallabhbhai Patel Street", on his demise. The old "Staunton Road" has been changed into "Manekjee Mehta Road," a veteran citizen of this Cantonment and a social and public worker.

Before I conclude this chapter, I must, as President of the Poona and Kirkee Cantonments Citizens' Association, say a few words about the office of the Deputy Director, Military Lands and

Cantonments, Southern Command, and its officials. We had several occasions to make representations to this office to voice the grievances of the citizens and had several occasions to meet the officials personally, and I may say here, without any reserve, that our representatives were received very courteously and politely by Sardar Amar Singh, the then Deputy Director Southern Command and now Director, at Head Quarters, New Delhi; Mr. I. C. Gray, the present Deputy Director, Southern Command and his assistant Mr. Jagdish Rai, who gave us patient hearings. It is apart that at times we may not have agreed, but most of our representations were considered favourably. I shall be failing if I, as the President of the Association, should not place our appreciation of these officials in this publication, which is Published under the auspices of the Association.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this chapter, I must say, both as the author of this little work, as also the President of the Cantonment Citizens' Association, that the administration of this important Cantonment in the hands of Mr. N. C. SARIN, an able, experienced and an enthusiastic Executive Officer, has been excellent indeed, and we have seen many improvements carried out during the short time that he has been here. He came to this Canton-

ment in 1951, but during this short period he has endeared himself with the general public by his polite, amiable and courteous manners, which qualities are really essential in an Officer and, Mr. SARIN, I may say, without any exaggeration, possesses them. Poona Cantonment will long remember him after he has left this Station. In addition to his abilities and long experience, he has a team of tried and proved subordinate Officers. Particular mention must be made of the Cantonment Engineer, Mr. D. R. CHIKTE, B. E. (Civil) The Assitant Medical Officer of Health, Major D. F. D. MEHTA, the Revenue Superintendent, Mr. H. L. PARDESHI, the Lands Clerk, Mr. V. W. PANDIT; R. N. Satpute, B. A. the Committee Clerk and the experienced Office Superintendent Mr. ISHAR DAS.

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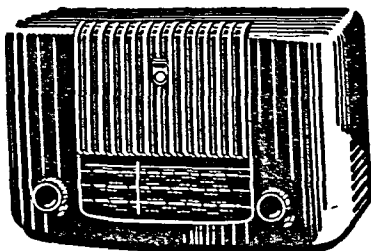
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