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# Select Writings

OF

THE LATE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE

M. G. RANADE,

M. A. LL. B.,

ADVOCATE, C. I. E.

ON

# INDIAN STATES



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Editor,

Vasudeo Waman Thakur,

B. A.

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The late  
Honourable Justice M. G. RANADE,  
M. A., LL. B., ADVOCATE, C. I. E.



1842-1901 A. D.

श्रीदत्त.

# A Biographical Sketch

OF

THE LATE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE

M. G. RANADE, M. A., LL. B.,

ADVOCATE, C. I. E.

(1842-1901).

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The late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madhaorao Govind Ranade was born on the 18th of January 1842, at Niphad (Dist. Nasik, Bombay Presidency). His great-grand-father named Bhagwant Appa was an ambassador of the Sangli Chief in the Court of the Peshwa and the East India Company. He served his master well and was honoured with a hereditary jahagir by his Chief. He died at the age of 95, all hale and whole. His son named Amritrao (grand-father of Just. Ranade) served the East India Company and rose to the position of a Mamlatdar and died at the ripe age of 80. Amritrao's son Govindrao was the father of the hero of this sketch. He had served the East India Company, and latterly rose to the position of Khasgi Karbhari at the Court of Kolhapur.

Just. Ranade, it will be thus seen, was born of a well-to-do Bramhin family in the Deccan of the last century.

2 Just. Ranade completed his vernacular education at Kolhapur and proceeded to Bombay for further study. He stayed in Bombay from 1854 to 1871, and became M. A., L. L. B., and Advocate. He also worked as Junior and Senior Fellow, assistant Professor and Professor in the Elphinstone College of which he was a student in his early career. In all his examinations he won brilliant success, winning all the available scholarships as well as prizes.

3 In 1871 he was appointed First class subordinate Judge whence he rose to the post of the High Court Judge of Bombay in 1893 which post he held till when he breathed his last on the 16th of January 1901. He was respected, nay, revered, by all those who came in contact with him in the Judicial service. He tried to modernize Hindu Law, and Equity had always a high estimate in all his thoughts.

4 But Ranade is, to-day, remembered more for his varied public service than Government service. He was a man of deep erudition and intense patriotism. His profound study of European History and Economics were always at

his service to search ways and means for the elevation of his mother-country holy and hoary.

5 Ranade's public life commenced in 1871, and ended with his life in 1901. These thirty years can, conveniently, be divided into two equal parts 1871-1885, and 1885-1901. During the former period he tried to educate the public by his his articles on political, industrial, agricultural, educational and economic questions of the day. This work he did through the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha, and its Quarteriy.

6 The year 1885 saw the birth of the Indian National Congress. Ranade took advantage of these large national annual gatherings, and launched sister-institutions like the Social Conference, Industrial Conference and exhibitio s. He was, so to say, the soul of all these movements meant to educate, agitate and organize. All this work he continued to the last with the co-operation of the young and old who could see eye to eye with him.

7 All his writings and and speeches in English on the various topics of the day number nearly 3000 printed pages. The following verdicts of eminent authorities on the different sides and aspects of the papers will be found interesting.

(I) The Times of India says 'The late Justice Ranade's contributions on Political, Eco-

nomical and Industrial subjects are model essays : We call upon his younger friends to edit them and rescue them.

( II ) Lord Reay ( Governor of Bombay )  
 “ Your Association has, during my tenure of office, given me the benefit of your criticism. I consider it useful, and I shall mention to Lord Harris that in continuing these friendly relations he will find the task of Government made lighter.

III William Digby:—These volumes of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha's Quarterly Journal constituted a useful and a most important record, which must be valued by every student of Indian Politics.

( IV ) The Hon'ble Mr. Macdonald:—These addresses delivered at the Social Reform Conference have been revelations to me. Justice Ranade exhibits all the qualities of an ideal reformer : a profound sympathy with the victims of social injustice, sobriety of statement, enthusiasm, energy, above all, a spiritual fervour, and along with it a persuasive reasonableness which must strangely move his hearers. These speeches are a mine of ideas, and absolutely essential to every one who would know the India of to-day in its higher aspirations.”

(V) Professor Selby (Principal Deccan College):—He had made a profound study of our English system of Political Economy. He had realized the logic of it, that is, he had seen the pre-suppositions on which it rests, and he had pondered deeply how far these pre-suppositions hold good in this country, and consequently with what modifications and limitations it is necessary to apply its deductions here. He had a definite and connected theory of the conditions of economic progress in India, and of the functions of Government and society in relation to it.

(VI) On his religious discourses says Dr. Selby:—“He had a profound belief in the reality of a Providence in Nature and in History—a moral government of the Universe—and this, I think, is the secret of his unwearying perseverance and his unconquerable optimism. He took the constitution of the society, and with his eye fixed upon the ideal, he would insert a feature here and a feature there, until he had made the ways of men, so far as possible, agreeable to the ways of God.”

(VII) On his Historical, and States' writings says Sir C. Ollivant:—It is given to few men to be as free as Ranade was from deteriorating limitations, and yet be absolutely loyal to the best traditions of his race and faith.”

8 These testimonials—unsought and spontaneous as they are,—will speak volumes on the inestimable and educative value of the writings of late revered Justice Ranade.

With this biographical sketch together with the nature of the valuable legacy left to us by our "Guide, Friend and Philosopher" I offer this the first volume of Rishi Ranade's select writings to all the lovers of "Indian States".

INDORE.

V. V. THAKUR.

18 th January 1942.

Ranade's own list of  
 articles in the "INDU-PRAKASH" of Bombay. (1862-3 A. D.)

... .. 23 Jan  
 Bombay University - 18 December  
 (Summary)  
 Summary of Law Dispute (22 Dec  
 ) Read it along  
 with the  
 Law Commission  
 26 Dec  
 Debhatkaraj's case  
 East India Company } 29 Dec  
 ... ..  
 Retrospect - 5 January 1863  
 before the Council 21 Jan  
 (Summary) Journal for ... .. 12 Jan  
 ... .. 19 Jan  
 ... .. 26 Jan  
 ... .. 6 Feb  
 ... .. before ... ..  
 Cotton ... .. 16 Feb  
 ... .. 23 Feb  
 ... .. 19 March  
 ... ..  
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# INTRODUCTION.

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The Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madhaorao Govind Ranade, M. A., L. L. B., Advocate, C. I. E. breathed his last on the 16th of January 1901. The Times of India, in its obituary note called upon his younger friends to edit Ranade's writings and rescue them.

2 This sacred work was entrusted by the late Hon'ble Professor G. K. Gokhale, B. A., C. I. E. to the present editor with a plan well-chalked to bring out all the writings of Justice Ranade in Volumes on the lines of "Burke's Works." The materials were collected numbering three-thousand printed pages on various subjects. But alas ! that was not then to be. The revered Professor died a premature death brought on by hard work and harder worries.

3 Of these three-thousand pages, nearly 1250 cover political and administrative topics of the day, History takes up 400, Social matters equalling the same number. Indian States engage 300 pages, Indian Economics and Industries run over 250, while Education, Religion and miscellaneous topics are satisfied with 400.

4 On the general nature of these writings. The Times of India has remarked "Different Government measures are very freely criticized, and the criticism is very thorough-going and effective, but we do not see any where evidence that the right of the Government, to the obedience and support of the population is called in question. On the contrary that right is implicitly recognized throughout, and the British Government is credited as the one Government which is capable of raising India in the rank of nations".

5 If then India as a whole is to rise in the rank of nations, Indian States, being an integral part thereof, have also their responsibilities and duties to discharge, as well as the British Paramount Power has its. The work is of co-operation all round. Ranade commenced his "Public Life" in 1859, when he was only seventeen years old, by his paper on "The duties of the educated Indians." In 1860 he compared the work of "Bengal Zamindars with that of the Deccan Chiefs." In 1863 appeared his article on "Maharaja Scindia" in the "Indu-Prakash" of Bombay. He was, thus, closely observing the position and attitude of the Princely class in India, from the time of his entry into "Public Life."

6 The trial of Maharaja Malharrao of Baroda brought matters to a crisis, involving as it did,

a number of constitutional questions. The memorial of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabbha submitted to the Viceroy clearly enunciated the position thus: "It is consonant with Justice that the integrity of an Indian State in alliance with the British Government is not bound up with the personal good behaviour of the ruler for the time being of that State. The State survives a succession of rulers that live and die. The State (Dowlat) does not belong of private right to the Chief."

7 In 1877 the said Sabha presented an address to the Queen-Empress of India, expressing a hope that "an effort would be made to associate the great Indian Princes in the practical work of administration of British India, and that the system of keeping Political Agents and military camps in Indian territories will give way to more cordial association of them in the Councils of the Empire, through some organization of a recognized *diet* or assembly, where they could meet one another and the great officers and statesmen, who rule India and discuss all Imperial questions. The time has arrived for such a change. The paramount claims of British Power are unquestioned. An Imperial Government can-not be imagined without a constitution, regulating its relations with dependent sovereigns. Questions regarding the policy of small frontier-wars with barbarous tribes,

boundary disputes between Indian States, and similar differences between British and Non-British territory, the measures to be adopted with respect to rulers who misgovern their territories, questions of adoption, extradition, coinage and of Imperial legislation might be referred to a Council that may be evolved out of Durbar gatherings which take place from time to time." This was Ranade's idea of a Confederated India.

8 He saw nothing came out of all this petitioning. Undaunted he persevered, and took up each question of Foreign as well as Home policy concerning the Indian States as they arose from time to time.

The Afgan war sprung up out of the Imperial Policy then hotly pursued. The question of the "Armies of the Indian States" was being thrashed from different, yet, interested points of view here and elsewhere. Ranade took up his pen and replied to the various views with his persuasive reasonableness. Pages 13-174 of the present volume are devoted to this subject. All the seven articles of this volume are selected from the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha Quarterly. I am greatly indebted to the Sabha and its Secretary Mr. Sadashewrao Bapat.

9 The disputes of inter-relations of Indian States and the way in which they are generally handled form a subject of treatment in the first

article of the volume: the remedy suggested is "We want the help of a well-informed public opinion, intelligent Indian sovereigns, honest advisers to them, and great perseverance in all, in ventilating this grievance so as to reach the ears of the authorities in India and in England. There is no wrong without a remedy."

10 The topic of "Fresh Taxation" circled round a number of Indian States (specially in the Bombay Presidency) and it involved many a basic and constitutional principles. Ranade's treatment of the subject is full and many-sided. In his own words it may be fitly summed up—"The new opium policy of British Government is a wide departure from the fiscal policy hitherto maintained by that Government, while its expediency has been most questionable, its injustice and unfairness are stamped on its very face."

11 Ranade is not content with mere criticism—and that too on inter-state administration and constitutional issues. He has something constructive to give. His articles on Sir Salar Jung and Raja Sir T. Madhavarao have instruction to impart both to Indians and the British. They are, more or less, hints suggested based on facts. The essence of his experience and erudition is, however, all to be discovered in his "Constitution for Indian States" (Pages 175 to 221).

12 This "Constitution" may again be summed up in Ranade's words coupled with that venerable Rishi's blessings too:—

"With a prince brought up as His Highness the present Maharaja of Indore ( His Highness Maharaja Sri Tukojee Rao II ) assisted by a responsible and respected Minister, with a council of officers representing the heads of all departments and the leaders of the non-official classes, with the land-revenue and other sources of income settled on moderate and fixed principles, with a careful separation of the Khasgi from the State Department, and a proper distribution of the civil and Military, Judicial and Executive functions in separate hands, carefully selected from among the subjects of the State after due examination, with written laws, and annual publication of accounts, with a policy of conservation of the rights and distinctions of the Sardar and privileged classes, and of strict regard to keep up their connection with the soil, with every care taken to associate people in the work of practical administration as Local Justices, Jurors, Municipal and Taluka councilors, &c. &c., what is there to prevent Indian States from becoming models to British India for the quiet contentment of their subjects, and the great school of self-education and progress in political emancipation?"

22-1-42  
INDORE.

V. V. THAKUR.

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