

PANCH MAHALS APPLIED TO
JUSTICE LOVING PERSONS OF THE
PRESIDENCY CASE OF OPEN INJUSTICE

GODRA:
AMALGAMATION LEAGUE

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S. I. S.

Godhra, 25th December 1933.

Sir,

We, the undersigned members and sympathisers of the Non-amalgamation League desire to put before you the report in brief of the work done by this institution in connection with the Government's decision to amalgamate Broach and Panch Mahals and Government's selection of Broach as a place of Head-quarter of the amalgamated District.

We have expressed our protest by constitutional methods against Government's decisions as those decisions were against the interests of the people of this District. Powerful as they are, our protests have fallen on deaf ears, even though our case is strong, our cause is just and our object is right.

We are not at all disappointed or dejected at Government's stiff attitude. We have decided to continue the constitutional fight as long as the wrong done to us is not righted by Government. Our case is a clear case of open injustice. In this our fight at this stage, we feel, we stand in need of sympathies, good will, help, aid, assistance, advice and blessings from those Justice-loving persons and personalities who believe in constitutional agitation and from those institutions whose object is to help the weak against the strong in the right cause and especially in the fight for Justice. We appeal for help in various ways to those persons who believe in constitutional fight. We hope leading persons of the Presidency who desire to see victory of right over wrong and Justice over injustice will help us in our cause.

We beg to put before you our case for your perusal with a request to go through it even though you may be busy with multifarious activities. On reading it minutely if you are convinced that we are in the right, please stand by us - stand by Justice. If you are convinced of the righteousness of our cause and our justification in continuing the fight to the finish, do help us in every possible way.

We hope we will be helped in this struggle by the whole Presidency as our fight is a fight for a principle. We mention below the whole case in brief to enable you to judge and give your honest opinion.

REPORT

It was in 1931 or so that the Government decided to appoint a committee to go into the details of every Government Department with a view to lessen the top-heavy expenditure of the Bombay Presidency. This committee was known as the Retrenchment Committee. This Retrenchment Committee submitted its report with some suggestions to Government. Among many suggestions, proposal for amalgamation of some of the Districts was made by this Committee. The Bombay Government was very seriously considering this proposal of amalgamation of Districts. They were seriously thinking of amalgamating Broach with Panch Mahals and Kolaba with Thana. On the 17th February 1932 His Excellency the Governor of Bombay addressed the Bombay Legislative Council wherein he stated: "My Government decided to take steps to follow up the work of the Retrenchment Committee and are now arranging to secure expert advice on reorganisation of the whole administrative machine. This will not only secure the future examination of such recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee as have not yet been adopted but will also ensure a broad survey and detailed examination of the organisation of the most important Departments". On the 11th July 1932 the Finance Committee appointed a Committee to secure expert advice on the question of retrenchment and the reorganisation of the whole administrative machinery. As the Honourable Mr. G. A. Thomas C. I. E., I. C. S. was the Chairman of the Committee this Committee was called the Thomas Committee. This Thomas Committee minutely went through the whole report of the Retrenchment Committee and discussed threadbare all the proposals submitted to the Government by the Retrenchment Committee. We are here concerned with the question of amalgamation only and we will see what remarks this Thomas Committee has made on it. The Committee states as follows in its report in para 326:-

" District Organisation. "

"Suggestions have been made for the amalgamation of Districts. The Bombay suburban District has already been united with the collectorate of Bombay City, and arrangement which we think can be made permanent and we think Government have at present under consideration the question of amalgamating Broach with Panch Mahals and Colaba with Thana. We do not propose to discuss the practicability of either of these two proposals, as that would not be possible without a local examination of the many interests concerned. In our opinion, a Collector, who is also the District Magistrate has with one or two possible exceptions, already as large an area as he can effectively administer. We think there would be both greater economy and efficiency, if instead of extending a Collector's Jurisdiction the present system of Sub-dividing a district into what are known as Prants, each under an Assistant or Deputy Collector were abolished altogether. We think that any amalgamation of even small Districts would be impracticable if this abolition took place and we therefore take this opportunity of suggesting to Government that they should

come to a final decision on the question of such abolition before proceeding further with that of amalgamation of Districts. We believe that there would be little opposition from the public to the former whereas the reconstitution of Districts would evoke serious objections".

In spite of the Thomas Committee's above remarks regarding amalgamation of Districts the Government through the Commissioner, Northern Division issued the following notice on the 21st December 1932:-

"NOTICE."

"In view of the present financial situation, and in consideration of the impending transfer of the Political work of the Rewa Kantha Agency to the Government of India it is proposed to amalgamate the Broach and the Panch Mahals Districts (excluding the Ankleshwar Taluka of the Broach District) with head-quarters at Broach. The Sub-Divisional Officer in charge of the Panch Mahals will remain at Godhra. The Ankleshwar Taluka is proposed to be included in the Surat District.

The public are hereby informed that any petition of objections or representations they may desire to make against the proposed changes should be sent to the Commissioner, Northern Division through the Collector of their District by 1st February 1933 at the latest.

Sd. J. Monteath.

Ag. Commissioner, N. D."

It should be noted here that the Government wanted to amalgamate Broach District (excluding Ankleshwar and Hansot Mahal) with Panch Maha

On the 16th January 1933 a meeting was held in this connection at Godhra and 20 influential gentlemen of the District were elected to wait upon the Commissioner, N. D. in the form of a deputation to discuss the question of amalgamation of Panch Mahals with Broach.

An interview to this deputation was granted by the Commissioner, N. D.

It was brought to the notice of the then Commissioner N. D. that the amalgamation of Panch Mahals District with Broach was impracticable and unnatural and in the alternative suggested that if the Government was bent upon joining two Districts, it would be easier to divide Kaira District in three portions and each portion to be given to the neighbouring Districts of Broach, Panch Mahals and Ahmedabad. The then Commissioner informed the Deputation that the division of Kaira District was out of question and therefore further discussion in the matter was dropped. The Commissioner assured the deputation that the arguments adduced in favour of non-amalgamation will receive his full consideration.

According to Notification issued by Commissioner N. D. the objection petitions were to be submitted before the 1st of February 1933. It should be specially remembered that in those days it was extremely difficult to hold meetings on account of the Government's policy of repression. The District being backward and the people being illiterate one can easily imagine how difficult it was to hold a single meeting even for non-political purposes. With all these difficulties and unfavourable circumstances, the leaders of Panch Mahals worked day and night and explained to the people the Government's move and what effect it will have on their living and how difficult it would be for them to get Justice and get their grievances redressed. The people understood the gist of the move and they realised the situation. They also realised that this proposal of the Government was going to deprive the people of Panch Mahals of the elementary right of submitting their grievances to the Head of the District.

A petition was submitted to the Commissioner, Northern Division by the people of Panch Mahals District. Nearly 1,00,000 (one lac) people of nearly 400 villages had signed the following petition. (See Appendix "A".)

A resolution was submitted to the Government through the Collector (See Appendix "B".)

The whole District observed a Hartal on 16th January 1933 as a mark of protest against Government's move of amalgamation and depriving the people of their seat of head-quarter.

All this was done under most unfavourable, hard, difficult and extraordinary circumstances. In those days more effective propaganda was not possible in a backward District like Panch Mahals. What human efforts can do was done by the people. They sent petitions under the signatures of thousands, held protest meetings, sent resolutions, observed Hartal, waited upon the Commissioner, Northern Division, the Honourable the Revenue and the Finance member and His Excellency the Governor also. Local self-Government institutions of Panch Mahals District passed resolutions protesting against amalgamation and selecting Broach as the place of Head-Quarter. A petition was presented to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay by the people of Panch Mahals District protesting against the amalgamation. (See Appendix "C".)

Some Extracts from a letter written by the President, Godhra Municipality to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in connection with the amalgamation, on the 28th January 1932 (Paras 1,2,3,5, and 6).



The Geographical position of the two Districts will at once demonstrate the unsoundness in principle of the proposed amalgamation and its unworkable character in practice. The present District of Panch Mahals consists of two parts viz. The eastern Talukas of Dohad and Jhalod and the western Talukas of Godhra, Kalol and Halol, a vast tract of Native State territory intervening, while Broach is completely cut off from the western half by a vast stretch of Baroda State territory. The linking up of these separate and distinct parts into one District is on the face of it an unnatural combination.

The people of Panch Mahals have nothing in common with the people of Broach. They are entirely different. The people of this District have no relation either social, economic or commercial with the people of Broach. The combination of such two entirely different people with no social or economic relations into one administration unit is not desirable even from administrative point of view.

Panch Mahals was for a long time a Non-Regulation District. It has been enjoying the benefits of regular orderly administration for a comparatively short period. The people are admittedly backward, and require special care for their economic and social uplift. The change of Head quarter to Broach, will deprive the people of the eastern half from the benevolent and enervating influence of the District Head Quarter situated in their midst.

If the exigencies of the present economic conditions, make reduction in the number of Districts inevitable. I may suggest that the addition of the three Talukas of Broach, viz. Broach, Jambusar and Vaghra with the neighbouring Kaira District and separating one or two Talukas adjoining Panch Mahals from the Kaira District and amalgamating them with Panchmahals will be a better arrangement from all points of view, and will lead to better administrative working than the proposal under consideration.

I may suggest in the end that if the Government for any reasons whatever decide upon the amalgamation of the District with Broach, it will be more convenient and ensure better administrative working to locate the head quarter of the newly-formed district at Godhra as Godhra is centrally situated and is easily accessible both to the people of three Talukas of Broach, Jambusar and Vaghra and of the people of the out-of-way Mahals of Jhalod, Halol and the Talukas of Dohad and Kalol.

Government invited objections from the people if they have any on the question of amalgamation and selection of Broach as a place of Head quarter.

To invite objections from the people has become a formal function with the Government. They paid no heed to the petitions and protests from the people of Panch Mahals. They wanted to carry out their own preconceived plans any how. Whether it proves advantageous or disadvantageous to the people they do not care. After some manœvering they gave up the idea of separating Ankleshwar and Hansot from the Broach District. Flouting the public opinion of the Panchmahals and disregarding the opinion of the Thomas Committee, Government decided that the Panch Mahalas District shall be amalgamated with Broach and Broach shall be the place of the Head quarter of the amalgamated District.

The iron will of the steel frame came down upon the docile district.

As if this was not enough the Government added insult to injury.

The question of amalgamation was touched in the addresses presented by the Godhra Municipality and the District Local Board to His Excellency when he visited this place on the 4th December 1932. The Governor in reply assured the District Local Board that if the two Districts are amalgamated there may have some compensatory advantages in that for example a single District Local Board managing a large area might be able to reduce materially its overhead charges and thus improve its financial position. It was then a surprise to us that disregarding the matter of the said unnecessary heavy cost Government brought another bill to invest them with powers to keep local boards separate in one amalgamated District.

The question of separation of two District Local Boards was raised later on. Government never thought of more than one Board in the amalgamated District when the question of amalgamation of Districts and Talukas was first taken in hand at the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. They therefore brought an amendment of the Local Board Act in the Council for the dissolution of boards the territorial limits whereof were disturbed by such an amalgamation and they were authorised to make nominations on those boards for the unexpired periods of the Boards.

When Government amalgamated two Districts naturally both should be equal partners in profit as well as in loss. But this amalgamation was of an extraordinary nature. In this case of amalgamation Government was pleased to give all the advantages to the Broach District. There is only one item in which Broach representatives and Government thought that Panch Mahals in view of its larger population but smaller revenue will not be a loser but will gain in being a partner of the Broach District, and that was in the matter of the District Local Board. To please the Broach people

Government decided to be constitutionally inconsistent. When Broach and Panchmahals Districts were amalgamated naturally Local Boards were also to be amalgamated. Government knew that they cannot grant the request of the Broach representatives unless and until the Local Boards Act is amended. Powerful as they are, they championed the cause of Broach District and introduced a bill to amend the Local Boards Act giving power to Government to form two District Local Boards in the amalgamated districts. It is needless to say that Government carried out what they desired in the Bombay Legislative Council. Thus all the disadvantages of the amalgamation were imposed upon the poor Panchmahals alone. Government's attitude on the question of amalgamation was very disappointing and dejecting to Panchmahals people but Panch Mahals District Non-amalgamation League stood the fire. It has kept on the work of constitutional agitation with double zeal.

The propaganda Committee of the Non-amalgamation League decided to observe 1st October 1933 as a non-amalgamation day in the whole of the District as a mark of protest against amalgamation and Government selecting Broach as a place of Head Quarter.

First October Non-amalgamation day was a great and grand success. Strict Hartal was observed throughout the District. More than 100 meetings were held in which representatives of almost all the villages of the District took part. The following resolutions were passed unanimously at all the meetings and the copies of the resolutions passed were sent by post to the following authorities:—

1. The Collector, Panch Mahals.
2. The District Superintendent of Police, Panchmahals.
3. The Commissioner, Northern Division.
4. The Inspector General of Police, Poona.
5. The Honourable Minister of Local Self Government, Poona.
6.do.....The Finance Member, Poona.
7. The Chief Secretary, Poona.
8. The Honourable the Home Member, Poona.
9. The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, Poona.

Worries and woes of Panch Mahals people were not still over. All the time the responsible officers assured us that the name of the amalgamated District will be Broach and Panch Mahals District. Government Notification No. 8319/28 dated 20-9-33 brought for Panch mahals an additional calamity. This notification reads thus:—

No. 8319/28:— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 (Bom. V of 1879), and in modification of Government Notification in the Revenue Department, No. 288, dated the 19th January 1880, the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that, with effect from the 6th November 1933:—

- (a). The Panch Mahals District in the Northern Division shall cease to exist as a separate District, and
- (b). The Talukas mentioned below and heretofore included in and forming part of Broach District in the said Division.
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|--------------|-------------------|
| (1). Godhra. | (4). Halol Peta. |
| (2). Kalol. | (5). Jhalod Peta. |
| (3). Dohad. | |

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From the above mentioned notification Panch Mahals people knew that the Government wanted to wipe out the very name of their dear District from the geography, from the map and from the world. This notification came upon the people as a thunderbolt; People were shocked to hear this news. God sends calamity but gives courage. The meeting of the Panch Mahals Non-amalgamation Committee was held and the following telegram was sent to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay:—

“Panch Mahals District have observed 1st October as Non-amalgamation day as a mark of protest against Government decision of amalgamation and selection of Broach as Head quarters of the amalgamated District. More than 100 protest meetings were held on the day. Strict Hartal was observed throughout the District. Government Notification No. 8319/28 Revenue Department has come upon Panch Mahals as a thunderbolt. People are surprised, wonderstruck and alarmed to hear that Government have decided to wipe off the very name of our dear District from the world.

We appeal to you not to be so harsh on this District. Government will be committing the greatest blunder, if they crush our District in this way.

The authorities have given all that Broach people wanted. Their demands are satisfied cent per cent, while Government have mercilessly given blow after blow to our District. Please reconsider the whole question. We fail to understand why worst sort of wrath of the authorities has fallen upon us. We were given to understand that the name of the District will not be wiped out under any circumstances. Is Government going back on their promise? Our case is just and our cause right. Will Government grant us interview to enable us to place before them the whole case, if they think it will serve any good purpose. 3-10-1933.”

Godhra Taluka Local Board also sent a detailed telegram.

The Godhra Municipality sent the following telegram:—
 Telegram—Ordinary. Dated 9th Oct. 1933
 Private Secretary.

Governor, Bombay.

Notification No. 8319/28 created great consternation among people. Wiping name of District taken by people as vindictive deathblow to District. Government added insult to injury misfortune Government blind to foresee aftereffects. Don't fanflame discontent by flouting public opinion. Please keep Head-quarters Godhra. Preserve name Panch Mahals.

Sd. S. K. Parliker.

President.

Godhra City Municipality.

Godhra Bar Association also sent the following telegram:

"The Godhra Bar Association resolves Government Notification selecting Broach Headquarter doing injustice to Panchmahals great shock to people wiping Panchmahals name for ever. Aftereffects not foreseen Causing great blunder respect public feelings."

The following telegram was sent to the Secretary of State for India by the Non-amalgamation League.

Dated 7-10-1933.

To,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (London).

Please don't accord sanction Bombay Government's proposal reducing Panch Mahals Collector, Details follow.

The following telegram was sent by the Non-amalgamation League to His Excellency the Governor at Surat on the 27th October 1933.

Panch Mahals people noted with regret dissatisfaction Government's indifferent attitude regarding amalgamation, change of Headquarters. Seems protests assigned to waste paper basket, requests cancelling amalgamation and keeping Headquarters. Government added insult to injury, Notification No. 8314/28. Government satisfied Kolaba cancelling Amalgamation, Ankleshwar cancelling joining with Surat, Broach maintaining separate Local Board but deaf to Panch Mahals' cries for justice, impartiality. Government created Dadu satisfy Sindh. Panch Mahals alone suffer in name of retrenchment. Government creating unnecessary discontent. Why this creating unnecessary discontent. Why this stepmotherly attitude to Panch Mahals. Request Government reconsider. Shifting Head

Quarters suicidal policy. Political importance strategical position of Panchmahals not considered. Strong Government yields peoples' reasonable requests change policy—convinced of impracticability.

Following telegram was sent to Commissioner, Northern Division by Non-amalgamation League.

Pray don't be unkind to Panch Mahals. Please plead our cause before Governor. Amalgamation must go. Head Quarters should be at Godhra till amalgamation not cancelled. Notification No. 8319/28 death blow to our dead District.

Letters of protests were sent by many other institutions from the Panch Mahals District to the Government. (See Appendix F.)

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Sir, this is the state of affairs in Panchmahals. We have placed before you in brief what has exactly happened. Now we will put before you in brief the fundamental basis of our case. These are the four fundamental points to be considered—

1. Amalgamation of the District.
2. Selection of the place of Head quarter.
3. Name of the amalgamated District.
4. Non-amalgamation of the Local Boards.

AMALGAMATION OF THE DISTRICT

The Thomas Committee is deadly against the amalgamation of the Districts. This opinion is the opinion of an expert Committee and executive Officers have given no importance to it. Government said they will be able to save Rs. 1 lac and more by the amalgamation. While speaking in the Bombay Legislative Council the Hon. the Revenue and Finance Member said:—

Mr. J. B. Petit:— What will be the total saving?

Hon. Sir Gulam Hussein:—I cannot give the exact figure but certain proposals are being considered with regard to the Police Dept. & other departments. I think it will be between Rs. 50000 to a lac. (debate on 15-8-33 on the resolution reg. amalgamation of Broach and Panch Mahals)

Mr. C. N. Patel:— There would be a saving of about Rs. 15000 to 20000 if the two districts were made into one.

Hon. Sir Gulam Hussein:—That is not the Saving according to the Statement which has been placed before you today.

Mr. C. N. Patel:— The figures of savings on account of the amalgamation as given in the Statement 3 are Rs. 43855 for the current year, Rs. 1,17,200 ultimate saving. (debate on 2-9-33 on L. B. Act amendment Bill).

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If what the Honourable the Revenue and Finance Member has said on behalf of Government is true and if Government keep their promises given in Council it is very difficult to understand how this big amount mentioned by the Honourable the Finance Member is arrived at. A scheme was placed before the Government by the representatives of the Panchmahals (vide Ex. E.) which suggests that there is still scope for retrenchment even without amalgamating the Districts.

One who looks to the geographical position of these two districts in Gujarat is bound to feel the very idea of amalgamating these two Districts ridiculous. Every reasonable man will join with the Government in the idea of reducing the expenditure of the administration but no sane man will ever say that the reduction should be effected at the cost of the convenience of the people and efficiency of the administration.

A better scheme was proposed but Government lent deaf ears to it. Though convinced of the impracticability of the scheme of amalgamation, Government have stuck to this scheme simply from a sense of false prestige. That is the strong Government that yield to the people's reasonable request and change their policy when convinced of its impracticability.

(2). SELECTION OF THE PLACE OF HEAD QUARTER.

Amalgamation cannot stand the test and we are convinced that the whole scheme is soon bound to fail. However either from a false sense of prestige or because of the weakness of the people of this District, Government carry out their scheme and give it a trial. We feel that the selection of Broach as Head Quarters will be a huge blunder. The amalgamation can be tolerated by the people of Panch Mahals for a few months but the change of Head quarters cannot be tolerated for few a weeks even. While fixing the Head Quarters of the amalgamated District Government have to take into consideration the following points:—

- (1) District population.
- (2) District area.
- (3) Head Quarter's population.
- (4) Geographical position of the present Head Quarters.
- (5) Prospering town in the Districts.
- (6) Industry.
- (7) Education.
- (8) Labour Problem.
- (9) Liquor Problem.
- (10) Forest Problem.
- (11) Condition of people.
- (12) Mentality of people.
- (13) Distance.
- (14) Needs.
- (15) Political importance and strategic position.

If both the Districts are practically equal in all the above mentioned points then and then only the income of each should be taken into consideration. The following tabular form will give the reader the exact idea of the position of both the Districts.

No.	Name	Broach.	Panch Mahals.	Remarks
1	District population.	354111	454332.	
2	District area.	1468 sq. miles	1606 sq. miles	
3	Head quarter town's population.	34227 (Broach)	35110 (Godhra)	
4	Geographical position of the present Head quarters.	At the end of the New Dist.	In the centre of the New Dist.	
5	Prospering towns in the Districts.	Nil	Dohad	
6	Industry.	Cotton	Timber, Oil seeds etc.	
7	Education.	nearly 16 percent.	nearly 4 percent.	
8	Labour problem.	Nil	B. B. C. I. Ry. workshop.	
9	Liquor problem	Nil	Number of cases of illicit distillation.	
10	Forest problem	No Forest Dept.	There is a thick Forest.	
11	Condition of people.	Wealthy	Poor, Famine stricken.	
12	Mentality of the people.	Peace loving	Owing to poverty- Criminal mentality; many riots in the last 41 years.	
13	Distance.	Broach at a distance of more than 160 miles from the farthest village of Zalod Taluka.	Godhra at a distance of 60 miles to 90 miles from the farthest village of Broach Dist.	
14	Needs.	Nil	Continuous presence of District officers for preservation of peace and order.	
15	Political importance and strategic position.	Nil	Surrounded by Indian states. It is on the boundary of Gujarat and Malwa.	

Looking to all the above mentioned points and circumstances one can safely say that the town fit in every way to be a place of Head quarter for the amalgamated District is GODHRA. Government have done open injustice to Panch Mahals in removing the Head quarter from Godhra to Broach. In fact it is apparent that this act of Government is partial to Broach District. So long as the order of amalgamation of these two Districts is not cancelled it would be prudent to keep the head quarter of the amalgamated District at Godhra. If Government do so, it will positively be in the interests of every body concerned.

(3). THE NAME OF THE AMALGAMATED DISTRICT.

Some will say that the name of the District is a question of sentiment. We admit it is a question of sentiment and a question of great importance too.

Government wanted to name the amalgamated District as 'Broach Panch Mahals District, but Government notification No. 8319/28 tells

us that they have also decided to wipe out the very name of this District from the world. Government should change their decision and so long as the amalgamation order is not cancelled the amalgamated district should be named in such a way that neither district should have any cause to complain. Recently Government have decided to retain the name of Panch Mahals & have issued a notification that the new amalgamated district will be called Broach & Panch Mahals District.

(4). NON-AMALGAMATION OF THE DISTRICT LOCAL BOARDS:—

When Government have imposed upon Panchmahals the disadvantages of the amalgamation they are expected to be consistent in their policy of amalgamation. When the whole district is amalgamated the District Local Boards should not be kept separate because Broach District Local Board has got more income. When the question of amalgamation arises the question of equal partnership stands. It is an insult to the people of Panch Mahals to keep the District Local Board of both the Districts separate. We hope Government will be consistent and will keep the District Local Boards also amalgamated as long as the amalgamation order is not cancelled.

(5). DISPOSAL OF GOVT. BUILDINGS IN GODHRA.

Responsible officers have so often said that they are making an experiment of this policy of amalgamation. When Panchmahals people heard that Commissioner N. D. was visiting Godhra to dispose off Govt. buildings they were shocked and alarmed. They sent the following telegram to H. E. the Governor on the 11th Dec. 1933.

Telegram.

Authoritatively learnt Commissioner visiting Godhra to dispose off Govt. immoveable properties. Very undesirable doing so as the question of *Amalgamation* is in the melting pot and Panch Mahals sure of being a separate District soon. Commissioner moving please stop in this direction.

President Non-amalgamation League.

NOTE:—

It is understood that by the transfer of Rewa Kantha Agency from the Local Govt. to India Govt. the India Govt. has to incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 50,000 or more; so practically the transfer has not in any way minimised the expenditure.

Recently Government has created an additional post of an Assitant Collector in Broach and Panchmahals District which would cost Govt. nearly Rs. 8000 per year. This would clearly point out that the saving effected by the amalgamation of districts is very meagre compared to the estimated saving.

It is therefore requested that Govt. may be advised to abandon this policy of amalgamation.

A further injustice has been done to Panchmahals by abolishing 4 posts of subordinate clerks and 3 posts of higher subordinates only from this district. It is necessary in the interest of the poor-clerical staff to have separate gradation list for this division only.

૬. ફોજદારી ગુન્હા પંચમહાલમાં ઘણા થાય છે અને તેથી કરીને મે. સેશન્સ જડજ સાહેબને ભરૂચ કરતાં ગોધરા રહેવાનું હાલ વધારે થાય છે. તેથી કરીને પણ સુલેહ શાંતી નળવવા માટે મે. ડી. પો. સુપ્રીન્ટેન્ડન્ટ સાહેબ અને મે. ડી. માજિસ્ટ્રેટ સાહેબનું હેડ ક્વાટર ગોધરા રહેવું જોઈએ અને ભથ્થાનો ખર્ચ ન થાય તે માટે મે. સેશન્સ જડજ સાહેબનું પણ અગ્રે હેડ ક્વાટર કરાવવું જોઈએ.

૭. ગોધરા હેડ ક્વાટર કરે તો તે મધ્યમાં આવવાથી સરકારી નોકરોના ભથ્થાનો ખર્ચ ઓછો થશે.

૮. ભરૂચ જીલ્લાનો જે ભાગ જોડવાનો છે તેની વસ્તી ૨૩૬૬૭૨ છે, જ્યારે પંચમહાલ જીલ્લાની વસ્તી તેનાથી લગભગ બમણી છે; તો વધારે લોકોનું સુખ જેમાં રહું હોય તે કરવું જોઈએ; એટલે ગોધરા હેડ ક્વાટર રાખવું જોઈએ.

૯. પંચમહાલ અને ભરૂચની વચ્ચે વડોદરા રાજ્ય અને ખેડા જીલ્લો આવેલો છે. ખેડા જીલ્લાના ઠાસરા, કપડવણજ અને આણંદ તાલુકા પંચમહાલની હદે લાગેલા છે અને ધોરસદ, નડીયાદ, માતર અને મહેમદાવાદ એક સાથે ભરૂચ જીલ્લાની હદે આવેલા છે; એટલે અનુકુળ જોડાણ ભૂગોળને ધોરણે કરવું હોય તો લોકોને વધારે અનુકુળ પંચમહાલ સાથે ખેડા જીલ્લાના ઠાસરા, કપડવણજ, આણંદ અને નડીયાદ અગર મહેમદાવાદ પૈકી એકને જોડવાથી થશે. અને ખેડા જીલ્લાના યાકીના તાલુકા ભરૂચ ભેગા જોડવાથી પણ વધારે અનુકુળ થઈ પડશે; અને આ તાલુકા એક ખીબ જીલ્લાની હદે આવેલા હોવાથી દરેક જાતનો સંબંધ હોય છે. એટલે તેમને વિપરીત નહિ લાગે. વળી ખેડા જીલ્લાનું હેડ ક્વાટર ખેડા ખદલી નાંખવા સરકાર ઘણા વખતથી વિચાર કરે છે પણ પૈસાના અભાવે થઈ શકતું નથી. જે ઉપર પ્રમાણે જોડાણ થાય તો પંચમહાલનું હેડ ક્વાટર ગોધરાજ રહે અને ભરૂચનું હેડ ક્વાટર ભરૂચજ રહે અને ખેડા જીલ્લો નીકળી બચ એટલે ખેડા જીલ્લાના હેડ ક્વાટરનો સવાલ ઉડી જાય.

૧૦. ગોધરાજ હેડ ક્વાટર બંધ થતાં આ ગરીબ જીલ્લામાંથી સરકારી સીવીલ હોસ્પિટલ તથા સરકારી હાઇસ્કૂલ વિગેરે લોકોપયોગી સંસ્થાઓ પણ બંધ થશે; એટલે જનમાલની સલામતી જેમ જોખમમાં આવશે તેમ અમારા જીલ્લાની સુખશાંતી અને કેળવણીનાં સાધનો પણ ચાલ્યાં જશે.

૧૧. ભરૂચ શહેર તેમજ તેના તાલુકા શ્રીમંત છે; અને તેમને ત્યાં આવી સંસ્થાઓની ખોટ નથી. ત્યાંના લોકોને ગોધરા આવતાં અડચણ પડે તેમ નથી. તેથી ગોધરાનેજ હેડ ક્વાટર્સ રાખવા અમે નામદાર સરકારને આજીજી કરીએ છીએ. સરકારે ગરીબના બેલી થવું જોઈએ એજ અરજ.

ગામ—

Appendix "C"

Memorial Submitted by the Representatives of the Panch Mahals
District to H. E. The Governor of Bombay

The following memorial was submitted to H. E. the Governor:

To

His Excellency The Right Honourab.

SIR FREDERICK HUGH SYKES,

P. C., G. C. I. E., G. B. E., K. C. B., C. N. G.,

Governor of Bombay.

May it please Your Excellency,

Re-Amalgamation of Broach and Panch Mahals Districts.

1. We the undersigned, representatives appointed by the Panch Mahals District Conference held on 16th January 1933, to make this representation, most humbly and respectfully place before Your Excellency a few facts in brief expressing strong opposition to the proposed amalgamation of the Panch Mahals and Broach Districts and the selection of Broach as Head Quarters of the proposed amalgamated District.

2. Government have been constrained, we admit, to take this step as a retrenchment measure but we humbly submit Government ought to have effected economy in some other ways and spared these districts from the trouble, inconvenience and dangers that the inhabitants of these districts would be put to. We may be permitted to remark that those who are responsible for this suggestion have not properly studied local and geographical conditions and have failed to realise the consequences thereof not only on the progress and uplift of this backward district but also its effect on the preservation of law and order in these and surrounding tracts.

3. On learning of the recommendations of the retrenchment committee for the amalgamation of these districts a representation was submitted to Your Excellency by the District Local Board of Panch Mahals District with the concurrence of the Godhra and Dohad Municipalities in January last year, but we were assured then by Your Excellency's Private Secretary that an opportunity would be given to the people concerned before the matter was finally decided.

4. We represented our real feelings and difficulties in that petition. We also took advantage of Your Excellency's kind visit to the Head Quarters of this District and expressed our same feelings in the addresses, presented to Your Excellency by the District Local Board and the Godhra Municipality.

5. Your Excellency was pleased also to discuss the matter in person with the members of the deputation that waited upon Your Excellency on the same day, *i. e.* on 4th December 1932. We beg to submit we put forth all our arguments against the proposed amalgamation and for selecting Godhra as the Head Quarters if the amalgamation is decided upon finally by the Government.

6. Your Excellency's Government however in the meantime announced by a notice dated 21st December 1932 issued through the Commissioner, Northern Division, that it was proposed to amalgamate the Broach (excluding Ankleshwar and Hansot Talukas) with the Panch Mahals District with Head Quarters at Broach and that the Sub-Divisional Officer for Panch Mahals will remain at Godhra. Objections and representations were also invited from the people concerned.

7. We take it that the inviting of objections in this case is not a mere formal matter of routine but that the Government have an open mind. In the hope that the question of amalgamation and the more important question of selection of Head Quarters, if amalgamation is decided upon, will be decided by them on merits alone, we crave leave to put forth our humble views on the subject on behalf of the inhabitants of the Panch Mahals District.

Strong United Protest.

8. In spite of horrible illiteracy, ignorance and backwardness of the people of this District, they have spontaneously, on being informed of the intention of Government to change the Head Quarters in consequence of the proposed amalgamation, protested against the same by holding public meetings at various places in the District and by putting signatures in large numbers on applications, that have been submitted by them to the Commissioner through the Taluka Officers and the Collector. This was done by them with the sanguine hope that Your Excellency's Government would be pleased to consider them sympathetically and impartially.

9. We however beg leave to trouble Your Excellency with a little more detailed account of our submission.

Panch Mahals Troublesome to the whole of Gujarat.

10. Panch Mahals, lying in the extreme east of Gujarat, form two groups separated by a hilly and forest-clad strip of Baria State and except the Kaira District beyond river Mahi to the North-West, these groups are surrounded by Indian state territories on all sides. The ancient history of this district shows that the British Government was compelled to interfere and call upon the Scindia Government, at the instance of the surrounding states to entrust the management of this District to them as it was in chaotic condition, where crimes went unpunished and wrongs left unredressed and it was a source of danger and annoyance to the neighbouring states. The British Government managed the administration for the Scindias from 1853 to 1860. In 1861 it was found necessary to have

permanent British control on this tract in order to preserve peace and order and prevent trouble to the whole of Gujarat from this District and the surrounding Indian states of Gujarat and Malwa. At first it was administered as a non-regulated District and only from 1886 A. D. it came to be administered as a fully regulated district.

Separate Collectorate Formed.

11. It is not necessary here to recount that the District was first placed in charge of the Collector of Kaira but as it was found impracticable, a separate Collectorate was soon formed and the charge of Rewa Kantha Agency was entrusted to it. Long before 1853 this District called the Godhra-Panch Mahals or at times Pavagadh-Panch Mahals had an independent entity as unlike other Gujarat Districts the people were very poor, backward and turbulent.

No Improvement in Situation.

12. We submit there is hardly an appreciable change in the condition stated above even at present. The Bhils and the Naikdas, who form the bulk of the population, in the Eastern Mahals of Dohad and Jhalod and in the Western Mahals in Halol respectively are still in the primitive stage of life and succumb to starvation at every time of scarcity of rains and consequent failure of crops. They hardly get sufficient for the payment of Government assessment and of their debts, from their labours in the fields.

13. The rest of the population of the District are in no better condition. The inferiority of lands, backwardness in education and want of sufficient capital for business have had their natural effect on their progress, even under the British administration.

14. In old days British Government had to station a large police force at Dohad which is situated at the farthest extremity of Gujarat. It had also to put down constant Naikda and Bhil risings with considerable difficulty and trouble. Although these warring elements are now subdued to a great extent the District can in no way claim to be a peaceful one.

15. It is only during the last twenty years that this district has been making some progress. The news that the District is proposed to be abolished and amalgamated with Broach as its Head Quarters had made the people really nervous. They feel and rightly that by this change their person and property would be much endangered and their progress will not only stop but they will again be thrown to their primitive backwardness.

Panch Mahals Proper Administrative Unit.

16. This District with an area of 1606 square miles, divided into two groups each separated as stated above by a strip of nearly fifty miles of Baria State and a population of 4,54,526 composed mostly of Bhils, Naikdas and Dharala communities; with inborn mischievous activities,

is a proper administrative unit. So far as the revenue is concerned although it is small as compared with other Districts of the Presidency it meets the present administrative expenditure.

17. We therefore submit that this District be not disturbed but it should be given full scope for its independent existence and development. Its Head Quarters Godhra and its second town Dohad have come into prominence only recently.

18. It has been argued that since the Agency work has to be transferred there would not be sufficient work for the Collector of Panch Mahals. We beg to state in this connection that the Political Agent was assisted by a highly paid personal assistant well qualified and well experienced called the Daftardar, who assisted by his staff practically managed the Agency work. The Political Agent had to hold the Agency Sessions Court periodically but the Daftardar as Assistant Sessions Judge often relieved him of this work too. The Collector had thus little work to do as Political Agent, of which he would be relieved by the transfer of Agency.

Possible Reduction in Administrative Expenditure.

19. The Collector and his office had and have in our opinion ample work. However if the Government desire to make retrenchment they can, we submit, do so even without abolishing this District by reducing one Prant officer, as the collector would be spared to do more touring after the Agency work is transferred. The work of the Head Clerk and the Deputy Chitnis can be conveniently combined.

20. So far as the Police Department is concerned there too there is scope for retrenchment. One Deputy Superintendent and one Inspector can be reduced without loss of efficiency.

21. If Government be pleased to take these suggestions, humble as they are, into their kind consideration they would be able to reduce the expenditure by a considerable amount, while by the amalgamation the reduction would not be appreciably larger as the clerical staff shall have to be increased in the new office to cope with the additional work.

Amalgamation Unnatural.

22. The amalgamation of Broach with Panch Mahals, we submit, would prove to be very troublesome, inconvenient and unnatural.

23. The District then would be divided into three groups each separated by Indian states. The first group of Broach, Amod and Jambusar would be at a distance of 60 miles from the second group of Godhra, Kalol and Halol and the latter at a distance of 40 miles from the third group of Dohad and Jhalod.

24. The people of Broach group are quite foreign to those of the Panch Mahals group and vice versa. There is a wide gulf between the traditions, customs and manners of the people of the two districts. They would feel much difficulty in attending courts and offices at Godhra and Broach respectively.

25. The union into one whole of the advanced and rich Broach group with the backward and poor Panch Mahals group is most unnatural. There is no uniformity in the tenures and Government cannot treat people of both groups equally. The Broach group would grudge the treatment that Government will have to give to the people of the Dohad Group. Your Excellency knows that Ratnagiri and Panch Mahals Districts have a lower franchise so far as elections to the Local Bodies and Legislatures are concerned. In Panch Mahals a person holding or cultivating lands having an assessment of Rs. 8 is eligible to vote for the Taluka Local Boards and those holding lands of assessment of Rs. 16 for the District Local Board and the Bombay Legislative Council. People in the Broach District cannot vote for any of these institutions unless they hold lands for double the assessment. Thus there is no uniformity as regards this privilege also.

26. So far as Local Board institution is concerned there would be much discontent. For years to come the two groups of Broach and Panch Mahals Talukas would not have identical interests and there would be a fight for posts of responsibility on both sides. The Broach people paying more local cess would expect naturally more amount to be spent on their Talukas while the other group on the ground of their backwardness with the force of their majority would be inclined to spend larger amounts in their group. It is in the interest of peace and harmony in the working of these progressive local bodies that such incidents should be avoided.

27. We therefore humbly submit that Government would be pleased to consider whether it is advisable to carry into effect the proposed amalgamation for a small saving. Even without the abolition of the collectorate, in consequence of the transfer of the Agency work, there is a scope for reduction, without loss of efficiency, in the present administration.

Thomas Committee against Amalgamation.

28. We beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the recommendation of the Thomas Committee contained in para 326 of their report and submit that the same be conveniently applied to this district.

29. If these suggestions appeal to Your Excellency, we submit, Your Excellency, for the sake of a small saving, would be pleased not to ignore the public opinion and put the people to innumerable difficulties which the residents of one group will have to encounter when the Head Quarters are fixed in another group.

30. However if Government think that there is no justification for keeping Broach and Panch Mahals separate, we most humbly submit that

there is absolutely no justification in selecting Broach as the Head Quarters of the amalgamated district.

Godhra a Central Place for Head Quarters.

31. There seems to be no justice in shifting the Head Quarters from a group (Panch Mahals) which has a population of 4,54,526 souls to another group (Broach) which has only half the population viz. 2,63,097. Even the city of Broach has a population of 34,227 as against 35110 of Godhra. The Broach group has no other important and progressive town while the Panch Mahals group has Dohad including Freelandgunj a very important town, rising with a large well-organised labour population, which ought to be near the Head Quarters owing to the various complicated questions specially of labour that are likely to arise oft and on.

32. Your Excellency's Government would be pleased to consider also whether there is any possibility of having an effective administrative control from the Head Quarters situated on the extreme border of the District with its farthest extremity at a distance of 155 miles. It is always advisable to select a central place like Godhra as the Head Quarters for having an effective check on the administration and for keeping the travelling allowance charges within proper limits. The Thomas Committee too has made a proper note in selecting Bombay as the seat of the Government, in preference to Poona as the former occupies a central position in the Presidency and the same principle is applicable to this case too.

No appreciable Reduction Expenditure.

33. Thus the main object of the Government viz. reduction in expenditure will be frustrated by selecting Broach as the Head Quarters as Bhatha Bills of District officers and clerks would mount up. The Government buildings at Godhra including Agency offices and bungalows numbering about a dozen would fall vacant and there would be unnecessary cost of keeping them under repairs. There will be no demand for them at Godhra while the public buildings at Broach would fetch a decent revenue by way of rent till the Government finally decide to dispose them off.

Equal Facilities and equal Differences.

34. It is, we submit, the primary duty of any administration to see that people get justice and their grievances are redressed with as little inconvenience and expense as possible. If Godhra is selected as the Head Quarters, people from the Broach and the Dohad groups would have equal facilities and equal difficulties; but if Broach is selected poor people from Panch Mahals shall have to travel a long distance. Kalol and Halol have an average distance of 80 miles, Godhra and villages under it have an average distance of 100 miles while Dohad and Jhalod 145 and 155 miles respectively from Broach. It would be nothing but denying justice to the poor people, the Bhils, Kolis and Naikdas, who generally go out on foot

carrying the necessary food with them, to expect them to go to 100 and 150 miles to Broach, a strange place, for the redress of their grievances. The land-lords and tenants of 35 Inami and 12 Talukdari estates who have often to approach the Collector in Revenue matters would be much inconvenienced.

**Panchmahals a Heavy Criminal Charge.
Murders & Dacoities Common.**

35. It is not necessary to remind Your Excellency's Government that not only this district has been inhabited mostly by the Bhills and Naikdas but the bulk of the population of the neighbouring states of Chhota Udepur, Jambughoda, Deogadh Baria, Sant Rampur, Wanswada, Kushalgadh, Jabuwa, Alirajpur, etc. compose of Bhills and Naikdas. They are so illiterate, poor and reckless that they often commit robberies, dacoities and murders. Very often the culprits are not detected as they move from one territory to another after committing crimes. The Collector's office remains very busy with extradition matters.

36. The crime register of this District would convince Your Excellency's Government that a very large number of criminal cases is filed every year in magistrates' courts and the Sessions Judge having ample criminal work has to stay for a longer period at Godhra than at Broach although in 75 per cent of the cases at the former place the accused are unrepresented by pleaders. The civil appellate work also is appreciably larger here than at Broach.

37. Owing to abject poverty, the Bhil community make raids on surrounding villages and towns when there is failure of crops. The administration report of the Panch Mahals Police Department if referred to would show, what a large number of dacoities and murders are committed every year. Even though at present there is a salutary effect of the Head Quarters in our midst several such cases are not detected and culprits go unpunished. One cannot imagine what would be their position, if that effect even is removed from them by the transfer of the Head Quarters to a distant place, on an extreme end of the district. The posting of a sub-Divisional officer and the Deputy superintendent of police would not serve the purpose. Recent Muslim riot and the murder of late Mr. Shah in broad daylight and that of one Mahalaxmi a School Mistress are glaring instances.

38. The District unfortunately abounds in criminals. Recently several shops were broken open at Godhra and dacoits were at work in the District. The law-abiding and peaceful subjects are really nervous as to what would happen when an impression is created on these people that *the Sarkar has left for Broach.*

Godhra Abounding in Unmanageable Roughs.

39. So far as Godhra proper is concerned, it has got its own special features. It has got a large percentage of roughs, who often

disturb its peace. It is only the salutary effect of the presence of the Head Quarters that has kept them in some sort of check. If that check is removed the question of preserving law and order in this unfortunate city would be a difficult problem.

40. We therefore appeal to Your Excellency, in the name of humanity, not to shift the Head Quarters from Godhra and invite for its law-abiding and peaceful population unheard of calamities in near future. We submit Government would be faced with many dacoities, murders and riots after the Head Quarters is removed and this would be an administrative blunder.

Godhra a Centre of British Power.

41. The British administrators in the past had, with foresight, selected Godhra as the Head Quarters, as it served as a centre of British power amidst the Indian states and as it was possible for them with the Police force stationed at Godhra, to render immediate assistance in times of emergency. It is difficult, with Head Quarters at Broach, to have that effect.

42. It is necessary, we humbly submit, to invite Your Excellency's attention to the positions of the present Head Quarters of the Gujarat Districts. Surat is at a distance of 163 miles from Bombay and its jurisdiction on the South extends to 50 miles or so and to the North to 30 miles. *Broach the next district Head Quarters is situated at a distance of only 37 miles* having its jurisdiction 10 miles on the South and 16 miles on the North. The Kaira District commences from Wasad i. e. 66 miles from Broach and 50 miles from the Broach District with its Head Quarters at a distance of 35 miles. The distance between Broach and Kaira Head Quarters is 90 miles. *Ahmedabad Head Quarters is 20 miles from Kaira.* Thus it will be clear from these figures that Surat and Broach have a distance of 37 miles while Ahmedabad and Kaira only 20 miles. But Godhra the present Head Quarters of Panch Mahals is at a distance of 89 miles from Broach, 74 from Kaira and 92 miles from Ahmedabad. Godhra has jurisdiction on the east and North over a country 50 to 70 miles away. We therefore submit that Godhra is the most suitable centre for Head Quarters of the new district, as in no case we find that the Head Quarters is nearly 150 miles away from its people.

43. Apart from these grounds we humbly submit that Godhra has only recently come into prominence as the Head Quarters of the District and of the Rewa Kantha Agency. It would lose all its importance and would be reduced to an ordinary taluka town and all its future prosperity would be marred by this step. Broach would lose nothing comparatively.

44. The district was kept non-regulated for a number of years. No steps for its development were taken by the Government. The first High School was started in 1902 with a result that only a few graduates

came out during the last twenty years or so. The educated persons of the district had therefore no scope in public service. People from Broach and Kaira were recruited for subordinate posts and even at present 75 percent of the Government servants are drawn from those districts. With the change of the Head Quarters bonafide inhabitants of this District will have to suffer.

Local Board Works Likely to Suffer.

45. The District Local Board which has now a non-official president, will have a very large area to look after. The works would suffer for want of proper control and supervision. An Administrative Officer sitting at Broach would have little control on schools situated at a distance of 150 miles; and the Primary Education will suffer thus a good deal. However if the Head Quarters is kept at Godhra no such difficulty would arise.

46. We are given to understand that in the selection of Broach as the Head Quarter the Government are influenced by the larger amount of land revenue that the Broach group yields. We respectfully submit that this should not form a consideration in the selection of Head Quarters which is and should always be selected, from the point of view of administrative convenience and the convenience of the people and also of its suitability in preserving law and order in the District. Even on point of revenue it seems to have been forgotten that Panchmahals has a large forest area and yields not an unconsiderable income. If the area was disforested and brought under cultivation the land revenue of this district would be very large. Apart from this the very backwardness of the people of this District who have enjoyed not many years of British Rule, is an argument in favour of selecting of Godhra, as they have a better claim on the Government for their uplift and betterment.

47. We respectfully submit that we fail to see any reason that goes to support the selection of Broach in preference to Godhra as Head Quarters of the new District. We are confident, that looked at from every point of view and weighed from every consideration, Godhra is indispensably the better of the two for selection of the Head Quarters of the amalgamated district.

48. The people of this district are poor and unorganised. On their behalf we have only the justice of their case to plead and we are confident that Your Excellency's Government would be pleased to give this question their fullest consideration and direct that the question of amalgamation be dropped and if amalgamation is decided upon, to decide that the Head Quarters be kept at Godhra.

And for this act of kindness we pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

Godhra,
Dated 31st January,
1933

We beg to remain,
Your Excellency,
Your Excellency's humble servants,

Representatives of Panch Mahals District.

N. B.:—A copy of the map of the Districts of Gujarat is attached herewith.

Respectfully submitted through the Collector, Panch Mahals.

Appendix "D"

Resolutions passed at more than 100 meetings on the
1st October 1933. (Non-amalgamation Day).

કરાર ૧.

પ્રજના વિરોધ અને પોકારની અવગણના કરીને, થોમસ કમીટીની ભલામણોની વિરુદ્ધ જાહેર બહુ અને પંચમહાલ જિલ્લાને સરકારે જોડી દીધા છે, તે સામે આ સભા પોતાનો સખત અણગમો બનાવે છે, અને સરકાર વગર વિલંબે આ બાબત ઉપર ફરી વિચાર કરી પોતાનો નિર્ણય ફેરવશે એવી આ સભા આશા રાખે છે.

Resolution No. 1.

This meeting, emphatically puts forth its feeling of acute dissatisfaction and keen displeasure against the Government decision to amalgamate the two districts of Broach and Panchmahals, openly flouting the opposition and grievous protest of the people of Panchmahals and putting aside the wise recommendations based on sound principles of the Thomas Committee in the matter; and so this meeting hopes that the Government will reconsider their decision and change their mind.

કરાર ૨.

જોડાયલા જિલ્લાનું મુખ્ય મથક નક્કી કરવાની બાબતમાં અનેક દ્રષ્ટિથી વિચાર કરતાં રાજ્યતંત્રની સગવડ અને પ્રજાનું સુખ બ્યાનમાં લેતાં બંને જિલ્લાના લોકોની સ્થિતિ, કેળવણી, વસ્તી, વિસ્તાર વગેરે ઉપર ઉંડી નજર દોડાવતાં અને આ સંબંધીના અનેક મહત્વના પ્રશ્નોને નિષ્પક્ષપાતપણે તપાસતાં ગોધરા શહેર જોડાયલા જિલ્લાનું મુખ્ય મથક થક શકે એવો ગોધરાને કેસ બહુજ મજબુત લેવા છતાં, પંચમહાલની પ્રજાના વાંધા અને વિરોધને નહિ ગણ્યકારતાં, જોડાયલા જિલ્લાનું મુખ્ય મથક ભરૂચ નક્કી કરવામાં સરકારે ખુલ્લો પક્ષપાત કર્યો છે, એવું પંચમહાલની પ્રજા પ્રમાણિકપણે માને છે; અને પંચમહાલની પ્રજાની હરકતો, આફતો, અગવડો, અડચણો, વગેરે તરફ બેદરકાર બનીને અને પ્રજાના પોકારને ઠોકરે મારીને સરકારે ભરૂચને મુખ્ય મથક બનાવી પંચમહાલ જિલ્લાને ભારે અન્યાય કર્યો છે, તે માટે આ સભા સખત વાંધા ઉઠાવે છે, અને કરેલા નિર્ણયમાં અન્યાય દેખાતાં તે સુધારવાની શક્તિ સરકાર હજી પશુ ધરાવે છે એવું પંચમહાલ જિલ્લાને ચએલો અન્યાય દુર કરીને સરકાર સાબીત કરશે એવી આ સભા આશા રાખે છે.

Resolution No. 2.

The people of Panchmahals, honestly believe that the Government deal injustice to them in making Broach the Head quarters of the new Amalgamated district, when Godhra is the only right place to be the Head quarters. Its case being strong, when considered from all sides, the administrative as well as the popular, and when other important factors besides the condition of the people, education, population and area of Panchmahals, are impartially and carefully observed. So this meeting strongly rehearses its protest against the Government decision to make Broach, the Head quarters of the new district, a decision which is the outcome of the Government's hard-hearted attitude and want of sympathy

for the difficulties, inconveniences and the miseries of the people of Panchmahals, a decision which is arrived at by the Government in the teeth of keen opposition of the District, kicking aside its just representation of rights and so this meeting hopes that the Government will prove its power to deal impartial justice to the District even now, removing its cause of grievence.

ઠરાવ ૩.

પંચમહાલ જિલ્લાને ભરૂચ જિલ્લા સાથે સરકારે જોડી દીધા છે. ન્યાં સુધી સરકાર એ રદ ન કરે ત્યાં સુધી જોડાયલા જિલ્લા માટે એક જ જિલ્લા લોકલબોર્ડ રાખવા આ સભા સ્થાનિક સ્વરાજ્યના પ્રધાનને સુચના કરે છે. અને જિલ્લાને ભેગા રાખીને જિલ્લા લો. બોર્ડ જુદી જુદી રાખવી, એ પંચમહાલની પ્રભુત્વ અપમાન કરવા જેવું છે માટે લોકલબોર્ડ કાયદામાં સુધારો કરાવવાને એક જિલ્લામાં બે જિલ્લા લોકલબોર્ડ સ્થાપવાની જે સત્તા સરકારે લીધી છે, તેનો ઉપયોગ પંચમહાલની પ્રભુ ઉપર ન કરવા સ્થાનિક સ્વરાજ્યના પ્રધાનને આ સભા આગ્રહભરી વિનંતિ કરે છે.

Resolution No. 3.

This meeting makes an emphatic suggestion to the Hon. the Minister for Local Self Government to keep one District Local Board for the amalgamated district as long as the Government decision to amalgamate Broach and Panchmahals remains unaltered. The people of Panchmahals consider themselves to be insulted by the Government decision to keep two separate Local Boards even when the Districts are amalgamated. Therefore this meeting pressingly appeals to the Hon. the Minister for Local Self Government not to make use of the recent amendment made in the Local Board Act in the matter of Panchmahals, and further requests the Minister to forbear the application of this pernicious amendment with which the Government have armed themselves for a special purpose in view.

Annendix "E"

Supplementary to paras 19, 20, 21.

It has been suggested in the above said paragraphs that there is a scope for retrenchment even without amalgamating the Disticts, and the figures given on the reverse, would show that there is not an appreciable difference between the expenditure that Government propose to incur on amalgamation and that we propose, Government would have to incur if our proposals are taken into consideration and the question of amalgamation is dropped.

The columns Nos. 2 and 6, show the present monthly administrative expenditure, so far as the Revenue and Police Departments of both the districts are concerned, which amounts to Rs. 8960 and Rs. 6450 respectively i.e. the total expenditure is Rs. 15410. Columns Nos. 3 and 7, show the expenditure that the Government would have to incur when the two Districts are amalgamated which amounts to Rs. 6450, and Rs. 4520 respectively for Revenue and Police Departments, i.e. in all Rs. 10970. The Government thus would be making a saving of Rs. 4440 per month. If a junior Collector and a D. S. P. be appointed for Panchmahals instead of the Senior Asst. Collector and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the expenditure according to our opinion would come to as shown in columns 4 and 8, i.e. Rs. 6180 and Rs. 4670 for Revenue and Police respectively. The total expenditure would amount to Rs. 10850. As the mounted police is to be reduced there will be a saving of Rs. 100 per month and hence the amount would come to Rs. 10750. If this proposal is accepted Government would make a saving of Rs. 4660 per month i.e. about Rs. 200 more. We, under the circumstances, suggest that instead of a Resident Magistrate, a Personal Assistant can be maintained at Godhra without additional expenditure.

So far as other departments viz. the Judicial, Public Works, Land Records and Treasury are concerned no special expenditure is made by Government except the allowance that is paid to the Sessions Judge. Government cannot make a saving so far as the Medical expenditure is concerned as this District ought to be given the services of a B.M.S. Medical Officer. At the most one Sub-Asst. Surgeon can be reduced.

As against this Government have to take into consideration if amalgamation is made, (1) the *additional amount* of Travelling Allowances that they shall have to pay to the District Officers who will have to travel long distances on amalgamation, (2) the loss of rent of Government houses that would fall vacant at Godhra, (3) Additional expenditure of T. A. Bills of the members of the District Local Board and School Board members and those of the Chief Officer and Administrative Officer, over and above the inconvenience and other difficulties that the people shall have to experience.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.

Panchmahals.				(REVENUE DEPARTMENT.)				Broach.		
Posts. 1	At Present. 2	After Amalgamation. 3	Our Proposal. 4	Posts. 5	At Present. 6	After Amalgamation. 7	Our Proposal. 8			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1. Collector.	1,800	.....	1,500	1. Collector	1,350	2,000	1,350			
2. Asst. Collector.	600	1,150	.....	2. Asst. Collector	600	.....	.....	
3. Dy. Collector	600	.....	.....	3. Dy. Collector	600	600	600			
4. Chitnis	250	.....	250	4. Chitnis	250	250	250			
5. Hd. Clerk	150	.....	.....	5. Hd. Clerk	200	250	150			
6. Dy. Chitnis	105	.....	105	6. Dy. Chitnis	105	105	85			
7. Second Clerk	85	.....	.....	7. Second clerk	85	85	85			
8. Sirastedars (2)	170	105	.....	8. Sirastedars (2)	170	105	85			
9. Clerks (12)	720	360	600	9. Clerks (12)	720	720	600			
10. Peons (10)	200	100	100	10. Peons (10)	200	120	120			
11. Resident Magistrate ....	.....	300	300	11. Add. Clerks ....	.....	200	.....		
Total ...	4,680	2,015	2,855	Total ...	4,280	4,495	3,325			

Panchmahals.				(POLICE DEPARTMENT.)				Broach.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1. D. Superintendent	750	.....	700	1. D. Superintendent	950	1,000	950			
2. Dy. Superintendent	350	500	.....	2. Dy. Superintendent	350	.....	.....	
3. Inspectors (2)	425	210	210	3. Inspectors	425	210	210			
4. Sub-Inspectors	1,000	900	900	4. Sub-Inspectors	1,000	800	800			
5. Office clerks	600	300	300	5. Office clerks	600	600	600			
Total ...	3,125	1,910	2,110	Total ...	3,325	2,610	2,560			

Total Expenditure of Both Districts.

Departments.	At Present.	After Amalgamation.	Our Proposal.
Revenue	Rs. 8,960	Rs. 6,450	Rs. 6,180
Police	" 6,450	" 4,520	" 4,670
Total	15,410	10,970	10,850

P. S.—Rs. 150—per Month will be saved, as mounted Police in Panchmahals are to be reduced.

Appendix "F"

A meeting of the workers of the Panchmahals District was held on the 12th November 1933. The meeting unanimously passed the following resolutions which were sent to Government:—

(1)

This meeting of the workers of every caste and creed in Panch Mahals, convened under the auspices of the Panch Mahals Non-Amalgamation League, unanimously puts on record its strong protest against the Government step of removing the District Head Quarters from Godhra, clearly showing therein their partiality towards Broach, even in the teeth of constitutional efforts of the people of Panch Mahals to dissuade Government from taking such an unjust step. Even in the amalgamation of two districts, Broach and Panch Mahals, Government have openly flouted the public opinion, disregarded the objections and difficulties put forth by the people of Panch Mahals and have insulted sincerely the people by a single stroke of pen and thus placed the District in a very awkward position. This meeting expresses its strong protest against this action of Government and hopes that all the orders and resolutions wounding the self-respect of the people of the District, Government will be pleased to withdraw, without any further delay.

Proposer:—Mr. Parlikar.

Seconder:—Mr. Kalimudin.

Unanimously carried.

(Sd.) A. B. Desai.
President.

13-11-1933.

(2)

This meeting brings to the notice of Government, a fact that Government have done injustice to the District of Panch Mahals in the false name of economy when Government could please the people of the Kolaba District, leaving off the question of its amalgamation, when Government satisfied the people of Ankleshwar and Hansot by not joining them with Surat and pleased the Broach people by setting aside the idea of the disruption of Broach and by retaining two district Local Boards in the new District of Broach and Panch Mahals. In the days of alleged economy Sind is pacified by creating a new District of Dadu there. In view of these facts, this open injustice done to Panch Mahals, has increased the feeling of dissatisfaction of the District people towards Government—a fact, which should serve as a warning to Government in dealing with such matters. This meeting hopes that Government will remove this dissatisfaction of the people by the early abolition of this amalgamation.

Proposer:—Mr. Maneklal Gandhi.

Seconder:—Mr. Chhaganlal Majmudar.

Passed unanimously.

(Sd.) A. B. Desai.
President.

13-11-1933.

(3)

The Government have proved their partiality to Broach by ordering the Broach Panch Mahals amalgamation and using the power of keeping two Local Boards, in one district, with which they amend the D. L. B. act by recent legislation. This meeting is of opinion that one District Local Board only should be kept in the new district until the amalgamation is abolished. In this connection, this meeting draws attention of the Government to the following words uttered by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in reply to the address, presented by the Panch Mahals District Local Board at Godhra at the time of his visit. To assure the people of Panch Mahals that the words, uttered, are the words of a responsible head of the Presidency, this meeting hopes, that the Government will order to amalgamate both the Local Boards also.

Proposer :--Khan Saheb Saherwalla.

Secunder :--Mr. Maganlal Gokaldas.

Passed unanimously.

13--11--1933.

(Sd.) A. B. Desai,
President.

(4)

The Finance Member of the Government promised that all the former arrangements regarding the High School and Civil Hospital will be retained unaltered even after the amalgamation and yet the status of the Civil Hospital is reduced by Government. This step has decreased the facilities of the people-facilities which they had by the existence of the Civil Hospital and which they did not get anywhere else in the District because of the non-existence of any charitable dispensaries. The people of Panch Mahals, voice forth their keen dissatisfaction at this action of Government and hope that Government will fulfill its promise in the matter. In the meanwhile this meeting pressinglly urges Government to-reinstate one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, who is taken away from the staff and authorizes the President in this connection to correspond by wire with the authorities concerned.

Proposer:--Mr. Bhailal Patel.

Secunder:--Mr. Purshottamdasbhai.

Passed unanimously.

13-11-1933.

Sd. A. B. Dasai,
President.

(5)

The Additional District Magistrate and the Additional District Superintendent of Police are appointed at present for Panch Mahals but it is not given out for what period these appointments are made and so the people are naturally doubtful about this arrangement also. Therefore this meeting urges the officers concerned to retain this arrangement until the amalgamation is abolished.

Proposer:-- Mr. Anjaria.

Secunder:-- Mr. Maganlal Desai

Passed unanimously.

13-11-1933.

Sd. A. B. Desai,
President.

This meeting expresses great grief as Government with closed eyes towards the condition and just rights of Panch Mahals, arrived at a decision in the matter of the Head Quarters of the District. This meeting emphatically suggests the right of Panch Mahals to have Head Quarters of the new district at Godhra and makes an urgent request to remove the injustice done, taking into consideration the following table.

Proposer:- Mr. Manilal Mehta.

Secunder:- Mr. Ismailbhai Rasulbhai

Passed unanimously.

Sd. A. B. Desai
President.

13-11-1933.

Accompaniment of Resolution No. 6

TABLE.

No.	Name of Item	Broach	Panch Mahals
1	District Population.	354111	454332
2	District area.	1468 sq. miles	1606 sq. miles
3	Head quarter town's population.	34227 (Broach)	35110 (Godhra)
4	Geographical position of the present Head quarters.	At the end of the new dist.	In the centre of the new dist.
5	Prospering towns in the Districts.	Nil	Dohad
6	Industry.	Cotton	Timber, Oil seeds etc.
7	Education.	nearly 16 percent.	Nearly 4 percent.
8	Labour problem.	Nil	B.B. & C. I. Ry. workshop.
9	Liquor problem.	Nil	Number of cases of illicit distillation.
10	Forest problem.	No Forest Dept.	There is a Forest Dept.
11	Condition of people.	Wealthy	Poor, Famine-stricken.
12	Mentality of people. Peace loving		Owing to poverty-Criminal mentality; many riots in the last 40 years.
13	Distance. Broach at a distance of more than 160 miles from the farthest village of Zalod Taluka.		Godhra at a distance of 60 miles to 90 miles from the farthest village of Broach Dist.
14	Needs.	Nil	Continuous presence of District officers for preservation of peace and order.
15	Political importance and strategic position.	Nil	Surrounded by Indian states. It is on the boundary of Gujarat and Malwa.

This meeting is of the opinion that the Government High school is a necessity in Panch Mahals for the spread of Education and hence it makes a pressing request to the Government not to close that institution. This meeting requests also Shriyut Manilal Harilal Mehta, the District representative in the Council, to make Government realise the necessity of such an institution in Panch Mahals.

Proposer:- Mr. Kalimudin.

Secunder:- Mr. Vallabhdas Modi.

Passed unanimously.

Sd. A. B. Desai.

President.

13. 11. 1933.

(8)

The question of this amalgamation of Broach and Panch Mahals District, has assumed a serious aspect in view of the horrible insult and injustice done to the people of Panch Mahals. This meeting therefore resolves, to prosecute further the fight constitutionally in the name of peoples' rights and for the sake of the principle involved by presenting this question before the constitution-loving people of the Presidency, its Districts and Sub-Divisions. Till justice is done to the people concerned in this matter, this meeting, with full force at its command appeals to the constitution-loving people of the Presidency to lend their helping hand to the people of Panch Mahals, who are seriously fighting against gross injustice.

Moved from the Chair, and passed.

Sd. A. B. Desai.

13. 11. 1933.

The Non-amalgamation League was held. It was further resolved to send this scheme to Govt. with a memorial. A Deputation of the Non-amalgamation League waited in the Comptroller N. D. at Godhra in the evening of the 19th December to explain to him this new Scheme.

The New Scheme proposed by the Panchmahals Non-amalgamation League.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Present Expenditure (After amalgamation)				* Proposed Expenditure by keeping two districts separate.					
Staff.	Branch & Panchmahals Grade.	Average Expenditure.	Remarks.	Staff.	Grate.	Branch Average Expenditure.	Panch Mahals Average Expenditure.	Remarks.	
Collector Assistant.	1250-2250	1750	In addition to this Govt. shall have to pay travelling allowances to District officers & their staff who shall have to travel long distances twice every financial year. (Collector's present camp at Godhra costs Rs. 600 approximately) Secondly there would be loss of rent of Govt. Buildings that would remain vacant at Godhra. Note: Average touring cost of the Collector in past years was approximately Rs. 600 per annum.	Junior collector	1000-1500	1250	1250	By keeping two districts separate the efficiency and the administrative convenience would be more facilitated & no extra cost would be involved. The recommendations of the Thomas Committee re. abolishing prant officers may be conveniently put into force as an experiment by this arrangement both Districts being small. Note: The Deputy Collector would work as P. A. to Collector and 1st. Class Magistrate.	
Collector	650-1000	825		Deputy	300-650	475	475		
Sr. Asst. Collector	450-1000	725		Chitnis & Head Clerk	150-200	175	175		
Chitnis	200-260	230		Dy. Chitnis	75-100	92	92		
Head clerk	200-260	230		Second Clerk	65-100	93	93		
Dy. Chitnis	105-140	122		Collector's Peons (7)	30-80	385	385		
Second clerk	85-100	92		Peons (10)	15	150	150		
Shirestedar									
Sr. A.c.	85-100	93							
A.c.	85-100	92							
Res. Mag.	85-100	93							
Resident Magistrate	275-350	315				2620	2620		
Sr. A.c.'s clerk (3)	30-80	165							
A.c.'s clerk (1)	30-80	55							
Res. mag.'s clerk (1)	30-80	55							
Collector's clerks (12)	30-80	660			2620	2620			
Peons (20)	15	300							
		5600					5240		

N. B. By the proposed scheme a further

the travelling expenses of Rs. 6720 per year is effected.

W. S. Mukadam

A. B. Desai

Godhra

President.

Propaganda Committee, Panch.

Panch Mahals Non-amalgamation League