

CHAPTER - V

GADKARI'S BUND AND APPOINTMENT OF
D. C. GRAHAM, THE FIRST POLITICAL
SUPERINTENDENT OF KOLHAPUR

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GADKARIE'S REIGN OF 1844 AND APPOINTMENT OF D. C. GRAHAM AS THE FIRST POLITICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF KOLHAPUR : SHIVAJI III ALIAS BABASAHEB : 1839 - 1866

Unfortunate as the reign of Buwasaheb was for the people and for the Raj of Kolhapur even worse days yet to dawn on them. Buwasaheb left behind him three sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Shivaji III alias Babasaheb, born on December 26, 1830 succeeded him.¹ Babasaheb was minor and so a Regency was formed consisting of his mother, his aunt and four karbharies.

Graham writes that hitherto this principality had been a scene of constant cruelty and disturbances. The internal dissensions during his minority again called for British intervention and the British Government appointed a Minister of their own to reform the administration.²

The State was in debt to the tune of six and half lakhs, of which only one lakh was paid. The British set up a machinery for economy and clear administration. Daji Krishna Pandit was the first Chief Minister appointed by the British in 1844.³

This appointment gave a rude shock to the people of Kolhapur who looked upon their state as an independent unit. The result was that the subordinate officers refused to obey Pandit. The Gadkaris rebelled against the British authority in 1844.

The Revolt of 1844, which in turn anticipated by thirteen years, the conflagration of 1857 which swept the country and all but shook off British strangle hold on the subcontinent, The Great Indian Mutiny.

Ramchandrarao Rajadnya who had been appointed by the British to head the administration was a Kolhapur man brought up in the atmosphere of the feudal and autocratic court, with long traditions of loyalty to the Chhatrapati's house and with strong attachments to the hereditary nobility of Kolhapur.⁴ Even though he held this office under the aegis of the British - he could never be a wholly British servant, and at every step found it impossible to go against the grain of the old order, by the very fact of birth and upbringing, he was quite incapable of carrying out his duties with anything like the zeal or sternness demanded of him by the British above all, at the risk of losing his own importance in the scheme of things, he continued to press forward before the Governor of Bombay, the claims

of Rajmata, Anandibai (Tarabai) to her proper place in the running of the State.

Townsend, the political Agent in Belgaum, was thoroughly outraged by this effort at restoring the Regency.⁵ He sent a list of complaints against Rajadnya to the Governor, accusing him of laxity in the maintenance of accounts, in collecting revenues, in introducing measures of economy, in not resolving the grievances of the Jain and Lingayat communities, and in not bringing over the younger Pant Amatya to Kolhapur as a companion in studies for Babasaheb Chhatrapati. Townsend also recommended to the Governor that Rajadnya should be removed from office and someone 'who enjoyed his confidence' appointed in his place. The Governor of Bombay gave his approval to Townsend's proposal.⁶

The man Townsend selected to replace Rajadnya was Daji Krishna Pandit,⁷ a senior official in the commissioner's staff at Dharwar whatever other qualities he may have possessed, that he was an 'outsider', with no ties linking him with Kolhapur past or with the prominent personalities in Kolhapur, according to Townsend, someone who could be entrusted to carry out the needed reforms without fear or favour and with unbending sternness.

Rajadnya was removed from office and a new administrative council set up, with Daji Krishna Pandit as the principal Administrator on a salary of Rs. 500 per month. Hindurao Gaikwad was appointed on the Council on a salary of Rs. 350 per month and entrusted with the management of the household affairs of the Chhatrapati family. The third member was Kashinathpant Kale, the British Akhbarnawis in Kolhapur. Kale who was paid a salary of Rs. 200 a month, was to do his job in addition to his duties as the Akhbarnawis. In March, 1844, Townsend himself came to Kolhapur and held a durbar to inaugurate the new administration.⁸ He recounted the steps taken over the past five years to introduce administrative reforms and enumerated their beneficial effects. He announced the appointment of Daji Krishna Pandit, spoke of him as a man who enjoyed his fullest confidence, and called upon the citizens of Kolhapur to remain obedient to him. Within a month of taking office, (April, 1844) Daji Krishna Pandit felt called upon to issue the following instructions to his revenue officials :- "There are repeated complaints of robberies and thefts in the territory, but no on the spot investigations of these crimes. The various Mamlatdars, instead of residing in the places to which they are appointed, have all shifted

their residences to Kolhapur, and this has caused serious distress to the populace. Because of the fear of robbers, crops are not sown, and as a consequence, there is loss of revenue, when the officials responsible for security are themselves not at their posts, who is to deal with the miscreants ? The robbers go about in bands. This is why it is essential that the Mamlatdars remain at their posts. They should engage mounted police, guards and watchmen wherever possible, establish posts and organize patrolling. The Mamlatdars should tour constantly and make detailed investigations and send up reports. All Mamlatdars must immediately leave Kolhapur."

From the state of affairs revealed in this order, there is no question whatsoever that stringent administrative reforms were called for. All the same to the people of Kolhapur, the new appointment came as a sharp break in the pattern.⁹ Which, so far, the British had been careful to observe. Hitherto, the administrators they had appointed, and even their own Akbarnawises, had been Kolhapur men from the older, well established families in the State, men chosen as much for their abilities as for the respect they commanded among the people. Now they were confronted with a rank outsider, a man who was determined to impose reforms on them

regardless of their own wishes and careless of their sensitivities, almost as though he were a Headmaster sent to discipline errant children.

The people had grown up to a tradition of feudalism and were accustomed to the pace, temper and foibles of an absolute rule, they had been plunged into the Regency Council, and some of them had experienced the heady freedom of lawlessness, they were being sharply called to order; by a man who had nothing in common with them. In his appointment they discovered yet another insidious advance on the part of the British to replace the Chhatrapat's rule by their own. Above all, they were in no mood to be disciplined by Daji Krishna Pandit, and seethed with indignation and a spirit of defiance.

Happily unaware that he was to provide the spark to ignite the discontent into a revolt, the new Chief Administrator went about his duties with exemplary dilligency and discovered enough that was wrong to deserve even further drastic changes in the administration. He inspected the treasury and was outraged by the glaring discrepancies in the accounts; he discovered that a large number of new grants of lands and villages had been made in return for cash gifts.¹⁰ Upon questioning his predecessor, Rajadnya, he was told that the particular

portfolio of Inams (land grant) had been handled by Hindurao Gaikwad, on his part, was unable to provide a satisfactory explanation. The third member of the new council, also came in for a share of the blame in that he had not kept the British informed of these serious lapses on the part of the administrators; the line of thought being that since he had failed to report these happening, Kale himself was implicated in these - indiscriminate grants. And right enough, upon delving further into the matter Daji Krishna Pandit came up with evidence that a man called Rambhau Karmarkar, who was an accomplice of Kashinathpant Kale, had been going round the country side offering to sell land grants for cash (Nazars). The result was that at the instance of Daji Krishna Pandit, both the Kolhapur men on the new Council, Gaikwad and Kale, were summarily removed from office by the political Agent leaving Daji Krishna Pandit as the sole administrator.¹¹ He now embarked upon a drastic series of reforms. He decided to disband a part of the military force, imposed severe monetary cuts in all departments and prohibited all further grants of lands and villages. He forbade the pernicious practice of farming out the collection of land revenue to middle men and demanded from all officials the punctual submission of all revenues and accounts. These reforms, even though they were certainly long overdue, cut across the grain of

popular sentiment and were resented by the officials who were called upon to implement them. They were accustomed to impositions and even harshness from their own ruler, but not from a man who they regarded as a British agent. Daji Krishna Pandit became increasingly unpopular¹² with his subordinates, the butt of all the grievances that had arisen out of the drastic reductions in their number and their perquisites. The officials at first showed their resentment by neglect and then in open defiance; thereby provoking the Chief Administrator into further severities. A crisis was brewing in Kolhapur, but an open clash was forestalled by the outbreak of a rebellion in the - outlying fort of Bhudargad, which began on July 22nd, 1844 within four months of the inauguration of the new Administrative Council.

One of the measures of economy, Daji Krishna Pandit had introduced was the reduction in the number of Mamlatdars, and the enlarging of the areas under their jurisdiction. The guards and the officials in the fort of Bhudargad, "Fearing that their rights would be interfered with," defied this order. When the new Mamlatdars appointed by the Chief Administrator went to Bhudargad to take charge of his duties, he was refused admittance by the fort guards and his party was fired upon.

Thus, with this minor contretemps began the Kolhapur revolt of 1844.¹³ The imposition of a new Mamlatdar in Bhudargad was its immediate cause, but there is little about that almost any such provocation on the part of the Chief Administrator would have sufficed to ignite the mounting resentment among the people.

For, even though, to all appearances, the revolt was begun and carried on by the officials and the army, those who were later entrusted to go into its causes gave a clear verdict that it was a revolt of the people against the British Raj, a full-dress rehearsal of the holocaust of 1857. Major Lampsden, who headed the court in inquiry appointed by the British to go into the evidence of the causes of the revolt, records the opinion of the court in the following terms :- "There were strong reasons for believing that there is not a single person of any note connected with the Kolhapur State who would not be found more or less implicated. Such a display of hostility," he goes on to say, "cannot, in our opinion, be explained by the intrigues of a few persons or by any partial or local dissatisfaction. The felling must have been national (sic.) what has taken place is not an insurrection of - dissatisfied subjects against the Kolhapur Government.

By the time the reports of the flagrant insubordination of the garrison at Bhudargad had reached Kolhapur, a similar situation had developed in another fort some twenty miles distant from Bhudargad, Samnagad. Here too the guards at the gates refused to admit the newly appointed Government officials sent from Kolhapur. Almost spontaneously the revolt was spreading to all parts of the state. In Samnagad, the leaders of the revolt were Ramji Jadhav, Doulatrao Ghorapade, Bapuji Subhedar, Govind Mujumadar, Yeshwant Appaji Fadnis, Munjappa Kadam, and Jotiba Ayrekar.¹⁴

Daji Krishna Pandit did was to send a report to the political Agent. He then despatched a force to Samnagad of under the joint command of secretly sympathised with the rebels and it is not likely that Hanumantrao felt particularly hostile towards them. The results was either a sham battle or a technical defeat which was magnified into a total rout. The Kolhapur force was beaten back and retired to Kolhapur. As news of this initial victory for the rebels spread, many people in the surrounding areas began to gravitate towards Samnagad to participate in the uprising. The most notable among them was none other than that man with a towering reputation as a life long rebel Subhana Nikam. He rushed to Samnagad accompanied by nearly three hundred of his lusty followers, the Ramoshis, and as it were took command of the

revolt, he was the man who held it together and gave it strength.

Subhanna Nikam¹⁵ has twice made his appearance in this history, and this may be the proper place to give a - brief account of the desperate career of this fascinating rogue.

As we have seen, in 1827, he together with his entire gang of bandits who lived by plunder were recruited by Buwasheb Maharaj into the Kolhapur Army. After the 1829 treaty with the British, his service must have been dispensed with and he promptly erst while returned to his trade, banditry. He rather overstepped the bounds of propriety even for a professional bandit of those days by committing robbery in the capital itself and was again apprehended and imprisoned. In those days, Kolhapur had no prison as such, and prisoners were held in captivity in various odd rooms and dungeons - within the old fortifications. Subhanna happened to be confined in one of the stables of the chargers of the Maharaja and escaped, this time to the territory of the Nizam of Hyderabad. Here he set himself with the full state insignia of the Chhatrapati, " and collecting a large body of men. Commenced indiscriminate plunder." he was driven out of the Nizams territory, he repaired to the territory of the Raja of the Satara. By this time, his band of robbers had increased of 2,000 with their help he began; to levy tribute and contributions

in his own name, "exactly as though he were a ruling prince. When his band of Ramoshis was attacked and dispersed by the troops of Satara and he himself captured he had yet another narrow escape when " with his own dagger, cut off the clothes he was wearing", to effect his escape and went into hiding in the jungles.

It was not till 1833 that he was again arrested. By this time however, the feeling of anger against him seem to have tempered by administration for his incredible adventures, and the result was that, instead of being thrown back into prison Subhanna Nikam was "allowed to purchase his freedom of Rs. 2,000. Indeed it would seem that, during the next few years, this evil genius managed to establish himself in Buwasaheb's favour in all over again to such an extent that, before leaving for his pilgrimage to Tuljapur from which he never returned (1838) Bawasaheb took the unbelievable step of appointing this seasoned criminal as the Kotwal of Kolhapur, in the days of the Regency Council he is said to have been discovered in "engaging in an intrigue against Satara", with the result that he was able to achieve in captivity is like something out of Arabian Nights. According to Major Graham he "seduced the wife of a respectable Brahmin, who introduced herself in male attire into his prison. This was when a shocked court must have sent him off to the remote

fort of Bhudargad. His efforts to engineer a rebellion in Bhudargad to proclaim Chimasahab as the Chhatrapati and with himself as the new Chhatrapati's chief Minister have been already described. The result was that he was escorted back to Kolhapur where, for the next three years, he was kept imprisoned. In 1843 during the discredited regime of Dinkarrao Gaikwad and Saibai, he was once again able to secure his release "on bail", and promptly went back to his old practice of this time however, in the garb of "an administrator of justice in the districts".¹⁷

For a while his victimization of the people seems to have been tolerated but "on very flagrant oppression", he was again seized. He again escaped, and again collected followers and carried out an armed raid against the village of Akiwat but this attack was repelled. By this time, the Samangad, rebellion had broken out, and he promptly took his gang of followers to Samangad and joined the rebels. Under his expert guidance, they collected all the firearms they could lay hands on and laid in stocks of powder vigorous preparations were made to defend the fort, and guards and pickets were placed along all the approaches, and defensive breast works erected.

The gadkaries (garrison) in Samangad numbered 350. These troops were now augmented by the followers

of Subhans Nikam, consisting of a hundred riflemen and two hundred others who were presumably equipped with swords and bows and arrows. Samangad was a well - constructed fort, and it contained ten cannons. As such, even though outnumbered two to one in manpower and - perhaps three to one in firepower, the rebels were - able to hold their own for a time. On September 24th they threw back a determined assault by the British force with such vigour that for a time; they gave up all notions of further assault and proceeded to subject the fort to a systematic blockade.

The rebels had been sending frantic messages to Kolhapur and asking for helps protesting that they had revolted against British authority but not against Kolhapur. But even though there was some ineffectual effort in Kolhapur to send them help, it never - materialized, for the simple reason that, by this time, the revolt had spread to Kolhapur too, and the British had sent a special column to deal with it. Thus, all available troops in Kolhapur were pinned down.¹⁸

On October 8th, the British erected gun emplacements around Samangad and began to pound the walls with - shells with the object of effecting a breach. But again the rebels returned the fire spiritedly and managed to neutralize some of the guns. The exchange

of life continued sporadically for the next week. When at last they realized that no outside help was forth coming, and with their ammunition all but spent, the rebels surrendered the fort to the British on October 13th 1844.

By this time, the revolt had flared up in other places too, but before proceeding with the - narrative of these happenings it would not be out of place to conclude the story of the incredible adventures of Subhanna Nikam. Upon the fall of Samangad, Subhanna fell into the hands of the British and was dispatched to the proper, British built gaol at Belgaum, where, no doubt, he was held as a maximum security prisoner. But even this gaol failed to hold Subhanna Nikam for long, within a few days he had broken free. For more than a year after this he "remained at large, with different rebel forces, until the end of the disturbances in 1845, when he was finally captured, tried, and executed."¹⁹

The revolt had broken out in Kolhapur itself. It was sparked by a personal assault on the Chief Administrator by some of the disgruntled soldiers. In the inquiry that was later instituted by the British, it came out that both Dinkarrao Gaikwad and his trusty henchman, Ravji Waknis were implicated in instigating the revolt, and both had the active support of Saibai (Diwansaheb) who, for many years

had been the Kolhapur Regent. Two other prominent - personalities who had plotted to bring about the uprising were Sakharam Ghatge, the maternal uncle of the younger prince Chimseheb, and a man called Babaji Ayrekar, who not only took an active part in the Kolhapur revolt, but was Chiefly responsible for spreading it to two other - centres as well, Bhudar and Panhala.

Between them these leaders of the revolt in Kolhapur managed to win over the men from the Shibandi and instigated them to show insubordination to the - Mamladars appointed by Daji Krishna Pandit.

But by this time the British thoroughly alarmed, acted with speed and vigour. They rushed troops from Belgaum and Dharwar to Kolhapur. On the way, this force was joined, by a detachment from Kagal, placed at its disposal, by the Kagal administrator, Gulam Gaus Khan. His administration, Gulam Gaus Khan, a Pathan, was a daring and resourceful officer. When the situation in Kolhapur was most confused, it was he who rushed to the palace and rescued the two young princes and their respective mothers and escorted them safely in to the British camp.²⁰

Colonel Outram, the commander of the British Force, later sent a glowing letter of appreciation to Gaus Khan.

"While we were marching to deal with the -
uprising, you gave us help in Kagal and Chinchwad, and
then accompanied us to Kolhapur. Even here you rendered
help in restoring order. Afterwards, when the Honourable
Resident at Satara was held captive by the rebels in
Panhala, you assisted the rescue efforts. I greatly
appreciate your services, and am writing with approbation
to the Government about you. No doubt the Government will
be very pleased with you and your master both". What with
the help given by Gaus Khan, the British were able to put
down the Kolhapur revolt before it could take a firm hold.
All the same, they were not able to apprehend all the -
principal suspects. Sakharām Ghatge Sarjerao fled and
went into hiding and Babaji Ayrekar, perhaps the most
resourceful among them managed to escape to Bhudargad where
the garrison had already declared revolt.

By this time, it must have been apparent to the
British that the conflagration was spreading spontaneously
all over the Kolhapur state, and that, unless it was put
down quickly, it might overrun the boundaries of the
state.

They set about vigorously restoring order in
Kolhapur and demanded that the Kolhapur administration too
should send a force to put down the Bhudargad rebellion.
It is unlikely that in Kolhapur itself there was anyone

who, for one reason or another, was not secretly in sympathy with the rebels. At the same time appearances had to be kept, a front of loyalty towards the victors had to be maintained as long as possible. Thus, Hanumantrao Sarlashkar once again set out with a force to quell the Bhudargad uprising. A British Column sent from Belgaum was already approaching Bhudargad.

In Bhudargad too, the British initially attempted to persuade the rebels to surrender, and offered a - general pardon to those who would come out on their own and give themselves up. Babaji Ayrekar, who had fled from Kolhapur and turned up in Bhudargad took advantage of this offer to escape and go and start a revolt somewhere else. On the pretext of giving himself up, he came out of the fort and promptly slipped away to the fort of Panhala where he lost no time in instigating the garrison to rise in arms. He glibly assured the gadkaries that the revolt was succeeding every where else. Thus aroused, they too decided to join in and proceeded to arrest the few British, officers who happened to be stationed in Panhala.

Soon after this, they received an unexpected windfall in their bag of British prisoners when they saw a palanquin escorted by a party of soldiers and followed

by numerous servants going past the fort. They seized the palanquin and discovered that their catch was none other than the infamous cobnel ovans, who having done his best to insure the removal of Pratapsing, the Chhatrapati of Satara from his gadi was now proceeding to Belgaum on promotion as the new commissioner. They brought Ovans into the fort and held him a captive together with their other prisoners.

But these petty triumphs turned out to be shortlived. The British force from Kolhapur advanced and mounted an operation against Panhala. By November 27th, they had erected gun-emplacements and began a sustained barrage against the fort walls.

At the same time news was received of the fall of Bhudargad. The morale of the rebels boosted by Bahaji Agrekar's glowing accounts of victorious uprisings suddenly ebbed away, knowing that their comrades were about to surrender Ayrekar and some of his more spirited followers made yet another bid to escape to the adjoining fort of Pavangad and carry on the fight. But they were already too late and found themselves confronted by the advance British elements who had reached the walls of the fort. In the fighting that ensued, Babaji Ayrekar and many of his followers were killed.

By the end of April 1845, the Kolhapur revolt had been wholly crushed. The population settled down to nurse

their resentment in secret until the next opportunity. The British on their part, settled down to determine why the revolt had occurred and who were behind it, and to determine the extent of their guilt and to award punishment. Side by side, they must have also indulged in a good deal of soul searching for, by and large, the punishments - accorded by them to those held guilty, for all that they were considered severe in Kolhapur, were nowhere near as shockingly vindictive and savage as the ones they were to deal out thirteen years later. Indeed, from the available records, only one man other than Subhanna Nikam seems to have been given the death sentence.

A British officer was to be appointed as the head of administration and invested with wide military and civil powers. His official designation was 'The political Superintendent' of Kolhapur. The following are some important news papers news ~~papers~~ and comments regarding the Kolhapur Bund of 1844.

THE "BOMBAY TIMES" (16-10-1844) STATES : "BRITISH BLOOD LAVISHLY EXPANDED" :

"It is lamentable consideration that British blood and treasure should be so lavishly expanded in altering the state of affairs in an independent kingdom which will probable revert to its own condition whenever

the Raja attains his majority or assumes the regin -
Government."

KOLHAPUR 'BUND' - 1844 :

CONDENSED FROM SATARA RESIDENCY RECORDS (OUTWARD) PESHWA
DAFTAR :

In October 1844 the insurgents imprisoned Daji Pandit, the Karbari of Kolhapur and took possession of the city. Postal communications from Belgaum were cutoff by them. Subhana Nikam reached Samangad with 500 insurgents and cut off all communications south of the Panchangao. The rebels captured the forts of Panhala and Pauangad. Raoji Waknis and Dinkarrao Gaikwad, raised to standard of rebellion and placed guards round the town of Kolhapur. and controlled all the communication. The rebellion gathered force and many people started co-operating with them. Vishalgadkar also joined the rebellion. The - treasury of Chikodi was plundered by the rebels. Who killed Government's guards, liberated the prisoners and burnt all Government records, The government Officers fled from the place.

The fort of Samangad was captured by the rebels on the morning of 13th October, Colonel T Ovans left - charge of Satara in favour of captain Hart on 12th November, 1844 and went to the Kolhapur war area. But he

was taken prisoner on his way to Kolhapur and kept a captive for some weeks at the fort of Panhala. He was released by British Force and resumed charge of Satara Residency on 20th January, 1845. He again handed over charge to Captain Hart on 27th January, 1845 and submitted his resignation which was accepted with effect from 1st February, 1845. Captain Hart was the Ag. Resident till 24th May, 1845, when Lt. Col. J. Outram assumed charge of the Satara Residency.²³ The Company had also assessed that it had spent fifteen lakhs of rupees in putting down the revolt, and this sum was levied as a fine on Kolhapur.

The forts came in for savage punishment, almost as though the local officers, indignant that their recommendation to take over the State had been brushed aside, were wreaking vengeance on the stone and mortar of historic edifices. The fortifications of Panhala, Vishalgad, Bavadā were destroyed under official order.

It was decided to station a British Military Force permanently in Kolhapur, and the barracks, officer's 22 bungalows and other buildings to accommodate this force were constructed at the expenses of the State.

THE FIRST POLITICAL SUPERINTENDENT

APPOINTED TO ADMINISTER OF KOLHAPUR :

However, Political Superintendent was appointed to administer Kolhapur during the minority of the Chhatrapati.

Major D. C. Graham was the first Superintendent appointed and Daji Krishna Pandit was again given the charge of Civil Administration.

Graham says in his report : In January, 1845 a British Officer was appointed Political Superintendent of the Kolhapur State, a Brigade was stationed in the vicinity of the town and a series of measures of reform and improvement were adopted by the Bombay Government, which in their progress must ensure the protection and well being of the Prince and the internal peace and good ~~and~~ administration of the country.²⁴ Major Douglas Graham, who later compiled that invaluable record of contemporary Kolhapur." The Statistical Report". Daji Krishna Pandit who was cleared of all charges, was appointed his Deputy.

Major Graham announced that the social eminence and privilege accorded to the Chhatrapati would remain

unimpaired, and that a sum of Rs. 80,000/- would be set aside annually for his house-hold expenses.²⁵ Then Graham set about creating an administrative machine after the pattern prevailing in British India. Daji Krishna Pandit was appointed the Chief Revenue Officer. A Civil Court conducted by a Sadar Ameer and two Munsifs, and a Criminal Court conducted by a Nayadhish. The State was divided into Six Pethas and a Revenue Collector or Mamlatdar, empowered to try cases of petty crime, was appointed to each Petha. The city of Kolhapur had a Kotwal (Police Commissioner) and each Petha a Foujdar (Sub-Inspector) and all were provided with Squads of Policemen to assist them in maintaining law & order.

Major Graham then began to build up the new military force that was to be stationed in Kolhapur. This force was to be designated 'The Kolhapur Infantry' and was to have a total strength of Five Hundred men commanded by a British Officer.

In the ranks of the recruits, Major Graham was able to resettle as many as possible of the men who had belonged to the military establishment of Kolhapur and who had been disbanded on the grounds of their participation in the revolt.

... 156/-

However, because of age, physical fitness and other requirements, and perhaps because of lack of volunteers too, the full number could not be mustered from the ranks of the erstwhile Kolhapur Army, and this necessitated the enrolment of a few men from outside the State. The soldiers of the Kolhapur Infantry were uniformed, equipped and trained on the pattern of the East India Company's Army. This Kolhapur Infantry must not be confused with the military force that the British had decided to station in Kolhapur and which was usually one or the other Battalion of what was called 'The Native Infantry'.²⁶

HIS WORK OF COMPILING STATISTICAL REPORT :

Having organised the administration to his satisfaction and with most of the ex-rebels resettled, Major Douglas Graham took up the work of compiling his Statistical Report. This report is a truly astonishing document, a laboriously, even fussily assembled conglomerate of information much of which seems quite useless today and must have seemed superfluous even in those days. At that it is a glowing tribute to the thoroughness of the times in general and of Major Graham in particular. Everything was strange to them, and

they had been put to administer enormous tracts of land almost single handedly, and it is to their credit that they were anxious to know everything about the land and the people they were expected to govern.

So they compiled statistics, going about their jobs with missionary zeal and with the unfiring persistence of machines of machines, without bothering very much about the practical usefulness or otherwise of the information they were collecting.

'The Report' has maps, detailed descriptions of forts and buildings complete with plans, a brief history of Kolhapur, long accounts of the various religious, eastes, creeds, customs and conventions, facsimile copies of archeological inscriptions, drawings of agricultural implements, the rates of chillies and ginger per seer pylee and the meanings of the words 'seer' and 'pylee' and page after page of tables of unbearable exhaustive facts and figures.

It must be also conceded that the 'Report' must have provided an immensely useful ready-reckoner for anyone called upon to govern Kolhapur at short notice in those days, and is perhaps useful even now to the few who might be looking for just such obscure detail of information about Kolhapur's past.

For where else would you find how hides were cured and marketed by the chamars and oils extracted from seeds by the talees of Kolhapur, or how codbutties (Joss-sticks) were made and how much profit a basket weaver could expect from his trade ?

In 1853, Major Graham completed his report and went to England on leave, where he died.

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