

CHAPTER THREE

LATTHE AS AN ADMINISTRATOR

Latthe started his career as a social and religious reformer by participating in the work of Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha from 1899. His direct concern occurred with Kolhapur state after completing his post-graduation. Latthe's accidental meeting with Shahu Maharaj, by which Shahu and Manikchand became friends, Shahu's desire for establishing Hostels for non-Brahmin students brought Shahu and Latthe closer. In 1905, Latthe became first Superintendent of Jain Boarding. He then actively started educational and social work in Jain community. His thoughts about the progress of untouchables and his social work, created the impression and Shahu appointed him as a lecturer in Rajaram College. There were many distinguished lecturers but Latthe's teaching of English was upto the mark. He had interest in reading from his college life; he developed his interest, further. He was always found in the library.¹

In this period (1907 to 1910) there were discussions about the all-round progress of untouchables between Annasaheb and Shahu Maharaj. Shahu Maharaj used to call Latthe and discuss about the educational progress of Bahujan Samaj.²

Shahu always thought of strengthening his administrative departments by inducting the best available talents. Shahu transferred A.B. Latthe from Rajaram College to the administrative wing of government appointing him from September 14, 1910 to the post of Mamlatdar.³

He was vested with all Magisterial powers by the District Magistrate D.D. Sontakke, such as -

- 1 The power to order regarding avoiding the reptition of cases vide Section 143;
- 2 The power to give orders vide Section 144;
- 3 The power to pay Incust as per Section 190 A.
- 4 The power to deal with the cases of delinquents if there is a complaint as per Section 190 A.
- 5 The power to deal with the cases of delinquents if there is a police report as per Section 190B.

Latthe was Acting City Magistrate from 17.9.1910 to 15.11.1911.⁴

Huzur Order of 11th January 1911 declared that, Prof. Anna Babaji Latthe was appointed as an Education Inspector and Mr. Annappa Dudyappa Chougule was appointed on Latthe's post of City Magistrate.⁵

Latthe took the charge as an Educational Inspector from 16.1.1911.⁶ On the same date Diwan Sabnis declared that "Latthe City Magistrate, was appointed as Educational Inspector by giving promotion in his payment from Rs. 125 to 130 and his payment will increase after every two years by Rs. 25 till Rs.200.

Shahu's Educational Movement

Education was the panacea against all social evils in society. In the traditional Indian society of Shahu's time more than 90% of the population was illiterate and ignorant. He rightly understood that the knowledge was the source of power and progress and hence education was one of the basic needs of man. Shahu himself agreed that free and compulsory primary education was the only invigorating tonic that would enable the lower classes to throw off the incubus of the past (the caste system). He had, therefore, commenced free and compulsory education in his state with the hope that at least the next generation will be literate.⁷

The revelation of underlying current of human thought was that educational development led ultimately to the path of social reconstruction. Shahu studied the past carefully, watched the present anxiously and looked ahead to the future eagerly. Social evils and superstitions among the people were main handicaps to their evolution, growth and progress. As a ruler it was not his immediate duty to attempt to overthrow the existing social order but to modify it by blunting the edges of social evils and helping the individuals to grow. Naturally he had to work with caution coverage and determination by educating and mobilizing the public opinion.⁸

From the beginning of his career, Shahu Maharaj laid emphasis on education. To elevate the masses the mass education was the only

tonic. Throughout his life Shahu worked hard to realise this objective by adopting various measures for the spread of education. He was already the patron of the Deccan Maratha Association which had appreciated his valued patronage by electing him as its president. He consulted educationalists of all kinds and took various measures for the spread of education. His educational policy can be classified roughly as under:⁹

- 1) Measures adopted for the spread of education in the state;
- 2) Hostel movement of Boarding houses in the state;
- 3) His donations to the Boarding Houses out of his state;
- 4) His approach to education.

Measures Within the State

His first step to spread ~~up~~ education was the creation of new post of Education Inspector. Until 1895 Deputy Education Inspector was the head of the Education Departments. Shri Shahu passed the following order on 27th September, 1895:

"The designation of the Deputy Education Inspector of Kolhapur has been changed to Education Inspector, Kolhapur."¹⁰

All Boys' and Girls' Schools in the Karveer State were placed under his control. His pay was increased to Rs. 278 from 1st September 1895 (per month) because his work and responsibilities were

increased. He was given one more Assistant Education Inspector on pay of Rs. 75 per month to cope up with the increased work.

Shri V.K. Kirtikar the existing Deputy Education Inspector was upgraded as Education Inspector in 1895. The Education Inspectors that succeeded him were -

- 1) T.G. Natu, B.A., from 1.4.1906 to 1911,
- 2) Prof. A.B. Latthe, M.A., from 16th January 1911 to 13th November, 1914.¹¹

These Educational Inspectors of Shahu Maharaj rendered great service to the cause of education in the state. Many orders passed by Maharaja were executed by these able Educational Inspectors very sincerely.¹²

Latthe as an Education Inspector (1911-14)

Education of Backward Classes

The Miss Clarke Hostel for the so called untouchable classes in Kolhapur occupies a very prominent place on this side of the Maharaja's enlightened activities. Among these classes themselves, it was impossible in the ^ebeginning to find men who could be trusted to take the lead. A small band of educated non-Brahmins, therefore, took up the work. In February 1908 they met in the Jain Hostel (Latthe was superintendent of Jain Hostel) and formed themselves into 'a society for the promotion of education among the depressed classes'.¹³

The standard of education in the vernacular state schools for these classes was so low that those who had passed through them could not be properly admitted into the Middle School Classes and hence a beginning had to be made with training classes for these boys to be coached for the secondary education which was to follow. Besides His Highness, people of all non-Brahmin communities new and old, assisted the work. The names of Col. Wodhouse, the Resident, who took the keenest interest in this society and Shri Jinsan Swami, the orthodox high priest of the Jains, may be specially mentioned.¹⁴

After the completion of the training, the boys were sent to High School and for the convenience and comfort of these students, the society started a small hostel with 7 students in the Ekweri Temple premises in Raviwar Peth, lent for the purpose by His Highness. The visit of Miss Clarke to Kolhapur and the interest she took in the depressed classes movement generally in her short career in this country induced Shri Shahu to name the Hostel after her. Subsequently, His Highness placed the site with the building standing there on at the disposal of the institution. The comfortable quarters added on the old structure in 1914 received from His Highness a full half of the total cost incurred by the committee of management. Twentytwo High School boys were taking advantage of this Hostel when His Highness died in 1922.¹⁵

A letter of His Highness to his friend in England tells us:

"I have been trying to raise the level of the backward classes

and it gives me a real pleasure to find that the Maratha Education Society has kept up its progress. We shall soon have a similar society of Jains here. I am giving them too helping hand. The difficulties with Brahmin, I am afraid, will never end. The religious difference, it seems they are not very serious about."¹⁶

The non-Brahmin educational work was proceeding apace. The opening of the Namdeo Hostel in April 1911 and that of Saraswatibai Saraswat Hostel in May 1915 may be sited to illustrate the character of his work. The latter institution is particularly notable as being intended for one of the Brahmin sub-castes which had for generations been receiving unjust treatment from the other Brahmin castes. The Depressed classes Hostel was making rapid progress. Just like His Highness, Colonel Woodhouse also took very keen interest in the upliftment of the so called untouchables and the society for the promotion of education among them was making good headway in Kolhapur. The main object of the society, as the report read by it at its annual meeting in Chaturbai Hall of the Jain Hostel in April 1912 stated, was "to create a batch of educated, liberalised leaders among the depressed classes themselves." "But something" says the Report, "ought to be done for the vast masses of these unhappy people who are steeped in limitless ignorance. The work can only be undertaken by the states but private agencies might do a great deal of useful work of guiding the boy's parents in the direction of education. By

infusing in them a love of higher life than they live, by encouraging the boys themselves to attend state school, by evoking the sympathies of the teaching profession to treat their pupils of the untouchable classes with affection and tenderness by reporting to the proper authorities of the states the defects in the management of their special schools and by various other ways, private bodies like this society, can supplement the state efforts to impart education to these classes, and we might add, can prepare the ground for large measures of reform as the Maharaja was soon going to take for the amelioration of these classes."¹⁷

The hostel was permanently located in a nice building in 1914 and His Highness contributed half its cost. In reviewing the work of the society, Colonel Woodehouse observed:¹⁸

"With such enthusiastic workers as Prof. Latthe and Mr. Dongare and others, I feel sure that this work will progress, but this work was very difficult for such gentlemen who have other work to do and it will be a very great pity if the educated public of Kolhapur do not accord a hearty support to this most deserving society."

The appeal fell on deaf ears. All that noble work which Kolhapur did as a result of this spread work was due to the manful espousal of the depressed classes cause by His Highness the Maharaja himself. The Brahmins always remained unmoved, some of the non-Brahmins gave vent to their jealousies - a sad development in Kolhapur during these years by trying to pull down the

work done by their supported rivals, and after they had gone one after another, the society languished a great deal.¹⁹

Though such difficulties arose to impade the progress of the work there was no doubt that the progress was never arrested by such causes.²⁰

In the Rajaram High School, for instance, out of 507 boys then reading, take 1911 as the year which complised the first decennium - 156 were Marathas (including allied castes) 35 were the Jains, 14 Lingayats, 26 Mahars or untouchables, 10 Musalmans and 3 included Christians and Parsees.²¹

Thus, the non-Brahmins were 50% of the students in the High School. Compared with the numerical strength of their respective communities, this was far from being satisfactory. But when compared with the past, the change was decisively for the better.²²

The Administrative Reports of 1912 to 1914 state the progress of untouchable students in the Miss Clarke Hostel as the number of students residing at the Miss Violet Clarke Hostel was 16 at the end of the year. Of these 15 attended the High School and 1 was learning in the J.G. Technical School, Kolhapur, 15 students appeared for the annual examination of the High School of whom 10 ^a ~~one~~ of successful and two of these carried first prizes in their respective classes. One at ~~ending~~ the J.G. Technical School also passed. All these boys are exempted from paying fees. The receipts and expenditure of the institution amounted to Rs. 916 and Rs. 396

respectively. ~~The His~~ Highness was pleased to increase the annual grant by Rs. 25.²³

There were 11 students on the role of Miss Clarke Hostel at the end of the year. Of these 9 were in the High School and 2 in the Vernacular Schools. Under special order from His Highness all boys are exempted from paying school fees. Out of 11 students 10 came off successful. One of them stood first in English Standard III. The income was Rs. 614 and the expenditure was Rs. 557 during the year.²⁴

The number of resident students were 12 during the year against 11 in the last year. Of these 9 were in the Rajaram High School and 3 in the Vernacular Schools. All students were exempted from paying school fees, special prizes were given to students to foster education among them. One of the students passed vernacular school final examination during the year. The income was Rs. 862 and the expenditure was Rs. 476 during the year.²⁵

The Report also states the progress of backward schools and students as follows -

"The number of separate schools for low castes increased from 22 to 24. 295 students (2/3 boys and 16 girls) were successful. The total number of low caste children studying in all these vernacular and other schools was 755 boys and 55 girls."²⁶

His Highness was very anxious to spread education among the

very low castes and to raise and elevate them. The success in this direction was still moderate and the reason was obvious to all who know the condition of these classes. The number of separate schools for Antyaja children increased from 24 to 27 with 636 boys learning in them. The total number of boys studying in all these vernacular and other schools increased from 810 to 850, 302 students and 20 girls appeared for examination of whom 195 and 15 were successful.²⁷

The number of separate schools for Antyaja children remained the same as last year viz., 27 with 592 students including 21 girls learning in them against 636 students for the last year against 214 in the previous year.

Out of 385 boys, and 20 girls that appeared for the examination 261 boys and 13 girls passed during the year against 195 boys and 15 girls in the previous year.

It is noteworthy that the special concessions were given to these classes by His Highness and the strenuous efforts were made for them. 'Society for the spread of education among the untouchable' helped greatly the progress of literacy among them. This wise and liberal policy of the Kolhapur Darbar also acted as a powerful solvent on the prejudices of the advanced classes, who were coming forward, though not in great number to extend the hand of sympathy to their most ill-used brethren.²⁸

The progress of Backward or Depressed class education from

1911 to 1914 (Latthe was Education Inspector during this period) was tremendous because in 1911 the number of schools for untouchables was 22, attended by 422 pupils of whom boys were 403 and girls 19.²⁹ But when Latthe resigned from his state service (13th November 1914) the number of backward class students taking education was 592 students including 21 girls and the number of separate schools for Antyaja children was 27. Besides these 227 boys and 29 girls attended the public institutions during the year against 214 in the previous year.³⁰

Hereditary Teachers Scheme (1912-1913)

The idea of universalizing primary education in his state dawned upon Shahu in 1912-13. He proposed a new plan in 1913 for the spread of primary education among the masses.

The Administrative Report of the year 1912-13 explains His Highness's original idea thus -

"The education department continues to receive the special attention of His Highness the Chhatrapati Maharaja. In no other department has his liberality been more conspicuous. Notwithstanding the efforts that are being made for the spread of education among the Backward Classes, the progress hitherto made is not considered satisfactory by His Highness. With a view therefore to accelerate the pace, His Highness thought it necessary to broaden the foundations and make primary education accessible to all. His Highness has,

therefore, been pleased to order that every village in the state should have a school conducted by a person of the caste to which the majority of the village belong. In order to induce suitable persons to do the work, His Highness thinks it necessary to have the school ^Smaster in the list of hereditary village servants holding alienated land for the performance of their duties. To work out the scheme, His Highness is pleased to appoint a committee with Meharban Pirajirao Ghatage C.S.I.C.I.E., Jahagirdar of Kagal Sr., at its head. He is His Highness's right hand, ever ready and willing to help him in carrying out improvements in all branches of the administration."³¹

"His Highness thinks it necessary to have the school master in the list of hereditary village servants holding alienated land for the performance of their duties. The following officers are to work under Pirajirao Ghatage in the places shown against their names -

<u>Name of office</u>	<u>Work to be done in</u>
1. Raosaheb B.V. Jadhav, M.A., LL.B.	Karvir Petha
2. ,, M.G. Dongare, B.Sc., L.C.E.	Shirol and Rajbag Mahal
3. ,, A.B. Latthe, M.A.	Gadhinglaj Petha
4. Mr. H.N. Ghatge, G.B.V.C. Veterinary Surgeon	Bhudargad Petha and Radhanagari Mahal

Sheri lands may, if necessary, be selected by Meherban Pirajirao Ghatage, Sarjerao Vazarath, Ma-ab C.S.I.C.E. for being given to the school master.

If and when available other lands may be obtained in exchange for them to make up the loss to the sheri estate, necessary orders in the matter being issued to the Revenue Authorities by Meherban Pirajirao Ghatage.³²

Orders ~~that~~ will be issued in this connection by (M.P.G.) shall be promptly obeyed by the Revenue Authorities.³³

Temples and Chawadis should, as far as possible, be used for these schools. For the present three subjects only should be taught, reading, writing and arithmetic in these schools.³⁴

All preliminary arrangements should be made by Meherban Pirajirao Ghatage and a detailed proposal made to the Huzur. The work should be finished within four months."³⁵

This scheme was formulated in the early months of 1913, but did not make much progress until the end of the year. Latthe was then the Education Inspector of the state and he thought that the hereditary school scheme was not likely to succeed. Latthe had little faith in the hereditary system. It seems that the system was continued till 1916, and the plan of donating lands to the school masters had to be dropped and the compulsory education

scheme of later years (1917) proceeded on the basis of employing stipendary school masters.³⁶

Reforms in Education Department (1912)

The following reforms and changes were made in respect of pay and promotions of the staff of masters, the maximum number of students and the percentage of freeships during the year 1912 by A.B. Latthe as an Education Inspector.³⁷

(I) The Assistant Masters in Rajaram High School were divided into three grades according to university qualifications. The graduates were styled first grade, the intermediates second grade and the matriculates third grade teachers. They started on Rs. 40, Rs. 30 and Rs. 20 per month rising to Rs. 80, Rs. 60 and Rs. 45 by quinquennial increment at Rs. 8, Rs. 6 and Rs. 5 respectively.

(1) According to the old system of promotions and the grades to the High School staff, they were posted, in order of seniority as vacancies occurred, to the posts each carrying a certain pay. As it worked out in practice, this system created a feeling of insecurity among the masters as they did not know what salary they could look forward to receive and as the masters were of different grades it was impossible to treat them justly and according to their qualifications. Hopes were raised which could not be fulfilled and if the state wanted to put in a special man his appointment seriously affected the prospects of others. One

man's promotion might be very rapid, while that of another, inspite of his superiority in everything but a few months' seniority, might be very slow. Lower grade masters went up above those of higher grade.

(2) According to the new system sanctioned salaries of masters were re-arranged according to fixed scale and their grades so as to enable each of them to know what he has to expect and be confident that his prospects will not be interferred with by others. This is conducive to the welfare of the school in the following ways:

- i) An end has been put to attempts on the part of the masters to exert influence in indirect ways;
 - ii) As each master now knows that he has to expect, he is no longer anxious or discontented;
 - iii) No trouble is experienced when a new master is appointed, new appointments and promotions proceeding automatically cause no trouble.
- (II) The number of admissions into Rajaram High School were not in any case to exceed 500 in view of the staffing position then existing.
- (III) The number of freeships to be awarded at the college and the High school was fixed at 15 per cent of the total number of boys in them.

Freeships for students

The Education Inspector A.B. Latthe, as directed by His Highness, passed an order on 15th May, 1911 regarding the free-ships for the students. In Kolhapur State there was a scheme of freeships in schools since 1885. But in 1911 Maharaja modified the rules as follows³⁸:

- 1) Out of 100 students, 15 should be chosen eligible for freeships in every school in the state.
- 2) When these freeships were sanctioned for allotment the boys from lower classes such as agriculture, workers should be given first consideration. After allotting the major portion of the freeships to these lower classes, the remaining portion of freeship should be given to other advanced classes, such as Brahmins, merchants etc.
- 3) But in any case, more than half freeships should not be allotted to boys from advanced as well as merchants' communities.
- 4) In order to follow these rules correctly Brahmins, Prabhus, Saraswat Brahmins, Parshis should be treated as advanced communities. 4
- 5) It is necessary to submit quarterly statement of castewise details of freeship holders, with the report. The statement must indicate the monthly figures of the quarter separately.

The persons who will defer from this rate will be penalized by imposition of salary cut.

- 6) The students who are eligible for freeship should obtain certificates from at least three of the school Panchs concerning their economic condition.

Freeship for Lady Students

On 3rd March 1913 Latthe, the Education Inspector announced Radhabai Akkasaheb Maharaj Scholarships and Shri Nandakuvar Maharani, Bhavanagar Scholarships for lady students in Kolhapur State. He made the following rules for these scholarships:³⁹

- 1) The amount of every scholarship will be Rs. 40 and that will remain for one year.
- 2) This scholarship will be given to those girls who stand first and second in 4th standard examination taken by Education Inspector, at Kolhapur city.
- 3) No girl would receive two scholarships at a time.
- 4) Scholarship holder girl must be a student of the school which is in Kolhapur city.
- 5) The amount of scholarship would be given by quarterly instalment.

In addition to the above scholarship there would be one

Radhabai Akkasaheb Maharaj Prize of Rs. 40 for good behaviour of a girl and that girl would be selected by lady superintendent of Ahilyabai Girls School on the approval of Education Inspector.

The System of School Panch

In Kolhapur state there was a system of appointing Panch to supervise the working of different schools. In 1911 the rules regarding their appointment and work were made by A.B. Latthe.⁴⁰

Rules for the School Panch

It was regular practice of appointing 'Panch' to supervise all the schools in Kolhapur State. It was felt that the rules regarding the appointment of the Panch should be made. In this connection Raobahaddur Diwan Saheb Sarkar Karveer issued the following order of rules vide order No. E.N. 4523 dated 7th November, 1911. The copy of it was given to each Panch to enable him to work accordingly.

Rules

- 1) The Education Inspector will appoint minimum three Panch and maximum nine Panchs and the number will depend on the necessity. At Taluka place and Mahal place, Mamlatdar and Mahalkari will be the President of Panch Committee and Gavakamgar will be one of the Panchs of this committee.
- 2) If there is a vacancy for the post of a Panch, the School

master; with the consultation of the Gavakamgar should report to Education Inspector regarding the person who should be appointed there. So that Education Inspector will arrange to fill in that post.

- 3) As far as possible the appointed Panch will be educated and will be selected from amongst all castes.
- 4) If it is noticed that either of the Panchs is performing his duties carelessly, he will be dismissed and the vacancy will be filled in by appointing another person in his place.
- 5) The duties to be performed by the Panch were as follows:
 - a) To give frequent visits to the schools to observe their working and to report to Educational Inspector of indiscipline noticed.
 - b) To strive hard for the presentee of the students in the school.
 - c) To invite reputed persons and Government servants to visit the school.
 - d) If any teacher was transferred, the charge of the post to be given to the next incoming teacher. If there is a gap, the charge should be given to the Gavkamgar.
 - e) If the teacher expires or if there is a possibility of

the absentee of the teacher due to some accidental reasons, and if the school is not having Assistant Master, the charge of it should be taken and report regarding this should be submitted to Education Inspector.

- f) To provide the building for the school, whenever necessary.
- g) To collect funds for the building of the school, if necessary.
- h) To be present at the time of examination and inform the examiners about the school.
- i) To encourage the boys of the backward class to join the school.
- j) To recommend the names of the students liable to hold freeships.
- k) To watch the behaviour of the students and to inform about it to the teacher, if necessary.
- l) Except this, to enquire and the remark to Educational Inspector, if he asks for the remarks.
- m) Panch has powers to write, their instructions and remarks in Remark Book.

STUDENTS SENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FROM
KOLHAPUR (1911 to 1914)

Shahu was taking keen interest in the educational matters and was encouraging the students for receiving higher education.

In 1910-11, 15 students were sent to different educational institutions in Bombay, Poona and other places of higher learning. Of these one was sent to Madras arts school for training course. The total expenditure incurred on this account amounted to Rs. 1,844.⁴¹

In 1911-12, 10 students receiving state aid were sent to different educational institutions in Bombay and Poona. The total expenditure incurred on this account came to Rs. 1,107 during the year.⁴²

The number of scholarships granted by His Highness to students studying at different colleges and schools was 6 during the year 1913-14, of which two were in Grant Medical College, Bombay, 2 in Medical School Poona, 1 in Male Training College at Poona and one in the Deccan College, Poona. The monthly amount spent on these scholarships was Rs. 114.⁴³

Female Education from 1911-1914

It is generally believed that Shri Shahu did not pay attention to the encouragement of female education. But scattered sources collected and examined can throw enough light to show that

Shahu was not behind in promoting the cause of female education also. It can now be established that Maharaja was equally keen on providing female education.⁴⁴

M.H. Little, Lady Superintendent of female education resigned the post on 20th of August 1895 and her place was taken over by Mrs. Rakhamabai Kelavkar from September 1895.⁴⁵

Mrs. Kelavkar was the first Indian Lady Superintendent appointed in charge of female education in Kolhapur.

Mrs. Rakhamabai (alias Radhabai) Kelavkar served the state from 1895 to 1st January 1922 and her services during this period were a great contribution to the female movement in the state.

Latthe became Education Inspector of Kolhapur State in 1911. He had a strong urge to promote the cause of female education. He was the Head of the Department of Female Education of Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha. There he had worked for promoting education among women.

To create interest of education among the females of Chambhars and other lower communities Maharaja appointed⁴⁶ a lady servant in the female school, Kolhapur. This lady was entrusted with a special duty of bringing together the girls from these communities and sending them to the Girls School. This was a new experiment carried on by the Maharaja to improve the condition of female education.

He awarded some scholarships to the girls not only in his state but also outside the state. He deposited a sum of Rs. 2,400 in the treasury of Bhavanagar State⁴⁷ in 1913 in order to award scholarships in the name of Her Highness Laxmibai Ranisaheb to the girl students from that state.

He also started a system of awarding prizes to the teachers of various boys schools who would urge girls on taking education even at the boys schools.⁴⁸

Administrative Report of 1911-12 states that⁴⁹

"Of the girls' schools maintained by the Darbar, the largest and the first in importance is the Ahilyabai Girls School at Kolhapur. The number of girls on the role was 243 against 198 and the daily average attendance was 178.5 against 93.7 of the last year. The number of girls who received English education was 38 against 23 of the preceding year. Many girls were learning in the boys vernacular as well as Anglo-vernacular schools."

The following table shows the progress of female education and expenditure on it from 1911 to 1914.⁵⁰ It would be seen from the Table that when Latthe became Education Inspector in 1911 the total number of girls taking education was 1,788 and when he resigned in 1914 the number rose to 2,271 though expenditure declined to Rs. 10,847 from Rs. 13,319.⁵¹

Year	Total number of girls taking education	Amount spent on female education
1911	1,788	Rs. 13,319
1912	2,122	,, 11,148
1913	2,188	,, 10,789
1914	2,271	,, 10,847

The number of educational institutions rose to 380 in 1914 from 357 in 1911.⁵²

Public institutions rose to 334 in 1914 from 281 in 1911. Private institutions rose to 110 in 1914 from 70 in 1911; village schools rose to 369 from 301. The number of students also rose in a similar manner.⁵³

Sardars' School

This is a private institution called Sardars' School opened by Mr. C.H. Candy, the Principal of the Rajaram College who retired in June 1910. There were 9 students in April 1911. In December, one pupil Shrimant Dadasaheb Khardekar left on account of continued ill health. In February 1912 two Kumars of Kurundwad Junior left the school owing to the death of their father. The collectors of Poona and Belgaum sent one of their wards as pupils to the school. Special attention was paid to teaching English by the 'Direct method'. All other subjects were taught by the latest methods.⁵⁴



In the year 1912-13 this institution was under the control of Mr. C.H. Candy as in the last year. The year began with 6 students in the school and closed with 10. The two sons of the Chief of Vishalgad left the school as their father wished them to be with his eldest son at Poona. Shrimant Nanasaheb of Phaltan, Buasaheb Dafle, Babasaheb Chavan joined the school in August, 1912 in December, 1912 and in 1913 respectively. In November, 1912 the Collector of Belgaum sent three of his wards as pupils, viz. Balasaheb Desai of Koujalgi and Babasaheb and Annasaheb Desai of Kowad.

The staff consisted of two graduates, two under-graduates and one drawing master, besides Mr. Candy.

During the fair season, all the boys were regularly instructed in drill on the Kolhapur Infantry Parade Ground. They all took part daily in the school games, cricket and lawn tennis. Several of the boys had the pleasure of joining Mr. Gordon Asstt. Resident in following his hounds which gave them good exercise.⁵⁵

In the year 1913-14 there were 12 students in the school. The classes were examined at the end of each term.⁵⁶

Teachers' Training

There was one training school for teachers in Kolhapur State. The number of trained teachers who have passed out of the School since its formation in 1867 was only 202 in 1894-95.⁵⁷

Shahu Maharaj insisted that the teacher ought to be trained.

So, he proposed a plan in consultation with his able Education Inspector Latthe for the teachers who were already in the service but were still untrained. With a view that a teacher should be qualified and trained His Highness introduced a small training course for a period of six months.

Education Inspector A.B. Latthe passed the order to this effect on 26.9.1911⁵⁸ which said:

"It is notified that all the untrained teachers who have not passed vernacular final examination and who are still under forty years of age, must pass final vernacular examination within a period of two years from this date (14.10.1911). Those who failed to fulfil this requirement, will get a special leave of three months; for the teachers who have already passed final examination there will be a training course for a period of six months from May to November (1912).

- 1) The subjects prescribed for this course are:
 - a) Arithmetic, b) Marathi, c) Balbodh and Modi scripts, d) School management and submitting reports, f) periods of teaching lessons.
- 2) The certificates will be given to those who had passed in the above subjects. They will have all rights which are possessed by the teachers who have completed the training of one year. The arrangements will be made to pay a teacher Rs. 9 as a payment, at the beginning.

- 3) The candidates who have passed the civil examination but are not in Government service will also be admitted in this class.
- 4) The 20 teachers, who have passed civil examination of school department will get six months' unpaid leave per year to join this school. Those who are willing, should send their application so as to reach the office in February."

The administrative Report for the year 1912-13 states:

"With a view to improve the quality of the vernacular masters of the lower grades and to make them more competent, a small experimental training class was held for six months, last year. 17 masters were admitted of whom 15 became successful. The masters thus trained have been found to be much improved by the course of training received by them. A proposal to make the class permanent is now under consideration before the Darbar."⁵⁹

The Administrative Report of 1913-14 states:

"The number of trained masters was 91 and that of untrained was 257 against 102 and 252 last year respectively. The school masters who have passed some test were 106 against 92 in 1912-13."⁶⁰

Last year an experimental training class was opened for six months to ascertain how far the quality of untrained teachers could be improved and the experiment having proved

successful⁶¹, Mr. Latthe, Educational Inspector, declared a resolution for training class on 16th July 1913 that the training class may be continued for five years more.⁶²

- 1) Every year 10 trained masters in the service of the Kolhapur Darbar were sent to this class. Rs. 5 were given to each teacher for one year as subsistence allowance. Preference will be given to those teachers who were already serving in the Education Department of Kolhapur state.
- 2) Training was completed within two years. Examination was held for every year and separate certificate was given for each examination.
- 3) The external candidates who were willing to join this training class at their own expenses, were considered for admission under special conditions."

Patil School

The Patil School was opened in 1912. The official description of this school is as follows:

"This is a special school opened in 1912 (This is the year of the school setting to work actually though its inauguration had been announced on the Delhi Darbar day) to impart instruction to the sons of hereditary village officers in

accordance with the provisions of Vatan Act (The principal object of this institution is to fit the Patil for the official discharge of his duties and to make him independent of the Kulkarni, who always takes disadvantage of his illiteracy and uses him as a tool in his hands). The school teaches such subjects as are of special importance to the Patil: (1) knowledge of revenue, (2) criminal work, (3) village accounts, (4) sanitation. Annual examination is held by the committee to test the students, and certificates are awarded to the successful candidates."⁶³

Latthe announced the scheme in the Karveer Gazetteer on 20 April 1912 in the following words:⁶⁴

"In memory of the famous Darbar, which was organized on 12th December, 1911 at Delhi, Shrimanmaharaj Chhatrapati Sarkar Karveer granted to open a new school at Kolhapur for Patil classes. It was granted at Huzur Office No. Ki 1434, dated 2nd February 1912. All the management regarding the opening of these classes was as per the orders from Huzur. So, the candidates who wish to have admission in this school for the study should inform their names to the undersigned as early as possible on or before 15th May, 1912.

The list of the subjects to be taught at this school is as follows:-

- i) The laws and the main principles of criminal codes



regarding city police and District police.

- ii) The book-keeping of the village specimens .
regarding that and revenue affairs.
- iii) The information regarding the health of village
people and duties of villagers.
- iv) The language study with grammar, necessary for
report writing.
- v) History, geography and political system of
Kolhapur state.

On completion of teaching of the above subjects there
will be an yearly examination.

The committee of the following members will be there:

- i) Education Inspector,
- ii) Professor of Science from Rajaram College,
- iii) The revenue worker nominated by Rao Bahadur
Sursubhe.

The person who will get through this examination will
be appointed as a Patil. Regarding this the following rules
are formed:

- i) This rule will be applicable to those villages
where the scale will not be below Rs. 100.
- ii) This rule is not applicable to the person who is

in service at present.

iii) This rule will be applicable after one year after starting the class.

iv) While appointing Patils in the villages for which the above three exceptions are not applicable, there will be a consideration regarding the passing of the said examination. If the person who has passed the said examination is ready to work as a substitute, the authorised Patil who has not passed the said examination will be replaced by the passed person, till the authorised Patil gets through the said examination.

On 5th Sept., 1912 Latthe declared -

"Delhi Darbar Patil class has started on 15th May 1912. As per the resolution, it is ordered to the school on 3rd August 1912 to provide for education, without taking fees for one year, to the students who join the said class."⁶⁵

There were 34 students on the role and the amount spent on this account was Rs. 435 during the year 1912-13.⁶⁶ The school was attended by 22 students during the year 1913-14 against 34 last year, 1912-13. The amount spend on their account was Rs. 454 in the year 1913-14 against Rs. 465 in the previous year.⁶⁷

In the year 1914-15 this school was attended by 10 students against 22 last year; of those one was Jain and two Lingayats and

Marathas. The average attendance was 7.2. The amount spent on account of this school was Rs. 520.⁶⁸

The monopoly of official records and secrets, which a Kulkarni with an ignorant Patil as his superior colleague has, is broken. That is the great gain to the whole village. His Highness fully realised these bearings of the Patil education question and hence arose his interest in this school and its association with an event of such unique importance. Another step in the same direction was taken in August 1913 when His Highness allowed Maratha candidates to appear for the Kulkarni Examination and fit them for the work, should necessity arise for their service being utilised.⁶⁹

Latthe's zeal for helping the cause of education was virtually ingrained in his very blood. He started his career as a professor at Kolhapur in 1907, though destiny had shaped him for some still higher tasks. He was for some years the Chairman of the South Konkan Education Society, at Belgaum, which is running two premier colleges namely Rani Parwatidevi Arts College and Sakseria Science College in Tilakwadi (Belgaum), Vadgaon Road, which has rightly come to be named after him. He actively participated in organizing various societies and worked for spread of education both amongst the Jains and non-Jains. The Present Daxin Maharashtra (now Daxin Bharat) Jain Sabha and its free boarding houses for poor students at Kolhapur, Sangli, Belgaum and Hubli stand out as living monuments to cherish his memory. Even the education society was

posthumously named after him, as 'Latthe Education Society' at Sangli and its colleges in Arts, Science, Commerce and Law are the result of inspiration derived from Annasaheb. Thousands of students emerge out successful from these noble shrines of learning year after year with Annasaheb's blessing in disguise. He was the father of the idea of floating a scheme of primary Samiti schools to be run by private agencies with liberal Government grants during his regime as a Minister in Bombay State.⁷⁰

Tar Incident and Latthe

Introduction

The well known case which needs a mention, is the Dambar Prakaran (Tar Incident) of Kolhapur. This happened on the midnight of February 14, 1914, when the Police guard were asleep. The faces of the statues of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra were tarred. "Tar was drizzling down their faces till night, the next morning".⁷¹

Reactions - Every one expressed a deep sorrow and a strong desire to find out the culprits. The Bombay Government was indignant, the British Parliament was also stirred. Lord Willingdon, the Governor of Bombay, J.D. Reed expressed their distress about the incident. Even Shahu Maharaj said in the welcome speech at the industrial and agricultural exhibition on April 8, 1914:

"The miscreants who had defaced the busts of Edward VII

and Alexandra, had caused him deep sorrow and no efforts would be spared to unearth the culprits".⁷²

Lord Robertson also expressed his strong distress and finally a prize of 500 Rs. was declared to the one detecting the offender, by Shahu Maharaj.⁷³

Latthe was involved in it and it was said that:

- i) This incidence was an effort of a group known as Gaikwad group. It was against Bhaskarrao Jadhav and A.B. Latthe (close associates of Shri Shahu) and was interested to bring them into disrepute.⁷⁴
- ii) One Kallappa Nitawe Shastri, a conservative Jain leader disliked A.B. Latthe's association with the Satya Shodhak Samaj and its activities. So, he tried to bring Latthe into trouble by associating his name with the episode.
- iii) The Satya Shodhak Samaj workers were suspected in this affair. So, the first effect of the tar incident upon the Satya Shodhak Samaj was that its leaders, Latthe, Bhaskarrao Jadhav, M.G. Dongare resigned from Satya Shodhak Samaj. Latthe was perhaps suspected by the Bombay Govt. authorities in the tar incident.

Latthe's Behaviour After His Suspected Involvement in Tar Incident

Latthe learnt that an attempt was being made with the help of

Brahmin Police Officer of Kolhapur to connect the inmates of the Jain hostel with the tarring of the busts. Having sensed the danger, Latthe immediately escaped to Sangli. For several months he was harrassed. At last the Kolhapur Police Inspector Mhaiskar tried to arrest him at Sangli under the pretext of some charges against him in the suit. But Latthe fled to Miraj without a railway ticket. The/chased him and arrested him at Miraj in December 1914 and took him to Belgaum.⁷⁵

There he was released on bail by the Deputy Collector of Belgaum at the instance of Belvi. Thereupon Latthe demanded that his trial should take place in British territory and his removal to any state should not be done without the sanction of Political Agent. Latthe never entered the Kolhapur State during the life time of Shahu Chhatrapati although he met him about six or seven years later in Bombay or Poona.⁷⁶

After his prosecution Latthe obtained the LL.B. Degree and practised as a lawyer at Belgaum.

Latthe's persecution at the hands of the Kolhapur Police and the intention of Belvi in his arrest, his conversation with Gangadharrao Deshpande and later his inclusion in the first congress Ministry of the Bombay Province in 1937, indicated that he had hand in the tarring bussiness. Much later, Shahu observed about the tar case in his biography of Shahu Chhatrapati that "the subsequent story of 1914 must await publication for many years to come."⁷⁷

About ten years after this incident, Latthe came to Kolhapur as the Diwan of the State. Later, the Bombay Government in its D.O. letter of January 7th , 1915 informed the Government of India -

"The outrage is done by the persons living in Jain Boarding House. His Highness is requested to call upon Jain leaders and to ask them to clear the stigma or bring the offenders to book. No useful purpose would be served to pursue that matter at present."⁷⁸

Meanwhile, towards the end of August, 1916, Latthe was acquitted of the charges levelled against him. With great satisfaction Latthe expressed his sincere thanks to the Maharaja for the justice done to him. Latthe heartily thanked Diwan Sabnis for his great kindness in securing justice for him eventually. He wrote to the Chhatrapati on September 2, 1916:

"Clouds sometimes rise up in the sky but, they are not all the time. That is how Your Highness has been pleased to see the light behind the dark clouds. May the sun shine for ever".⁷⁹

Nitave also begged apology to Latthe by sending him a letter on 16th December, 1918.⁸⁰

Shahu's Confession

At Hubli Shahu expressed confession to Latthe on July 27th,

1920. While doing so he most sincerely stated:⁸¹

"Jai Bhavani"

Hubli

27th July, 1920

"My Dear Mr. Latthe,

Having every hope of unreservedly forgiven, I request permission to apologize for the trouble you had in Kolhapur. I was led astray by Sovani, Karmarkar, Mhaiskar, Chipri-Patil and Kallappa and others. But by your acts you have made me ashamed of myself and hence this unreserved apology. I shall feel obliged for kindly accepting it and your continuing to be a friend as before. This is an instance to be remembered how a Brahmin makes even friends and relatives of a man fight with him. He will of course take more care after this to guard against the insinuations of our so called friends and avoid misunderstanding.

Who will take back to confess one's real mistake to you, when your noble and great thoughts, your vehement patriotism, your ever readiness to work for the cause of our country and above all your earnest desire to help the poor and deserted are taken into consideration ?

Yours very sincere

Shahu Chhatrapati"

Latthe wrote answer to this letter on 28th July 1920 from Belgaum as below.⁸²

"I have made up my mind to forget the unfortunate incidents of 1914 and to cherish the happy memories of previous days. In spite of all the injustice that I had to suffer in those cloudy days. I have always felt warm affection for Kolhapur and her illustrious Chhatrapati family which your Highness represents.

It was this sentiment that supported me under the worst provocation and the ~~list~~ temptations".

Latthe: Diwan of Kolhapur
(1926-1931)

Though Latthe remained away from Kolhapur for a long period from 1914 to 1926 for some reason he had not totally severed his relations with Kolhapur. He admitted to his friend that 'Kolhapur is my weak point'. Though he was away from Kolhapur, he was always much involved in the affairs of Kolhapur and Kolhapur State (non-Brahmin movement).

At the time of coronation ceremony, Rajaram Maharaj invited Latthe. Latthe presented a felicitation address to Chhatrapati on behalf of non-Brahmin Party. By the request of Rajaram Maharaj he wrote official biography of Shahu Maharaj (1924), Which renewed his strained relations with Kolhapur.

Latthe was appointed as Diwan of Kolhapur from 2nd January, 1926 by Order No. 568 of 2nd January, 1926.⁸³

The order of 6th January 1926 said:

"Diwan Sabnis was permitted for his retirement and Rao Bahadur Latthe, LL.B. was permanently appointed on his place as Diwan by giving 800/- Rs. per month as payment".⁸⁴

Rajaram Maharaja wrote letter of congratulation to Latthe on 1st January 1926 from Bombay which was as follows:⁸⁵

" Shivatirtha Palace, Bombay
1st January, 1926.

My dear Rao Bahadur Latthe,

It gives me a great pleasure to heartily congratulate you today on your having taken charge of the Diwan portfolio.

When it was definitely settled that my Diwan Sir R.V. Sabnis and acting Diwan Meharaban K. Gaiakwad were both to retire, I was at a loss to know whom I should summon to take their places and was much puzzled.

I searched for a man with whom I have had a personal contact and it occurred to me that you were one whom I know well. My choice then fell on you and during your interview with me, I was very much impressed by your intellect, frankness and straightforwardness of character. I therefore, immediately made the call on you, having felt confident that you were worthy to occupy this responsible post and in whom the interest of me and my state would remain safe

and secure. During the last three months you were practically doing the Diwan's affairs and it gives me pleasure to communicate to you my appreciation of the valuable work you have done during this short period. Today you take direct charge of this responsible office and I take this opportunity to wish you a career of all happiness and trust that you will always have at heart my interest and the prosperity of my subjects.

Yours sincerely,

Rajaram Chhatrapati"

Laxmibai Maharaj, wife of Shahu Maharaj wrote a congratulatory letter to Latthe.⁸⁶

"Shivatirth Palace,
Bombay

2.1.1926

I am very much pleased to listen that Rajaram Maharaj has appointed you permanently as Diwan. I have every hope that the standard and status of Kolhapur will develop by taking the benefits of your achieved knowledge and experience. It is needless to say that if you find some faulty behaviour of Rajaram Maharaj, you will make him aware of that and will help him so that his regime should be pleasurable to the people of all castes in the State. I have every confidence that you will fulfil your responsibility loyally and will try to form friendly relations between British Government and Rajaram Maharaj and try to make the

impression of Rajaram Maharaj's regime ever lasting. With the word of prayer to Jagdamba Mata, I conclude.

Laxmibai Chhatrapati"

Latthe took charge of his Diwanship on 2nd January 1926. There was a tradition to submit the yearly Administrative Report of the Kolhapur State to the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. Latthe was Diwan of Kolhapur from 2.1.1926 to 7.3.1931. In his five years and two months service as Diwan he submitted his yearly Administrative Reports to Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj. Though he was Diwan for 5 years, it seems he submitted only three Reports for the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 to the Maharaja. Latthe was on the post of Diwan, but the Report of 1929 was submitted by the Acting Diwan D.A. Surve. The Administrative Report of 1930 was submitted by Acting Diwan of Kolhapur, D.M. Bhosale. Latthe was on special duty from 6.12.1929 to 12.3.1931. Meanwhile he wrote a book 'Problems of Indian States' and in November 1930 he went to London for First Round Table Conference as an adviser of the representatives of states in India in December, 1930. After his return he resigned his post of Diwan on 7th March, 1931.

The Administrative Reforms that Latthe introduced as a Diwan, and the report that he submitted to Chh. Rajaram have been extensively reproduced below.⁸⁷

The General Department

The Diwan's department includes several branches each of which

← is department by itself. The principal one is the feudatory and political department. The relations of Your Highness Government with the Government of Bombay have been of a perfectly cordial nature. The sympathies of His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor of Bombay and of Col. E.O. Brien the Resident at Kolhapur, have always been with the Darbar and have proved materially helpful in the solution of many difficulties. In the feudatory department Your Highness Government had during the latter part of the year under report to deal with many intricate as well delicate questions several matters of importance in this branch were awaiting decisions for years together and though many yet remain to be disposed of many of them have been settled or are awaiting disposal by the Resident or the Government of Bombay to whom they have been forwarded with the full views of the Darbar. The principal questions which had to be dealt with in this connection arose out of the transfer of residency jurisdiction by the Bombay Government to the Darbar in 1903 and out of Darbar's jurisdiction over all Kādim Inams in the Jahagirs. Much progress has been made with a view to clear up the position and minimise friction and it is hoped that during the course of the next year, both the difficulties will have been fully solved.

The administration of some of these Jahagirs is not, I regret to observe, as satisfactory as it should be most of them are unable to pay the usual Nazarana in one lump-sum and the Darbar has to allow instalments. Even such Jahagirdars as the Pantsachiva

of Ichalkaranji and the Sarlashkar Bahadur are not able to pay regularly the dues of the Darbar even in small instalments. The succession enquiries of Kadim Inams in all of them are awaiting completion for the inordinate length of several years together.^t
 The returns and other information called for from many of them are not frequently received at the proper time and when they come, they come incomplete. The spirit of insubordination has become habitual with some of them.

It has been found that the Inams of some of Your Highness subjects in these Jahagirs have been kept under attachment by the Jahagirdar of Ichalkaranji and other for dozens of years and in some cases, the decisions have been passed by them in contravention of the Darbars order or decisions of the Government of Bombay. This state of thing is deplorable from every point of view. It is, however, a matter of satisfaction to note that the loyalty and efficiency of the administration of the pant Amatya of Bavada were such as to enable Your Highness to mark your appreciation of that Jahagirdar's loyalty by conferring upon him all the powers of a Sessions Judge. It is hoped that this will stimulate every one of the Jahagirdars to follow the example of Madhavrao Moreshwar, the present Pant Amatya.

Finance

The Finance Department is the next most important Department

under the Diwan. The financial position of the Darbar is on the whole satisfactory. The capital investment of the Darbar amounted to Rs. 73,23,863 of which 23,00,000 are invested in the State Railway between Miraj and Kolhapur and the Darbar holds G.P. Notes and War Bonds of the face value of Rs. 35,11,200 out of the remainder Rs. 77,000/- were debited as a loan to the Kolhapur Municipality for the purpose of the water works, and Rs. 3,00,000/- were held by the Imperial Bank of India (Bombay Branch) in fixed deposits, which sum is meant as reserve to be used as occasions arise. A sum of two lakhs is further invested in Government securities Account of Shri Chhatrapati Ginning and Weaving Mill firm out of profits made by the mill in the days of its prosperity. A sum of Rs. 2,80,920 has been invested in loans at easy rates of interest to people in Kolhapur State. The liabilities of the State consist of a deposit of Rs. 65,000/- on account of the Mereweather buildings, Rs. 1,16,000 on account of the Shahu Memorial Funds and Rs. 90,000/- on account of Her Highness Chhatrapati Maharanisahab Junior, Rupees Six lakhs were further invested in a valuable house property in Poona, namely the Shahu Palace, which was purchased during the year under report. Darbar has administered its finances with care and prudence. About the end of the year under report, Your Highness has been pleased to abolish the house-tax altogether with the loss of an annual revenue of Rs. 1,25,000/- and the education cess has been substituted by an exactly similar income tax upon professional classes. Local fund cess has, however, been enhanced from one anna and a half. The net relief in taxation

by these changes amount to Rs. 53,000/-.

Education

The Education Department was the next most important Department under the Diwan and a few remarks are necessary to explain what has been done under it. The education department was allotted a sum of Rs. 2,99,466 in the years budget. The actual expenditure was Rs. 2,77,006/- for the year 1926-27 the budgeted amount for education is Rs. 4,03,494/- out of which Rs. 16,000/- is the additional grant made for the purpose of expending and imparting primary education. The total receipts under this head from specifically educational sources of 1925-26 consisted of Rs. 48,477 from local funds (being Rs. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the local funds collected) Rs. 1,03,279/- from what was called the educational cess, and Rs. 1,25,000/- from the house tax which was levied for educational purpose.

Since February last, Your Highness has been pleased to sanction the restoration of the Rajaram College and High School to the management of the Darbar, and several reforms have now been inaugurated for the improvement of these two institutions. Two new lecturerships in Marathi and Canarese and four post-graduate scholarships have been sanctioned for encouraging higher studies. The staff has been largely improved and additional grants have been made for the erection of a second floor in the buildings and for the equipment of the library and the laboratory. The Rajaram High School has been now removed to the Shukrawarwada which is intended

to be its permanent home. A sum of Rs. 5,000/- has been sanctioned for readjusting the building for the high school; orders have been issued for the acquisition of an open site adjacent to the school and this will give the school a good play-ground close to its doors. A graduate in commerce has been added on the school for the purpose of imparting instructions in Accountancy and other commercial subjects to boys in all the High Schools, State as well as added, in the city. A valuable museum of coins and of arts has now been placed at the disposal of the college and the High School. The Shahu Chhatrapati High School of Kagal came under the management of state during the last year and new secondary school at Gadhinglaj, conducted by an educational body there, has been now recognised under the grant-in-aid code. Secondary Education in the state has been found to be somewhat inefficient and the Matriculation results of the year showed that the High School in the state managed by private agency, required closer attention. With this aim in view Dr. Balkrishna has been appointed Inspector of Secondary Education; throughout the state steady progress is being made by the Department of Primary Education also. It is satisfactory to note that the total number of pupils in the state has increased from 37,943 to 40,690 out of which 34,692 pupils belonged to the state proper, and 5,398 belonged to the feudatory Jahagirs. Now taking the population of the state proper (including the four feudatories whose education is under the control of the Darbar) at 6,40,000 (in round numbers) the proportion of school

going boys of the Darbar to per hundred of the population in the state proper is 5.4 while that in the five Jahagirs, whose educational administration is independent, is just a little less than that. Considering the backwardness and economic conditions of about half the population on the western side of Kolhapur, the progress is not unsatisfactory, but I think the need of further progress may be frankly admitted though it should also be recognised that numerical improvements cannot be achieved very fast, owing to the peculiar conditions of that section of the population which remains to be dealt with. With the reconstitution of several municipalities in the state on a popular basis, they should be able to undertake the administration of primary education in urban areas, thus leaving the state department of education to devote all its time and energies to the rural population. The attempts to attain numerical extension must be accompanied by a parallel attempt to improve the quality of the same. The experiment being made to give a commercial bent to secondary education in the city of Kolhapur, had been noticed above. The Darbar has enabled the American Mission to start an agricultural class with forms attached for actual training by the grant of agricultural land yielding an annual rental of over Rs. 2,000/- and arrangements have been made for scholarships being given to ten students from the agricultural classes to receive agricultural education in the school. The teachers in the vernacular Training School have been given agricultural education with a view to give an agricultural base to village schools. Your Highness has further decided to start

an Agricultural Museum and a model farm in very close proximity of the city and it hoped that this institution, while commemorating the keen interest of His Excellency Lord Irwin in agriculture, will prove of considerable educational value.

Agriculture and Cooperation

A separate Department has been organized since the 1st of March 1926 for the purpose of enabling the agricultural population to improve their methods of agriculture and to give an impetus to co-operative societies. The total number of societies in the State proper is 43 against 42 in the preceding year. It is obvious that much progress cannot be reported in this Department as it has come into existence only recently, and in the initial stages, progress cannot but be slow. This Department has now been placed under the Chief Revenue Officer who, it is hoped, will bring the benefits of the work of this department within the easy reach of a steadily increasing part of the population. An experienced graduate in Agriculture has been now placed under him as Inspector of Agriculture and Co-operation. The Sheribag lands more than 25 acres in area, have been placed at the disposal of the department for demonstration work and the interest on the Queen Victoria Memorial Fund has also been allotted for popularising improved agriculture among the rayats.

The Judicial Department

During the year under report a very important step was taken

by passing of the District Municipal Act in Kolhapur State on the lines of the analogous Act in Bombay Presidency. The Municipalities of Kolhapur city (including Shahupuri), Shirol, Gadhinglaj, Hatakalangale, Vadgaon and Narsinhavadi have been reconstituted on elective basis. The Kolhapur Municipality is in a satisfactory financial condition owing to the imposition of Octroi Duty on goods imported into the Municipal Limits. The growing needs of good sanitation, education and expansion, however, require more plentiful resources than are at the command of the Municipality. Very costly schemes of city improvement have already been undertaken and they require larger revenues. The new water works for Shah^upuri is the most important of these schemes and would cost the Municipality nothing less than an outlay of five lakhs and a half. The Kharala extension of city requires an expenditure of over four lakhs including the cost of bridge, roads, gutters, school, house, dharmshala, police quarters etc. The widening of roads in the city is also very urgent and should be undertaken at an early date. The insanitary condition of the city leading to increase of disease and mortality in the city must be improved as quickly as possible and these measures, though costly and inconvenient to many people in the beginning, should not be postponed for any unⁿecessary length of time. A revision of the house tax which is already antiquated, should augment the municipal resources greatly.

Legislation for the prevention of child marriages in the state has been passed during the year and people's opinion throughout the

State as well as outside has been favourable to it. The Act penalises all marriages by Kolhapur subjects of boys below 14 of the girls below 10 year's age. Such marriages performed or awaited by Kolhapur subjects, whether in the State or outside, are punishable with a fine not exceeding Rs. 2,000/- provided the person concerned is a subject of this state.

In addition to the legislation mentioned above, the Motor Vehicles Act, The Provincial Insolvency Act, the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act and the Mamledar's Court Act of 1906 have been adopted during the year under report.

Your Highness Government has been endeavouring to encourage commerce and industries in the State in several ways. The most important step taken this year with this object in view is the liberal assistance which Your Highness has been pleased to give to the commercial community in Kolhapur for the purpose of starting the Kolhapur Bank Ltd. The Darbar has purchased shares of the value of Rs. 50,000/- in this Bank, a sum of one lakh has been deposited without any interest for the five years, another lakh of Rupees has been promised as a periodical deposit between January and July at the easy rate at 3%. Various minor concessions have also been allowed to the Bank, which gives promise of excellent work for the commercial development of the Kolhapur State.

During the later period covered by this report, a question of greatest importance was engaging Your Highness' attention and my view of the work of the year cannot be properly closed without

a reference to it, when I took over charge it was found that a great deal of delay was being caused in the disposal of business of the offices of the state and it was an urgent necessity to devise means for clearing up the accumulations of the past and for improving the administrative machinery with a view to avoid laxity and dilatoriness. The evil had grown to such proportions as necessitated the adoption of strong measures without which reform would have been impossible. The chief causes which led to this result were firstly the unintelligent manner in which the staff carried on business, secondly the absence of effective supervision and check by the higher officers, and thirdly the spirit of indifference and insubordination which characterised a considerable part of the staff on which the state had to rely for all his work. I cannot considerably say that the whole evil has been eradicated. But I have no hesitation in saying that the strenuous efforts made by Your Highness during some months past, has not been in vain. Your Highness had in the first place to delegate powers of final disposal to your subordinate officers. The notification of February 1st, 1926 published in the Gazetteer of 6th of that month enabled the Diwan to dispose of several matters with promptitude, again Your Highness had to empower the Diwan to take such measures as were necessary to secure expeditious transaction of business by all departments of the state and to fine all state servants, whatever their department or status if they failed to ~~r~~ise to the necessary level of efficiency. These measures made it possible for me to partially check the work of every department in so far as

it came to my notice and I had reluctantly to utilise the powers thus given, in a somewhat rigorous manner. A Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the A.E. Hospital had to be suspended and subsequently dismissed from service with a fine, for failing to provide explanations called for. Another Assistant Surgeon had to be dismissed for being responsible for failure of justice in a criminal case by failing to analyse the report upon certain position forwarded to him by the police. About half a dozen servants belonging to the various departments had to be prosecuted for misappropriating public money. Certain overseers in the P.W.D. had to be suspended for getting extremely bad work from contractors under them. Certain pensioners had to get their pensions suspended for failing to account for Tasalmats standing against their names when they were on duty. These were cases of deliberate negligence amounting to constrictive or express fraud. But this was not all. Dilatoriness in the disposal of work was found to prevail almost everywhere owing either to laziness or to bad system of work or to want of intelligence or training or to absence of necessary periodical checking. It was often found that correspondences remained un-noticed in some offices for inordinately long periods. I might mention as an illustration the case of a copy, prepared in 1914, in the Panhala Mamlatdar's Kacheri, being sent to the applicant in 1926. Orders signed by the officers remained in the Barnishi even for months. Reports were submitted without a careful perusal of the previous correspondence being reported on, with the result that the same had to be sent backward and forward for years

together without any decision whatever shortly after taking charge of my office. I noticed one application for a copy made in 1906, which was still being tossed to and fro in February 1926. I do not intend to multiply such illustrations in this place. But I humbly hope that I have said enough, firstly, to justify the somewhat harsh measures adopted during the past few months and secondly to bring home to your Highness and the officers of the Darbar the urgent necessity of a far better training of the staff in the state and the need of a far stricter and more careful inspection of the work at their subordinates. The abnormal increase of the work in the judicial Department is no doubt largely due to the application of the New Limitations Law, about the end of 1924. Special sub-Judges have been appointed to clear up this work but it must be noticed that many cases on the files of our court are too old to remain there any longer. The condition of the work in the Revenue Department is worse and requires more careful dealing. In the first place, I think the officers presiding over the Revenue offices and especially the Chief Revenue Officers and especially Revenue Officer and the Prant Officer must exercise better control than hitherto. This can be done in many directions. It is as much true that the work which an officer has to do is too much for the officer to pay personal attention by an intelligent officer will reduce that work enormously and improve its quality. This personal attention by the Chief Revenue Officer or the Prant Officers or the Mamledars or their Shirestedars to every endorsement passing through their offices will entail work for some time. But

I feel sure that by undertaking this work and by training their staff in the methods of intelligent disposal, they will get rid of a good deal of what is at present unnecessary work dealing long delays. If this method is followed I am confident that the work of the Revenue Department will be reduced to a half of what it is.

A.B. Latthe
Diwan of Kolhapur

In the General Review of the year 1926-27⁸⁸ he discusses how the Jahagirdars were helped in improving their administration, in their attempts to construct roads, canals etc. He has discussed various reforms in land assessment, in education, etc. introduced in Jahagirs with the help of the Kolhapur Darbar. He has also discussed in the report the malpractices in the administration of some of the Jagirdars and by the Darbar to set them right.

Finance

To state how he put the financial condition of the state in order he writes:

"With some effort, I am able to give the following resume of the finance of the state the total revenue of the Kolhapur State including alinations held from it by Jahagirdars and other Inamdars is Rs. 59,18,343. Adding the balance at the beginning of the Fasli year I, 336 (Rs. 6,08,185) to this, the total comes to Rs. 65,26,527. The expenditure was Rs. 21,13,496 (being the alienated revenue). This gives a total expenditure of Rs. 62,53,557,

leaving a balance of Rs. 2,72,970 at the end of the year, under report. This takes no account of the invested balance held by the State which have not been at all touched during the last two years, though large sums have been spent during the same period over productive capital works like (i) the Municipal Panchaganga water works for which Rs. 1,48,451 were spent during 1926-27 (ii) the Rajaram Irrigation Tank over which Rs. 2,73,001 were spent during the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 and Rs. 25,000 invested in the shares of the Indian Radio Company. I should also point out that Rs. 1,04,400 spent over the market had been paid into the State treasury previous to these two years and must be treated as a deposit returned. A third fact which must be noted here is that during the year in question large amounts have been spent over buildings which have been in a way investment of necessary and useful nature. This original work's expenditure amounts to Rs. 7,28,748. Considering the various extraordinary expenses incurred during the period, I think that the balance of Rs. 2,72,970 at the close of the year is satisfactory. This will appear to be still more so when we remember that the invested balance Rs. 35,74,800 (face value of G.P. Notes, War Bonds, Cash Certificates etc.) has not at all been utilised by the Darbar though it would have been justifiable to do so in the case of productive expenditure such as the Panchaganga Works of the Rajaram Tank. This result has been achieved in spite of the fact that the house tax has been remitted altogether during the period and expenditure over administration has been increased by the

increase in pensions, enhancement of salaries of clerical staff, the creation of a new Minister's office and increased expenditure on education. I hope, Your Highness will feel satisfied with the financial management of the state.

Education

The most important steps forward in the Education Department was in respect of the Rajaram College which has been thoroughly recognised during the year under report. A Science Department has been added adequate number of demonstrators, were made at a total recurring cost of Rs. 12,000/-. A Laboratory has also been filled up at the cost of Rs. 25,000/-. Part of the College terraces has been converted into halls by the addition of two class rooms costing over Rs. 20,000/- and ~~every~~ commodious halls for the new laboratory have been placed at the disposal of the College adjacent to the college building itself. Four special fellowships have been instituted to encourage post-graduate studies. The results of the changes and additions made during the year will become manifest in years to come. But I may gladly observe that these changes and the re-assumption of the college control by the Darbar have affected the teaching work in the college very beneficially. The results of University examinations show that in the F.Y. Class the percentage of passes rose from 57 to 64.5% in the Inter Arts from 26 to 32 and in the B.A. from 33 to 64% while in the M.A. Examination 3 out of 4 candidates came out successful.

2. Secondary education has been also making satisfactory progress.

The number of students receiving education in the High School has increased from 1750 to 1987 and the amount of grants to private High School has been increased from Rs. 4,000 to Rs.6,000 and special grants for scientific equipments were given. The rates of fees in secondary schools have been also enhanced and this increase in the revenue at the disposal of private High School has apparently helped them to increase their efficiency. The last Matriculation Examination results thus showed that 42% passed in the year under report against 24% of the previous year. In sanctioning grants to private High Schools, I insisted upon their being converted into public institutions instead of being private proprietary schools. The only point of note in connection with secondary Institutions in the state is the controversy, the Darbar had to deal with in respect of the Matriculation Centre at Kolhapur. Owing to misrepresentations for which it is not difficult to fix responsibility and about which the best that could be said is that they were due to self interest, the school Leaving Examination Board decided to discontinue holding its examination in Kolhapur and this decision was maintaining the center at Kolhapur. The Darbar has, thus, incurred an expenditure of nearly Rs. 2,000/- a year for the convenience of the High School boys in the State and its vicinity.

The question of diverting the attention of boys in the state to agriculture and other industries is being tackled in all seriousness. The Lord Irwin Museum of Agriculture is being built

and the sum of Rs. 1,25,500/- is expected to be spent on the building under construction and Rs. 50,000/- are executed to be spent on the equipment of the Museum and the farm. This Institution is intended to be the basis of a central agricultural school with feeder schools in the village of the State, which it is hoped will give a distinctly agricultural bias to the primary education in the villages. Another direction in which Your Highness has decided to move is the starting of a technical school to be attached to the Rajaram High School. Its plans are at present under consideration and I have every hope that before the next year is out, substantial progress will have been made toward the establishments of a school to which a portion of the boys in the High School in Kolhapur will resort to, to their own benefit.

The number of primary schools conducted by the state rose from 710 to 748 and the expenditure on them rose from Rs.3,45,000/- to slightly over Rs. 4,00,000/-. The Education Inspector notices the progress under various heads in the report he has submitted and I am glad to be able to say that education is making steady progress though it is now well-nigh impossible to attain every striking numerical improvement.

Local Self Government

While referring to the lack of public spirited workers, I cannot but be reminded of the great experiment in Local Self Government which was started last year by the introduction of the

elective Municipalities in the City and five other towns of the State. The inauguration of the Ilakha Panchayat in April last at the hands of His Excellency, the Governor was a step further and very long step, in the direction of Local Self Government in the State. The franchise has now been conferred on every land-holder paying an assessment of Rs. 16/- a year throughout the state and for the first time in their history, the agricultural population has been called upon to a body which has been entrusted with the control and administration of Rs. 7 lakhs annually from public revenue. This step was generously taken by your Highness without any public demand from the State. Agricultural institution is making efforts to popularise the use of modern implements like the boring machine in the drier tracts of the State. In order to avoid the disastrous consequences of the failure of the later rain which frequently causes the failure of the crops in the Eastern talukas, an experiment is being tried in several villages of the Shirol taluka of growing Jawari crops by the use of a new seed imported from California by Mr. Goheen of American Mission of Sangli while the local Jawari takes 5 months and ^a/₁ half for becoming ripe for reaping, this seed is expected to be sowed in three months and a half reduces the change of famine owing to the failure of later rains.

Commerce and Industries

Encouragement of commerce and industries is one of the most

important functions of Government and I am happy to note that some good spade-work has been done during the year. The Kolhapur Bank Limited has completed its first year with great success. It has paid a good dividend although the interest charged on merchants was restricted to a moderate rate. The Darbar deposited a lakh of Rupees specially for banking operations of Jaysingpur without charging any interest on the Bank. Loans on easy terms were given to a Leather Factory and to a furniture maker in the city who have started work. The Shahupuri Merchants' Association is now registered under special rules sanctioned by Your Highness. The State opened a Weaving Department in the Shri Shahu Chhatrapati Mills at Kolhapur at a total cost of Rs. 6,00,000/- since November 1926 when His Excellency Sir, Leslie Wilson performed the opening ceremony. The number of looms now working is 160. Since January 1927 the Mills has been placed under the Management of Mr. M.H. Doshi of the Judicial Department and two other merchants of Kolhapur who form the committee of management. The arrangement is sanctioned experimentally for one year only and if successful the state will have partially commercialised the management of a large business concern.

The Special Engineer's Department

The question of improving the water supply of the city has been engaging Your Highness' attention for many years past. The Rajaram Tank was planned for this purpose and its foundation was laid three years back. When the scheme was examined in detail, it

was found that the head commanded by the sluice from the Tank was insufficient for the needs of Shahupuri. As however the work had already commenced and the foundations had been excavated at considerable cost, it was considered inadvisable to drop the construction of the tank altogether. It was, therefore, reduced in its dimensions and converted into an irrigation tank which is expected to cost, when completed, Rupees 3,25,000/-. A sum of Rs. 2,73,001 has been spent over the tank upto the end of the year under report and the Dam has been raised to a height of R.L.1875 and only a height of 12 feet more has remained to be reached at the end of the year. The tank is expected to irrigate 150 acres of cane. The establishment charges over this work are less than 4% and must be considered very satisfactory. In order to supply sufficient water to Shahupuri Camp, New Palace and Bavada, a new scheme was sanctioned in November 1926 for pumping water from the Panchaganga river and driving it to the high level of the Tembalai Hill where the Reservoir is constructed.

A.B. Latthe
Diwan of Kolhapur "

Latthe has also written the administrative report of the year 1927-28 giving graphic discussion of the reforms that he introduced in finance, general administration, education, judiciary etc.⁸⁹ It is perhaps to honour him for his services rendered to the state a title of Diwan Bahadur was conferred on him by giving 'Sanad' on 3rd June 1930, by Viceroy of India.⁹⁰

SANAD

To

Rao Bahadur Anna Babaji Latthe,

M.A., LL.B.

Diwan of Kolhapur.

I hereby confer upon you the title of Bahadur as a personal distinction.

Simla
The Third June, 1930

Viceroy & Governor
General of India.¹

On his securing the title of 'Diwan Bahadur' many illustrious persons wrote congratulatory letters to Latthe praising his hard work, sincerity and towering intellectualism.

During his tenure as Diwan Lord Irwin Agricultural Museum, Colonel Obrayan Technical School, Veterinary Hospital, Mary Bether Market, Gren Market, Maternity Home, Lady Wilson Bridge were constructed under his supervision. And these buildings added the grace to the beauty of Kolhapur. Roads were widened, buildings of modern style were built and these gave modern look to Kolhapur.⁹¹

Latthe capably met the epidemic of plague in Kolhapur in 1929, by taking anti-plague drive.⁹² He modernised the Kolhapur city with its widened streets, fine orchards, beautiful gardens, ideal hospital and educational institutions.⁹³

His appointment to high office of Diwan had been held as a well merited tribute to his statesmanship, administrative ability and legal acumen.

Since he carried with him his vast experience as Diwan and sound knowledge of public finance, education, public works and health, even the I.C.S. Secretaries found difficulties in satisfying him. He told an incident to D.S. Parmaj, that occurred with his Secretary who was an Englishman. The latter had submitted a file for orders without referring to his previous decision that had been taken on the subject. Annasaheb remembered it, asked his Secretary to find it out and put up the papers. The Secretary said that he did not know of any such decision. Annasaheb went through the file carefully and found the noting with a decision thereon in that very file. The Secretary apologised to him for his oversight and mistake. Annasaheb was thorough in his work and disliked slipshod manners of work.⁹⁴

When Latthe accepted the responsibility of Diwanship, he brought discipline and efficiency to administrative set-up. Doubtlessly, this is due to his political skill.⁹⁵

Latthe and First Round Table Conference (1930-31)

On 20th September, the Government of India sent a despatch to London as a preliminary to the discussion of the Round Table Conference. It was in general agreement with the recommendation

of the Simon Commission.⁹⁶

In accordance with the Viceroy's declaration of 31st October 1929, there was a conference of the representatives of His Majesty's Government and those of India. This, The First Round Table Conference was inaugurated by His Majesty, the King Emperor on 12 November, 1930, and was presided over by Mr. Ramsay Mac Donald, the Labour Prime Minister. It was attended by 16 members from the British Parties, 16 from British Indian States, and 57 from British India - all together 89 in number. The Congress was not represented. But the other parties were represented by eminent leaders.⁹⁷

In this First Round Table Conference, Diwan Bahadur Latthe played a part as an adviser to the Princes' Delegation. Mr. Latthe, being a Diwan of Kolhapur State, was knowing of all the problems which affect the sovereignty of states in internal matters and how far the paramount power holds its sway over the autonomous states. Before attending the First Round Table Conference he had made a thorough study of princely states and their problems and wrote a book 'Problems of Indian States' in September, 1930.

Latthe thought that, an attempt was still required to be made to look at the problems from all the stand points together. The first one of them is the point of view of Princes themselves. Then the view of their people. Thirdly how British Indians will be affected by people in the states, think or say. Lastly the view

point of British empire represented by the paramount power.⁹⁸

Latthe went to Bombay on 1.10.1930 by the Railway Mail. Five hundred people gave him hearty send-off on the Kolhapur Railway station.⁹⁹

From Bombay he went to London on 4.10.1930 by the ship 'Viceroy of India'. Dr. Ambedkar, Mahamadalli, Sir Tejabahadur Sapru, Wrangler Naralika were the other Round Tablers with him. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru was Head of India's delegation of the First Round Table Conference.¹⁰⁰

Discussions took place on the ship about the conference. Latthe says, "Every member thought that he is superior to other. But when any difficult problem arose, they moved about absent mindedly engrossed in thought. Some of them were neutral on Swaraj and discussed the problem baselessly."¹⁰¹

It was evident from the preliminary discussion that while the British members irrespective of Parties were unwilling to concede Dominion status even with safeguards, and Responsible Government at the centre, all the Indian members were unanimous in their demands of both. An all-India Federation with the Indian states was strongly advocated by Sapru, and was supported by other Indian members including the Ruling Princes. The Indian members also unanimously advocated the introduction of the British Parliamentary System. Lord Peel, representing the conservative Party in Britain, observed: "We have not thought that our

Parliamentary methods should be transferred wholesale from Westminster to Delhi, but have suggested that we might well consider for India the Swiss or American Parliamentary models.¹⁰²

When after the general debate, the conference proceeded to discuss the frame work of the constitution the Ruling Princes agreed to consider an immediate federation on two conditions. British India must be Federalised and the Central Government become in some degree responsible to the central legislature. 'We can only federate', said the Nawab of Bhopal, 'with a self governing and federal British India'. The other Indian members and the British delegates agreed to this and the main principle having thus been settled, a number of sub-committees were appointed to work out the details.¹⁰³

There were plenary sessions of the first Round Table Conference on 16 and 19th January, 1931, in which a general review was made of the work of the conference. No less than thirty-five speeches were made, marked by an optimistic tone and mutual appreciation and admiration by Indian and British delegates. The agreement on Dominion status and all-India Federation was hailed with joy and the speak of cloud in the distant horizon in the shape of the unsolved minority problem did not mar the calm atmosphere of the proceedings.¹⁰⁴

After the speeches of King Emperor and Prime Minister the speeches of Kings of Kashmir, Baroda and Bhopal State^s were made. Among these speeches the speeches of King of Bhopal State and

among the representatives Barrister Jinha's speech was praised only.¹⁰⁵

But Latthe says, "Dr. Ambedkar is one of them who impressed Britishers by his smartness and firmness".¹⁰⁶

Latthe was of the view that there is a 'Federation of States' but his views were not considered acceptable in conference, because there was no unity among the members of the states.

His nomination to the Round Table Conference was a tribute to his statesmanship, political acumen and sound knowledge of the vital issues concerning the country.

After returning from Round Table Conference in 1931 Latthe submitted his resignation of Diwanship to Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj as it seems that he developed some differences with Maharaja.

Latthe: Prime Minister and Constitutional Adviser
of Kolhapur State and the Merger of Kolhapur State

Background

Sir William Lee-Warner, in his famous book called 'The Native States of India', pointed out three epochs in British relations with the Indian States till the introduction of the Reforms of 1919. During the first period, the English East India Company followed the 'Policy of the ring-fence' and this period lasted from 1757 to 1813. The second period lasted

from 1813 to 1858 and was called by him as the period of 'Subordinate Isolation'. The third period extended from 1858 to 1919 and was designated by him as the period of 'Subordinate Union'.¹⁰⁷

Soon after the passing of the Government Act of 1919, an announcement was made by the British Government for the establishment of the Chamber of Princes. The Chamber of Princes was a deliberative, consultative, and advisory body. Its importance has been stated by the Simon Commission Report in these words

"The establishment of the Chamber of Princes marks an important stage in the development of relations between the Crown and the States, for it involves a definite breach in an earlier policy, according to which it was rather the aim of the Crown to discourage Joint action of the Crown, to discourage Joint action and Joint States and to treat each state as an isolated Unit apart from its neighbours. That principle, indeed, has already been giving place to the idea of conference and cooperation amongst the ruling princes of India, but this latter conception was not embodied in permanent shape until the chamber of princes was established. The Chamber has enabled through interchange of views to take place on weighty matters concerning relationship of the state with the crown and concerning other points of contact with British India".¹⁰⁸

In 1927, the 'Butler Committee' was appointed to inquire into the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian states and to make the necessary recommendations for their satisfactory adjustment. The recommendations of Butler Committee were criticized by the Indians from all walks of life.

According to Sir Visvesvarayya, "In the Butler Committee Report', there is no hint of a future for the people of Indian States. Their proposals are unsympathetic, unhistorical, hardly constitutional or legal -- There is no modern conception in their outlook certainly nothing to inspire trust or hope."¹⁰⁹

On the occasion of the first Round Table Conference held in 1930 in London, the Indian Princes accepted the proposal for the creation of an All India Federation in which both the Indian provinces and the Indian States were to be combined.

The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for such a federation. Under this Act, the Indian states were given more representation in the Federal Legislature than was due to them on account of their population and area. The Federal Scheme as provided for in the Act of 1935 was rejected both by the Muslim league and the Congress. The British Government also did not do much to enforce the Federal Scheme. Moreover, the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 shelved the whole scheme. Nothing was done thereafter.

On May 12, 1946 the members of the Cabinet Mission declared that the British Government could not and would not in any circumstances transfer paramountcy to an Indian Government. However, it was made clear that where new self-governing Government or Governments came into being in British India, it would not be possible for the British Government to carry out the obligations of paramountcy. In that case rights surrendered by the states to the Paramount Power were to return to the Indian states. "Political arrangements between the states on the one side and the British Crown and British India on the other will thus be brought to an end. The void will have to be filled either by the states entering into a federal relationship with the successor Government or Governments of British India, or failing this, entering into particular political arrangements with it or them."¹¹⁰

The Indian Independence Act, 1947 provided that "the suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian States lapses, and with it all treaties and agreements in force on that date".

As a result of this provision the Indian states became completely independent and the Government of India and Pakistan did not inherit the rights or authority of the former Government of India. The Act did not attempt a solution of the problem of the states and left the same to be tackled by the new Dominions. But the congress was able to tackle the Problem of the Indian States successfully and the credit goes to Sardar Patel, Lord Mountbatten and Mr. V.P. Menon. On the suggestion of Sardar Patel,

the state Ministry was set up and he himself became its head. An instrument of Accession was drawn up which was acceptable to the Princes. They were required to hand over to the Indian union only, the subjects of defence, foreign relations and communications. In other matters, their autonomy was to be scrupulously respected.

Sardar Patel appealed to the Princes that:

"We are at a momentous stage in the history of India. By common endeavour we can raise the country to a new greatness while lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities. I hope the Indian States will bear in mind that the alternative to co-operation in the General interest is anarchy and chaos which will overwhelm great and small in a common ruin if we are unable to act together in the minimum of common tasks".¹¹¹

Kolhapur State

The Kolhapur dynasty was founded by Tarabai, the heroic wife of Rajaram, son of Shivaji the Great. Kolhapur claimed high rank among the Maratha States and the ruler bore the distinctive and honorific title of Chhatrapati Maharaj. The State had an area of 3,219 square miles, a population of nearly 11 lakhs and an annual revenue of Rs. 128 lakhs. The last Maharaja, Sir Rajaram Chhatrapati died on 26 November, 1940 leaving no male heir. A six-weeks old boy was recognized as his successor, and a Council of Regency was set up with the Dowager Maharani as its president, shortly after, the child died and the Political Department, on 13 March 1947

recognized the adoption of Vikramsinha Rao Maharaj, the Maharaja of Dewas Senior, as Shahaji Chhatrapati II. The Dowager Maharani was never reconciled to this succession; and the new Maharaj had to start under the initial handicap of being considered, at least by a section of the people, as an outsider.¹¹²

There were so many difficulties against new Maharaja. He knew that there is one person who can help him in this critical situation. Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaja asked Latthe for joining again in the State service as a constitutional adviser. Latthe wrote a letter to Shahaji Maharaj on 9th May, 1947.¹¹³

"I am grateful to Your Highness for the offer of the constitutional Advisership to me. But now taking everything in account, I confess I am hesitant about rejoining the state service for the third time and at my present age. You are aware that at present I have a fairly well established private practice as adviser to state and Jahagirs. Then I have my own humble place in public life of my place. If I accept your Highness's kind offer, I have to break off from all this and take to a new life. In the past, though his late Highness appreciated my service very highly and promised many things, in the end I thought it necessary to resign even without enjoying the privilege leave I was entitled to. I cannot afford to repeat these experiences.

If, however, Your Highness considers my accepting the

job necessary I would request that I should have an assurance that whenever I retire my past service both in an official and unofficial capacity should be taken into account and a decent pension would be given to me irrespective of the breaks in service and irrespective of the length of my official connections. I do not wish to press for this. But I am to join service here, I should feel sure that I will not be stood once again when I retire and may not have to begin a new professional life. I humbly hope your Highness will appreciate my feelings and either drop the idea of asking to join or pass suitable orders regarding what I have said above.

Yours obediently,

Sd/-

(A.B. Latthe) "

In response to above letter of Latthe, The Huzur Chitanis wrote a letter to Latthe on 20th May, 1920 as follows:¹¹⁴

"No. Dytt. 217/47
Huzur Office, Kolhapur
20th May, 1947.

"From: The Huzur Chitanis of
H.H. The Chh. M.Kolhapur.

To

A.B. Latthe, Esquire,
M.A., LL.B.
Constitutional Adviser to H.H. the
Chh. Maharaj of Kolhapur

Sir,

I feel great pleasure in informing you that His Highness

the Chhatrapati Maharaj has been pleased to appoint you constitutional Adviser to His Highness on a salary of Rs.2,500/- p.m. Income Tax Free, a rent free furnished bungalow and car allowance of Rs. 100/- p.m. with effect from 15th May, 1947.

With reference to your confidential letter dated 9th May 1947 to His Highness, I am directed to inform you that His Highness thoroughly appreciates the difficulty mentioned in your letter and that he is conscious of the valuable service rendered by you to the state and the Royal family without being benefitted. So, with a view to compensate for the same to a certain extent, His Highness has been pleased to give you an assurance that at the time of your retirement a pension of Rs. 1,000/- (One thousand) p.m. will be given to you,

Yours Most Obedient servant

Huzur Chitanis

By this letter Latthe was appointed as Constitutional Adviser of Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj. Latthe rejected a demand of Saradar Patel of becoming a member of Saradar's Ministry and accepted this less valuable post only for the sake of Shahaji Maharaj.¹¹⁵

In recognition of the services rendered by Latthe to the State, Chh. Shahu conferred on him the title of Karvir Ratna, on 1.6.1927¹⁶.

Latthe was chosen as a representative of Kolhapur to discuss the political matter with Sardar Patel; the following letter shows this.¹¹⁷

"Kolhapur

5th June, 1947

S. Patel,
New Delhi.

Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the New Constitutional Act passed by the Government of Kolhapur. A cursory glance through it is sufficient to give an idea to its reader about the reactionary, worthless feature of the Act. This was formed by no less a person than Mr. A.B. Latthe, former Finance Member of the Government of Bombay under the first Congress regime. The working Committee of the Kolhapur Praja Parishad has severely condemned the said Act and has rightly refused to participate in the new Government.

Mr. Latthe has been chosen as a representative of Kolhapur State to discuss the political matter with you and he is likely to see you in a day or two.

I hope, you will before you see him, acquaint yourself with the real situation in Kolhapur. Mr. N.V. Gadgil, M.L.A. (Central), who is president of the Praja Parishad for this year, has severely condemned this new Act, which is the product of Mr. Latthe's brain. If he is in Delhi he would be in the best position to give you a clear idea about Kolhapur.

I have, therefore, to request you to do the needful in

the matter and not to be guided by what Mr. Latthe says.

Yours faithfully,

President
Kolhapur State Praja
Parishad, Kolhapur"

After the discussions between Saradar V. Patel and Latthe Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj wrote two letters dated 30th June, 1947¹¹⁸ and 10th August 1947¹¹⁹ which are reproduced below.

"New Palace,
Kolhapur

30th June, 1947

My dear Saradar Patel,

I write this to thank you very much for the time you kindly gave to Mr. Latthe when he called on you at Delhi and the frank discussion you had with him on some of the important questions which I have to face at present.

Since his return, the matter is receiving my earnest consideration. I hope, in the near future to (apprise) you of my final decision.

Thanking you again for the valuable discussions you had with Mr. Latthe and with kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Shahaji Chh."

"New Palace
Kolhapur

10th August, 1947

My dear Saradar Sahib,

I have already intimated to you my decision to accede to the Dominion of India in respect of Defence, External affairs and communications. I hope you have by now received my communication on the subject. You will have noticed that my decision is clear and definite. I have however been feeling that though I would not wish my accession to be clogged by conditions I may invite your kind attention to a postage in the speech of His Excellency the Crown Representative at the Conference of Princes and state's representatives at the conference of Princes and States' representatives on the 25th ultimo. Addressing the conference, His Excellency then observed:-

"One explanation probably was that some of you were apprehensive that the central Government would attempt to impose a financial liability on the states or encroach in other ways on their sovereignty. If I am right in this assumption, at any rate so far as some princes are concerned, I think I must dispel their apprehensions and misgivings. The draft Instrument of Accession, which I have caused to be circulated a basis for discussion and not for publication to the representatives of the states, provides that the states

accede to the appropriate Dominion on three subjects only without any financial liability".

This assurance that the states accede in this case, "without any financial liability" is quite clear. All the same, many of us, the Rulers of states, felt that this assurance may be appropriately embodied in the Instrument of Accession then under discussion. The view taken by the Secretary of the States Department was that there was no financial liability on the states which accede in terms of that draft. Besides this, the public declaration made by His Excellency on a solemn occasion like that of the conference of 25 July was there to reassure us. But I think it is my duty to say that opponents of the accession of states to the Dominion of India are still spreading the impression that once the states sign the Instrument, attempts to subject them to financial burdens in the form of direct taxation may be made. It would therefore, I suggest, be a very effective check upon this propaganda and it would also remove possible misgivings about interpretations of the Instrument in the future years, to make a statement on behalf of the Dominion Government of India that the statement of His Excellency quoted above is also the view of your Government. Such a statement by you would go a great way in removing still existing misgivings and silencing all opposition, whether silent or vocal.

I hope, you will consider this suggestion in the spirit of absolute friendship in which I have made it to you. A line in reply would oblige.

Yours sincerely,

Shahaji Chhatrapati.

In reply to this letter Sardar gave answer to Shahaji Chhatrapati before one day of Indian Independence.¹²⁰

"14 August, 1947

My dear Maharaja,

Thank you for your demi-official letter dated 10th August, 1947. I am very glad indeed to hear that you have acceded to the Indian Dominion in respect of Defence, External Affairs and communications. I conform that this accession does not impose any financial liability or involves encroaching in any other way on their sovereignty except to the extent that it has been agreed to under the Instrument of Accession itself. There need, therefore, be no misgivings or misapprehensions on this score.

No other Prince has raised this doubt and a public statement from me at this junction might be misconstrued. You could, however, use this letter of mine in such manner as you might consider necessary to remove the misapprehensions, if any, of your brother Princes. This would perhaps be the best way of doing so.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Vallabhai Patel.

Ratnappa Kumbhar, active member of Congress Committee wrote a letter to Sardar Patel about the situation of Kolhapur State on 24th November, 1947 as follows:¹²¹

"Kolhapur

24th November, 1947

My dear Sardarji,

I received your two telegrams - one expressing congratulation and another asking for detailed information regarding the settlement arrived at between the Kolhapur Praja Parishad and the Maharaja. Owing to the internal grave crisis the Praja Parishad itself I could not write to you earlier nor could send the required information in time; for this unavoidable delay on my part, Sardarji, I hope you will kindly excuse me.

The tragic event of this our internal crisis has had a long and chequered history behind it. Suffice it here to say that we had prepared ourselves for the final struggle with a certainty for complete success, but as bad luck would have it, the Maharaja proved successful in ensnaring our Praja Parishad President, Shri M.K. Bagal, and winning him over to his side. We were compelled to accept the settlement by a peculiar force of circumstances that we were placed in. In spite of

this we tried to make the settlement as less faulty as possible. And the good effect of this settlement was all dependent upon the strength of the ministry which was to be instituted by the Praja Parishad. As a result of this, we decided to enter the interim Ministry and selected our front-rank leaders including our President, Shri M.K. Bagal, for four ministerships. But immediately after a suspicion lurked in our mind, which to our regret proved to be true by later events, that Shri Bagal was secretly in league with the Maharaja and that disregarding his own colleagues he was determined to use the Praja Parishad as a King's party and that too on communal lines.

Thus we found ourselves in a very intriguing situation and ultimately decided to dissociate from Shri Bagal. Consequently we, the majority members of the working committee, tendered our resignations (from) the working committee.

Immediately after we, the resigning members, issued a detailed statement of which a copy is sent herewith for your information. This statement will, I hope, give you an idea as to the present Kolhapur situation and a true perspective of the stand we have taken.

We have sent a requisition to the President to call an extra-ordinary session of the central body of our Praja Parishad. In that session we are quite sure that the verdict of that body will be in our favour and we hope once again to

hold the Praja Parishad flag on a completely non-communal basis.

I am sending a copy of the draft covenant entered into by the Maharaja with the Praja Parishad.

Sardarji we are indeed at this stage struggling against great odds in the grave internal crisis. I shall let you know about further developments as events occur in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Ratnappa Kumbhar."

Latthe was against the merger of Kolhapur. He gave an interview to newspapers like 'Kala' of Miraj on 1.1.1948 and Dainik Prabhat on 4.1.1948 about Merger of Kolhapur state.¹²².

"Kolhapur unlikely to merge with Bombay I do not think that the question of merger of Kolhapur can arise or has arisen. Though I know that some people are talking about it, I do not attach any value to it. My first reason for saying so is that -

- 1) The Kolhapur state is a big enough unit of the Indian Dominion.
- 2) Secondly in the truest sense of the word, Kolhapur is entitled to remain a state by its history and its place in the affections of a large body of people in the country."

Mr. Latthe added,

"I am certain that if a plebiscite is taken even today in the state, a substantial majority would be in favour of the state continuing to ~~exist~~ ^{exist} and not in favour of its merger.

The people of Kolhapur are firmly established on the path to responsible government and even if there are any differences.

While talking about other states he said to the reporter of 'Dainik Prabhat',¹²³

"I feel that the Maharajas of other states have crossed the limit of thinking properly about their own states. It is becoming difficult to bring about any change in the things for which they have been responsible."

After the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, internal crisis took place in Kolhapur which were beyond the control of Maharaja also. So he handed over the resolving of the situation to the Government of India. While giving interview to newspaper 'Nawa Kal' dated 27th March, 1948 about the appointment of the administrator for Kolhapur, Latthe said,¹²⁴

"After the assassination of Gandhi, Bagal and others were unsuccessful in handling the situation and this was the cause of many complaints. Government of India had informed the Maharaja that since it is the duty of the Maharaja to run

the administration smoothly, he should take up the proper measures of administration."

But since there were complaints made against the Maharaja himself, that the Maharaja is very greedy about sovereignty and taking advantage of riot situation of the state he wants to dissolve the Ministry of State from avoiding this charge¹²⁵ he handed over the resolving of the situation to the Government of India. So, the administrator was appointed by the Government of India from 23.3.1948.¹²⁶ This will be the temporary arrangement till the elections of Kolhapur Legislative Assembly are conducted. It is not the aim of this arrangement to merge Kolhapur in the Government of India."

Government of India's policy towards Kolhapur State, V.P. Menon, Secretary for States said:

"At the time of the merger of Deccan states we had left Kolhapur along as we felt that the time was not ripe. Any hasty step might have alienated the feelings of the Marathas, who looked to the ruler of Kolhapur as their head. But in January 1948 the assassination of Gandhiji led to serious rioting in the state. The situation arising out of disturbances was discussed between the ruler and the states Ministry and as a result, the ruler agreed to the appointment of an administrator nominated by Government of India."¹²⁷

The financial position of the state was found to be

unsatisfactory and an officer was deputed to enquire into it. On his recommendation a loan was granted by the Government of India to the state. Meanwhile, constant pressure was extended on us from one quarter to another for its merger and it was even suggested that we should hold a plebiscite. The unique position of Kolhapur and the possibility that any precipitate action would give rise to a regional controversy decided us against the idea of a plebiscite. We felt also that without the free consent of the Maharaja no merger could take place."¹²⁸

Captain Nanjappa, Administrator of Kolhapur, appointed by Government of India wrote a letter on 14 August 1948 to V.P. Menon, Secretary for States, about anti-merger propoganda in Kolhapur.¹²⁹

"14th August, 1948

Dear Rao B. Menon,

Sub: Anti-Merger Propoganda in Kolhapur

During his visit to Kolhapur last week, His Excellency the Governor of Bombay had confidential talks with the Maharaja Sahib of Kolhapur during which he made it clear to the Maharaja Sahib that Kolhapur state will have to merge with the Indian Union some time or the other and that this was only a question of time. The Maharaja Saheb told His Excellency that he was prepared to do anything for the Indian Union and hand over all powers etc. but he would not sign the merger agreement willingly. The Maharaja Saheb has also

suggested that he was prepared to abdicate in favour of his son or appoint the Maharani Sahib as Regent if necessary. Personally, I consider that this is only a formal stand taken up by His Highness and that he would sign the merger agreement if tackled by the Hon. Sardar Patel. The Maharaja's stand is only natural and to be expected. In my opinion, he will go on saying this until he actually signs.

There is however, an unfortunate reaction to the above talks. His Highness appears to have become desperate and has launched an intensive campaign against merger. He is attempting to rally round him all the reactionary and mischievous elements in the state. Immediately after the Governor's departure he had secret talks with Mr. M.K. Bagal, (Political worker and president of Kolhapur State Congress) in the palace when Bagal assured the Maharaja Sahib of his wholehearted support and agreed to fight against merger. This has been told to me by the Maharaja himself. The Maharaja has also contacted anti-congress Maratha elements and particularly the leaders of the so-called Bahujanwadi Party like Jedhe and More. Jedhe and More though they are really in favour of merger, have agreed to support the Maharaja in order to spite the congress party in power.

His Highness has now left the state for Dewas and is expected to return in the first week of September. Mr. Latthe, the Prime Minister has also proceeded to Delhi to attend the

meeting of the special selection Board of which he is a member. It is understood that the special selection Board will proceed to tour headquarter of most Indian provinces for interviewing candidates. I am sorry to report that both His Highness and Mr. Latthe are taking absolutely no interest in administration of the state and the welfare of the people. Unfortunately, under the existing constitution of the state I have to obtain the signature of His Highness on legal enactments. I am just now considering the question of withdrawal of civil and criminal powers of Jagirdars and feudatory chiefs in Kolhapur and the Maharaja is doing his best to avoid putting his signature on it. This is only one instance of the obstructionist and (delaying) tactics of the Maharaja. Both Mr. Latthe and the Maharaja are doing their best to make it as difficult as possible for me to administer the state. Files sent to the Maharaja for formal approval required under the law are delayed by him for weeks and months deliberately.

There is reason to believe that Mr. M.K. Bagal and members of his party are plotting to create trouble on 15th August, Independence Day, to mar the celebrations.

Mr. Latthe is also openly carrying on a campaign against merger. In addition he openly ridicules the Indian Government and members of the Indian and Bombay Governments. He says that the Indian Government is inefficient and weak and will soon

be defeated by Hyderabad.

After careful consideration of the situation in Kolhapur state, I have come to conclusion that the time is ripe for completing its merger. Public opinion is very strongly in favour of merger except only a selfish minority consisting of few Jagirdars and communalists. I do not expect any outbreak of violence if merger takes place today. Further, I feel confident that the situation is fully under control and I will be able to deal with any emergency that may arise. The police are thoroughly loyal and the top Officers are now brought from Bombay. The Government services are all in favour of merger.

I hope to come to Delhi some time about the third or fourth week of this month when I shall explain the matter personally in further detail.

Yours sincerely,

V.Nanjappa

(Administrator of Kolhapur State) "

Rao. B.V.P. Menon
Secretary, Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

Then Captain Nanjappa wrote a letter to Mr. Buch, Joint Secretary, Ministry of States about the situation of Kolhapur State.¹³⁰

"Administrator's Office,
Kolhapur

Date: 22nd August, 1948

Dear Mr. Buch,

Sub: Situation in Kolhapur.

Mr. A.B. Latthe, Prime Minister of Kolhapur returned to Kolhapur on the 19th from Delhi where he had been to attend the preliminary meeting of the special selection Board. Enroute he halted at Dewas to see the Maharaja Sahib of Kolhapur who is now staying at Dewas.

After his return from Delhi, Mr. Latthe has been spreading various adverse rumours regarding the central Government and particularly the States Ministry. He has been saying that the states Ministry is extremely incompetent and high-handed and that Delhi is in a chaotic state. According to him, the Indian Government will be defeated by Pakistan very soon. At Dewas he had discussion with the Maharaja regarding the organization of resistance to the merger of Kolhapur. Immediately on his return to Kolhapur he contacted the Jagirdars and members of the ex-ministry now dismissed, in order to gain their support for fighting merger. I saw Mr. Latthe preparing the defence statements for members of the ex-Ministry to be presented to the Judicial inquiry. He is also spreading rumours that Maharaja has gone to Delhi to arrange for the dismissal of the Administrator.

I understand that the special selection Board have made

it clear to Mr. Latthe that he cannot work simultaneously as Prime Minister of Kolhapur, and as Member of the Board. Mr. Latthe is expected to make his decision in a week's time. I anticipate that Mr. Latthe will most probably resign from the special selection board. The Maharaja had advised Mr. Latthe to resign from selection Board and continue as Prime Minister of Kolhapur. It is understood that his pay is being increased from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 per month (free from income tax and rent free house).

The Maharaja left for Dewas early this month and is still at that place. He is expected to return here by the first week of September. The ostensible reason for his journey to Dewas is to attend Gokul Ashtami festival at that place. He says that he has to attend the function as a member of the Dewas family. He however conveniently forgets that he is now adopted in the Kolhapur ruling family and that his duties lie in Kolhapur State. There is reason to believe that he has proceeded to Dewas for month's stay in order to drink without interference. He finds the presence of the Administrator at Kolhapur rather awkward in this regard. He is also meeting the Rulers and Jagirdars of central Indian states and indulging in his favourite pastime of mischievous intrigues. Intriguing has unfortunately become second nature to him.

The Rajaram Rifles Battalion of Kolhapur State forces which is placed at the disposal of the Indian Union, is now stationed at Solapur on the frontier of Hyderabad State. I have requested the Maharaja to visit his battalion and also our part of the

Hyderabad frontier seeing other Indian Army Units. I further suggested that I could arrange for some publicity to ^{his} visit and that he might usefully issue a statement regarding the placing of the Kolhapur state resources of the disposal of the Indian union and appealing to the Marathas to support the national Government wholeheartedly. I regret to say that he has not followed my advice so far. I have again conveyed this message to him at Dewas and I am hoping that he will visit Solapur and see the Kolhapur battalion at an early date in September. I am constrained to remark that the Maharaja is not taking the slightest interest in the administration of the State and welfare of the people. Mr. Hire, president of Maharashtra provincial congress committee and Mr. Chavan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Bombay Government came to Kolhapur last week in order to organise a district congress committee in place of the State Praja Parishad. Attempts were also made to bring together the rival political groups in the states. Their attempts, however, have been unsuccessful so far and they have programmes to visit the state again after about a fortnight.

The differences between the rival political groups in the state led by Bagal and Ratnappa Kumbhar are again becoming acute as merger is expected by the public in the near future, Bagal and his men (late Ministry who committed arson and looting) are organizing themselves to fight the merger with the support of some of the Jahagirdars and the auspices of the Maharaja. Their strength is however, negligible and I have no doubt of the fate they will meet

when the state merges. A majority of the people are awaiting merger anxiously.

Yours sincerely

V.Nanjjappa

N.M. Buch Esqr
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of States,
NEW DELHI"

Captain Nanjjappa, as an administrator, informed Latthe about his behaviour against the merger by his letter sent to him on 12 August, 1948.¹³¹

"Kolhapur
12th August, 1948

Dear Shri Latthe,

Please refer to your secret D.O. dated 17th July, 1948 and my reply dated 21 July 1948. I have discussed the question of withdrawal of Jagirdars' Powers. I have seen during the last four months I have no hesitation in saying there is serious maladministration and consequent discontentment in the Jagirs. Corruption is rampant and the administration of justice is almost a farce.

I have also pointed out to you that similar action has been taken in Gwalior State to withdraw Jagirdar's Powers. The exercise of these powers is neither in conformity with public opinion in this state nor with the policy of

Government. The present practice is undoubtedly inimical to the progress and welfare of the people of the Jagirs and the State.

It is essential to have a standardised administration for all the villages in Kolhapur State. Unless this is done it is impossible to expect any improvement in the administration of the Jagir and the Darbar territories. Similarly, uniformity of legislation is also absolutely essential.

Several Jagirdars have personally approached me and have unequivocally expressed a desire to surrender their powers. It is also understood that the Jagirdars are being prevented from approaching the administrator and from surrendering their powers. I would sincerely request you to desist from such a policy. I know of cases where Jagirdars have been warned for calling on the Regional Commissioner and the Administrator.

I have incidentally noticed that you are opposing and delaying every piece of legislation suggested by me. It appears to me that this is your policy. You have raised the bogey that His Highness cannot promulgate legislation except in an emergency. You have recently advised His Highness against imposition of the Sales Tax in the state. This is very surprising in view of the fact that it was you as Finance Minister of Bombay who introduced the Sales Tax Act in that province. Unless the Sales Tax Act is promulgated and the state improved, a very serious situation

will arise. The financial position as I have seen after I took over has reached a crisis and every effort must be made to increase the revenues. If you persist in following the policy of opposing all useful legislation, I will be compelled to bring the situation to the notice of the States Ministry.

I would like to make it clear that as all the transferred departments are under the control of the Administrator, he has got every authority to draft and enact necessary legislation for the progress of the State and to keep the administration in line with the province and states of the Indian Union. Sanction by His Highness is only mere formality. It is, therefore, expected in all fairness that His Highness' assent is communicated to me at the earliest possible opportunity and without unnecessary delay.

Yours

V.Nanjappa

Shri A.B. Latthe,
Prime Minister,
Kolhapur.

From Dewas Shahaji Maharaj wrote a letter on 22nd August, 1948 to Mr. Latthe asking about the situation in Kolhapur.¹³²

'Jai Bhavani'

"Shri Anand Bhuvan Palace,
Dewas Senior.
Dated 22nd August, 1948

My dear Diwansaheb,

I do hope you have received my telegram of today in

reply to yours. I have been giving deep thought to our conversation in Indore. You will appreciate that it is extremely difficult for me to suggest any definite course in the matter without getting back to Kolhapur and studying the situation first hand and also discussing it with you but if you approve of it one idea has struck me and that is that you address the necessary authorities and say that subsequent to you conditionally accepting the membership of the Board you have been entrusted with the work of the Prime Minister in addition to constitutional adviser. Hence you are not quite sure whether you will be able to cope up with both these jobs and also Board work. However you will try to do your best but in case you find it impossible, you may have to resign from the board and as such you are warning them to have a substitute in view, so that they may not be taken by surprise and the Board's work may not be suffered.

From the above you will see that in any case as far as Bombay Province goes which is our primary object, the work can be done and final decision taken in view of the situation. At the same time, we have pre-warned them if necessary so that they cannot blame us of suddenly letting them down.

We are all quite well here and hope everything in Kolhapur is as best as can be hoped. I see from the papers that Kharadekar has resigned in favour of Madhavrao. I have also heard that Captain Nanjjappa has written rather an



objectionable letter to Jahagirdars. However this is a matter I shall take up on my return. I enclose for your information a telegram I have sent to him with reference to the Sales Tax Act.

I shall be glad if you could let me know by return of post what is the programme of the Board's sittings in Poona and Bombay so that I shall try to make it a point to be in Kolhapur before you leave.

Shahaji Chhatrapati.

Ratnappa Kumbhar wrote a letter on 26th August 1948¹³³ to Sardar Patel, that the time was ripe for merging. It is reproduced below:

"Ratnappa Kumbhar, Kolhapur
Camp Bombay

26 August, 1948

My dear Sardar Sahib,

I am writing to you after a fairly long time because I did not want to trouble you during the period of your convalescence. I am glad that you have fully recouped your health and are again at your post in the service of our country. May God give you good health and long life.

2. The main object of writing this letter is to show to you that the time to take a decisive step to merge the state

has now come. Just now all the opposition forces are most demoralized and at their lowest ebb. The Maharaja is frightened because the Administrator has asked him to refund the huge sum of Rs. 65 lakhs or so which the Maharaja has illegally taken from the treasury. The party of Mr. Bagal is also demoralised because of the enquiry under Justice Coyagee. The rabid communal organisation of Messrs Jedhe and More has not had any time to spread its feet in Kolhapur. The friends of Maharaja are also trembling in their shoes because they have lost all influence and are feeling that an early merger is inevitable. The Maharaja has himself become so unpopular with the public at large owing to his vices that merger will be deemed to be a relief by most of the subjects of the state. The most critical time, has therefore, arrived and the state must be merged if ever, now. The question should, under no circumstances, be postponed beyond September. The Governor of Bombay recently paid a visit to Kolhapur when we could meet him and when he could study the situation first hand. I feel that he was also convinced of the extreme desirability of deciding the merger issue without delay.

3. There is no truth in the statement that riots will break out in Kolhapur if the state is merged. Such prophecies were made on several occasions in the past.

Now the conditions are so favourable that a reaction is least likely to happen. The situation is well under control as the administrator will testify. I, therefore, feel that there is no point in postponing merger on a panicky forecast of eventualities.

4. I would also like to impress upon you that complications that will arise if the merger issue is postponed. It will not be possible then to delay elections any longer. Once the elections start all opposition forces which are now demoralized and one of the lowest ebb will be strengthened again. The Maharaja will spend huge amounts in subsidising all reactionary and communal elements. An attempt will be made to secure a majority for the rabid communalists in the forthcoming elections and then to create fresh difficulties with their support. The politics of Bahujan Samaj of Jedhe and More will be introduced in Kolhapur and fully developed on the election platform. I am afraid that these and numerous other complications will arise if a decision on the merger is postponed and elections are held (as they inevitably must be). These complications must be avoided at any cost.

5. I have seen Balasaheb Kher and discussed the situation with him in detail. I would, therefore, request you to kindly discuss the situation with Kher during his next visit

to Delhi and take a final decision on the matter.

6. I would also be grateful if you can find some time for my meeting with you. I am coming to Delhi on 28th inst., and at the time of our interview, I will be able to explain the whole local situation personally.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ratnappa Kumbhar."

Copy of confidential letter No. AD 1/DH/1724 dated 10th/15th December, 1948 from the Hon'ble Administrator, Kolhapur State, to His Highness the Chhatrapati.¹³⁴

"I am writing this on a subject which is causing me considerable anxiety. On several previous occasions I have brought to your Highness notice the objectionable activities of Mr. A.B. Latthe, Prime Minister, Kolhapur. I have also requested Your Highness to advise Mr. Latthe to desist from such activities. I however, request to state that Mr. Latthe has during the last few weeks intensified his anti-Indian Union and other prejudicial activities. I am again earnestly appealing to Your Highness to warn Mr. Latthe not to deliberately and seriously interfere and obstruct the administration of the State. I give below a brief summary of Mr. Latthe's recent activities.

- 1) He has directly and indirectly incited communist and goonda detenues in Kolhapur to undertake hunger strike in order to emb^arass the administration in league with M.K. Bagal, Karkhanis and other mischievous elements.
- 2) He is secretly advising Government servants in the state to disobey the orders of the administrator.
- 3) He is issuing instructions contradictory to administrator's orders and is attempting to bring the administration of the state to a standstill. He is carrying on campaign of personal willification against high officials in the state. He had divulged to the press confidential and official information.
- 4) He is openly mixing with Bagal and others who have been condemned in the Coyajee Report. Bagal and Latthe visit each other very frequently.
- 5) He is deliberately tendering wrong and mischievous advice to Your Highness and doing his best to create a rift between Your Highness and the Administrator.
- 6) He is spreading all kinds of false rumours calculated to create panic and alarm in the public mind and damage the reputation and prestige of the Administration.
- 7) He is arranged a strike of students in the High Schools in the State through his friends Bagal and Karkhanis and other goondas of the talim sangh.

- 8) He is carrying on intensive anti-merger propoganda through anti-Indian Union elements in the State. He has openly declared that if the state is merged there would be blood-shed in the state just as in Satara.
- 9) Latthe and Bagal are advising the Gadakarries of Kolhapur (hereditary fort officers in the states) to rise against the Government.
- 10) He is now organising Satyagraha movement against the Government of Kolhapur along with Bagal.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain law and order in the state when the Prime Minister himself is instigating goondas to create disturbances. I sincerely regret that in spite of my appeal to your Highness Mr. Latthe's prejudicial activities have not ceased. I am, therefore, appealing to Your Highness once to advice Mr. Latthe to desist from such undesirable activities. Such a conduct on the part of a responsible officer of the State cannot be condemned in sufficiently strong terms. I sincerely hope that Mr. Latthe will immediately abandon such unfortunate and dangerous practices on your Highness' advice. If however situation in the state deteriorates further and the strike in the schools and jail worsens or Satyagraha is started, I shall be reluctantly compelled to take suitable action under the Public Security Measures

Act against the persons concerned irrespective of their positions.

Huzur Office
Kolhapur, 16th Dec., 1948

'Pragati and Jinviyaya', authorised weekly of 'Daxin Maharashtra Jain Sabha' in its editorial entitled 'Karveer and Karveerratna' by G.K. Patil, wrote about Captain Nanjjappa's behaviour with Latthe and his family members.¹³⁵

"When Latthe was out of station Captain Nanjjappa even though he had no authority, still ordered the family members of Latthe, to vacate the house which was in their possession. He did not even show the courtesy to wait for the arrival of Latthe. This thing is very disgraceful on the part of Shahaji Maharaj because Latthe had devoted his whole life for the welfare of Kolhapur state, for that even he had refused to accept the honourable seats and sacrificed his life. If he would not have behaved with honesty and sincerity, if he would have behaved with planned politics instead of having some ideals, before him if he would have behaved selfishly, he would have become the Finance Minister of Free India. But he lived only for the downtrodden people and Kolhapur State and still his family members were driven away very disgracefully in the absence of Latthe."

Latthe went to Belgaum finally and settled there till his death in 1950.

"The Maharaja was eventually invited to Delhi for discussion. The conversations proceeded in friendly spirit and in February, 1949 the Maharaja signed an agreement merging his state with Bombay. His privy purse was fixed at Rs. 10 lakhs. Sometime back we had received a petition requesting the Government of India to appoint a commission to inquire into the validity of the adoption of the ruler. The Maharaja was aware of this, and the fear that his title to the Gaddi might be questioned may have hastened his decision. I should add here that, without one exception, the Government of India refused to upset any decisions relating to succession taken by the political department before the transfer of power, irrespective of the merits. We felt that if we started interfering, it would have a most unsettling effect."¹³⁶

"The administration of Kolhapur state was taken over on 1st March, 1949 at a big public function at which B.G. Kher, the premier of Bombay presided. On behalf of the Government of India I handed over the administration to the Government of Bombay."

The merger of Kolhapur State, the most important state in the Deccan, thus took place much to Sardar's relief, smoothly and with no untoward incident.¹³⁷

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- 1 Madwanna 'Annasaheb Latthe: Jivan Va Karya", p. 35.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Karveer State Gazette dt. 17th Sept. 1910, p. 199.
- 4 A.R.K.S. of 1910-11 - Statistical Returns, p. 2.
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