

## **CHAPTER-I**

### **INTRODUCTION**



#### **Political History of the Gaekwads**

The Gaekwad family had long established itself in the village of Bhare, in the Haveli Taluka (sub district) in the district of Pune. The family name of the Gaekwad was Matre which, by one of those quirks of diction became transformed into '*Mantri*' which means 'minister'. They belonged to the Maratha clan who, in the caste structure of the Hindu society are ranked among the Kshatriya or Warrior class.<sup>1</sup>

Males from the family were called Gaekwad. Then after sometime two names combined as Matre (mantri) + Gaekwad = Mantri Gaekwad. The members of some families still use Mantrigaekwad.<sup>2</sup>

In the middle of the seventeenth century lived Nandaji, a family prosperous farmer, "holding the headship of more than one village." From his time the family name changed from Matre to Gaekwad. There were at least half a dozen different versions of how this change came about, the most popular being that Nandaji once rescued a cow (gae) from a tiger and tied it up within his own yard behind a locked door (Kawad). Another version says that the cow was snatched from a butcher; neither story appears convincing and they appear to be made up to fit the Gaekwad name long after that name became famous. Nonetheless the fact that the name was changed is also undeniable, and an educated guess offered by the historian Sadashiv Martand Garge seems to be most plausible explanation. But to understand this, it must be borne in mind that in those days for any caste Hindu to have saved a cow from death was

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<sup>1</sup> Fatehsingh Rao P. Gaekwad, Sayajirao of Baroda, The Prince and the Man by Popular Prakashan, 1989, pp-3-4

<sup>2</sup> Apte D.N. Shree Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III Yanche Charitra, (Marathi) Baroda, 1936, Part-I, p-5.

extremely meritorious act and since the rulers were Muslims who customarily ate beef to prevent the slaughter of a cow was also recognised way of showing defiance of authority, indeed even today a cow being led to a slaughter house through a Hindu locality can spark a race riot in most parts of India. Garge's explanation is that this Nandaji Matre or Mantri may have been such a fierce cow-protectionist that he came to be popularly known as the gaekaiwari, 'one who is ready to fight for the cause of cow protection'. A respected village headman like Nandaji may have used his position and influence to forbid cow slaughter in his village of Bhare and thus become the gae-kaiwari.

Around 1700, the founder of the Gaekwad State in Gujarat, Damajirao Gaikwad joined the contingent of Khandera Dabhade, which had formed a part of the army of the King Rajaram. Within twenty years, he had risen to the position of sub-commander. In 1721, Damajirao died and was succeeded by his nephew, Pilaji who inherited his command as well as title. Khanderao Dabhade the commander-in-chief had been given in 1720, the right to collect tribute from entire Gujarat by the newly emerged Peshwa Bajirao-I. Pilajirao as a consequence of that was sent off on a campaign of Mulukgiri<sup>3</sup> in which he was successful. Therefore he was promoted and was given his own headquarters at Navapura.<sup>4</sup> Soon he had struck out boldly and wrested large tracts of territory from their Mughal commanders and set up his own rule.<sup>5</sup> This had led to a series of conflicts with the other Maratha and non-Maratha parties. Pilajirao had also captured Baroda after winning the confidence of many tribal chiefs and local leaders. By 1725, he was able to overthrow the Mughal nobles of Baroda. His increasing influence of Gujarat brought him at number of times in conflict with the Peshwa Bajirao-I. But he went ahead, unheeded. In April 1731, the

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<sup>3</sup> Note: Revenue Collecting Expedition of Gujarat.

<sup>4</sup> Note: Navapura was the Khandesh District Just outside the borders of Gujarat.

<sup>5</sup> Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad, Sayajigao of Baroda, The Prince and the Man p-10

commander-in-chief was succeeded by his minor son Yashwantrao. Since he was a half-wit, Pilajirao was appointed as his Deputy or surrogate. But he did not survive to enjoy this position and was murdered within a year.<sup>6</sup>

Pilajirao Gaekwad was succeeded by his eldest son, Damajirao-II, who was also a skilled and daring commander. Within two years he was able to regain the lost position. By 1740, most of the contending parties had been defeated or had withdrawn from struggle of supremacy over Gujarat. From then on, Damajirao-II came into constant conflict with only one party Peshwa. The amity with the Peshwa had continued and had indeed imposed his own obligations. Therefore, he had accompanied the armies of the Peshwa to Panipat during the Third Battle of Panipat. He was lucky to escape with his life. After returning, he had sprung back into full vigour and resumed his work exactly where he had left off. "He conquered the entire stretch of Kathiawad from Palanpur in the north to Dwarka in the west and brought the whole of Gujarat under Maratha control."<sup>7</sup> He had also continued to render active help to the Peshwa whenever called upon to do so. Therefore he was rewarded with the grant of the hereditary title Sena Khaskhel, which means commander of special troops. But before he could consolidate his gain, he died in 1768. After his death there ensued a struggle for the succession between the four sons of Damajirao, Govindrao who was the eldest, Sayajirao, the son of the eldest queen and the other two sons Fatehsinghrao and Manajirao.<sup>8</sup> The Peshwa profited maximum out of the conflict. He had made huge demands of money from each succeeding Gaekwad to recognize their claims. In 1798, Govindrao Gaekwad was the last of the son of Damajirao to succeed. The British influence in Baroda State had begun during the reign of Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad in 1772. The huge demands of money from each succeeding Gaekwad had

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p-10

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p-14

<sup>8</sup> Gazetteer of the Baroda State, p-466

driven him to seek an alliance with the East India Company as a means of breaking free from the stranglehold of the Poona court.<sup>9</sup> Govindrao Gaekwad's reign was beset by a multitude of internal troubles: rebellious mercenary troops, family dissensions, and open defiance by feudatories and dependents.

In 1800 after Govindrao's death, these disorders exploded into a full-scale insurrection. Govindrao's eldest son, Anandrao succeeded him. The Company, was ready to offer its troops, but had demanded a heavy price, so the Gaekwad had no option but to concede to the Company. The terms were settled and put down in writing in a treaty signed between the two on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1802. There were at least three subsequent treaties between them: the treaty of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1802, the definitive treaty of 21<sup>st</sup> April 1805 and supplemental treaty in 1808 and another supplemental treaty of 1817.<sup>10</sup> The period from 1800-1819 was called as high point of British paramountcy. Throughout these two decades, the Resident, Alexander Walker and his successors had almost an unfettered control over the polity, finances and army of the State, under the pretext of 'Reformation and progress.'<sup>11</sup>

Anandrao Gaekwad died in 1819. During his reign of nineteen years, the British had grown so used to his accepting their advice without question, they took it for granted that it was their right to render advice and that it was obligatory upon the Gaekwad to accept such advices. However, Sayajirao II, Anandrao's younger brother was not the man to accept this subordinate position without protest and did his best to shake off British control. But, at the time of succession, he had to face family feuds and had to allow the mediation of the British. Once the domestic squabbles were settled, he had made several attempts to loosen the hold that the Company's immediate officials

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<sup>9</sup> Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad, Op. Cit. -17

<sup>10</sup> The Gazetteer of Baroda State, Op. Cit., pp-500-501, 522

<sup>11</sup> Note: As Anandrao was an opium taker and was of feeble mind

sought at every step to assert over him. And, he was successful in doing so.<sup>12</sup>

Sayajirao II had died in 1847, and was succeeded by his eldest son Ganpatrao, who had ruled till 1856. Though his reign was not as stormy as his predecessor, yet the British continued to face some indirect opposition.

In 1856, after his death, he was succeeded by Khanderao, his brother. Soon after his succession Khanderao had to deal with the Revolt of 1857, which had shaken the foundations of British rule in India. He had supported the side of the British, by not only preventing the Revolt in his territories, but by sending troops in the other areas as well. This had helped the Anglo-Gaekwad relations. Now he "was looked upon by the British as a friend, not merely an ally."<sup>13</sup> Khanderao during his reign had come in constant conflict with his brother Malharrao, who had twice plotted against his life. Eventually Malharrao was kept in guarded imprisonment for seven years.<sup>14</sup> On 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1870, Maharaja Khanderao died. Malharrao had succeeded in the absence of male child to Khanderao. From 1870-75, the reign of Malharrao was considered to be the one of 'Misrule and Mismanagement.' He came into conflict with almost all the people around him and especially the Resident Colonel Robert Phayre. The Resident drew the Viceroy's attention to a sentence in the Resident's recommendation that 'the misgovernment was stated injuriously to affect British interest.' A commission was set up to enquire into the matter under Sir Richard Meade and three other members. The commission had given eighteen months to Malharrao to improve the management of the State and also had appointed Dadabhai Naoroji for the purpose. Dadabhai Naoroji gauged the situation and requested the Viceroy to remove Colonel Phayre. The Viceroy acceded to demands and an Agent to Governor General. Sir Lewis Pelly was sent to replace the Resident, Colonel Robert Phayre. In the

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<sup>12</sup> Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad, Op. Cit., p-27

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p-29

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p-31

meanwhile the Resident complained of an attempt made against his life by the Maharaja. The Agent to Governor General recommended to the Viceroy that Malharrao should be removed immediately from the throne, the administration taken over by the British, and a minor chosen to succeed Malharrao.<sup>15</sup> The Viceroy had accepted Pelly's recommendations and ordered that Maharaja Malharrao should be placed under arrest and a commission appointed to investigate the truth. Sir Lewis Pelly took over the control of his domain, thus becoming the Maharaja of Baroda, in all but the name.

As to the next Maharaja, the Indian Government, as a gesture of recognition of the loyal services of Khanderao Gaekwad in 1857, was 'pleased to accede to the request of his widow, Her Highness Jamanabai, that she may be allowed to adopt some member of the Gaekwad ancestry, whom the Government of India 'may select' as the most suitable person upon whom to confer the sovereignty of the Baroda State'. The next successor was adopted by Jamanabai, who was a boy from the family of farmers Kavalana Gaekwad. The selection was to be made from three boys. The boys were Dadasaheb, who was ten years old, and Kashirao's two sons. Gopalrao and Sampatrao, aged twelve and nine respectively. There was a story related with the selection of the Maharaja, which has become rooted into Baroda's history that the one question Maharani Jamnabai put to each one of the boys was: "Why do you think you have been brought here?" The answers that Dadasaheb and Sampatrao gave have not been recorded, but are believed to have been 'unsatisfactory'. It was the third boy, Gopal, who answered with great aplomb: "Why, to be made the Maharaja, of course!" And it was this answer that made Jamnabai select Gopalrao.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid., pp-38-39

<sup>16</sup> Fatehsingrao Gaekwad, pp-46-47

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1875, an announcement was made that the son of Kashirao Gaekwad, had been chosen as the next Maharaja of Baroda. He was born on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1863. The British had thought they would turn the illiterate boy into a 'glittering puppet' in their hands therefore, they had arranged for his upbringing on western lines. They soon realized that, they had misjudged him. Sayajirao III, as he was named, had shown an independent approach and had a mind of his own. He brought changes in all fields and contributed towards making Baroda one of the most modern princely State of India. From 1881 to 1939, Sayajirao III introduced reform after reform. The languages of the law courts, English, was replaced by Gujarati, child marriages were banned, widow remarriages were allowed. He also made contributions in the field of education by encouraging women and adult education. Baroda College was established.<sup>17</sup> A new bank, Bank of Baroda, was established in July 1908.<sup>18</sup> An industrial commission was set up in 1886, which encouraged the growth of industries.<sup>19</sup> He also made an attempt to eliminate the caste system and was a little successful in eradicating untouchability.<sup>20</sup>

Maharaja Sayajirao III died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1939. He was succeeded by his son Pratapsinghrao Gaekwad. His reign was marked with various events linked to India's freedom struggle. Publically, he decided to merge into the Indian Union and give away the rights of the king. Thereafter Baroda State had stopped to exist as a Princely State.

### **Geographical situation**

Baroda State was an important Princely State of India. It was in direct relations with the Government of India, but geographically its connection was with the Presidency of Bombay.

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<sup>17</sup> Gazetteer of the Baroda State, Vol-II, Op. Cit., pp-308-312

<sup>18</sup> Dwijendra Tripathi & Priti Mishra, Towards a new frontier History of the Bank of Baroda, 1908-1983, Manohar Publication, 1985, p-13

<sup>19</sup> Nanavati M.B. Notes on Industrial Development in the Baroda State, Baroda, p-16

<sup>20</sup> Stanley Rice, Life of Sayajirao III, Vol. II, p-207

The State lay between 20°45' and 24°9' N. latitude and between 70°42' and 73°59'E. longitude. Okhamandal lies between 22°5' and 22°35' N. latitude and between 69°5' and 69°20' E. longitude. These territories are interspersed with others, owing British or other sovereignty, from the northern extremity of the Thana District of the Bombay Presidency in the South, to Palanpur in the North, and from the Western limit of the Nasik District in the South-east to the extreme North-east of Kathiawad.<sup>21</sup>

The territories of Baroda and the capital town was recognized by the name Vadodara which according to tradition is a corrupt form of the Sanskrit word 'Vatodar' (in the heart of the Banyan trees). The city of Baroda and its vicinity was covered by the large banyan trees. Some similar names were assigned to this town in different periods dominated by different communities.<sup>22</sup> According to the legendary accounts, the ancient town of Baroda was once called 'Chandanwati' (it was so called after Raja Chandan of the Dor tribe of Rajputa who wrested it from the Jains) and Virakshetra or Viravati (a land of warriors). It was also known as 'Vatpatra' and 'Vadodara'. It is now almost impossible to ascertain when the various changes in the name were made; but early English travellers and merchants mention the town as 'Brodora', and it is from this that the name Baroda is derived.<sup>23</sup>

The state was divided into four prants corresponding to the district of British territory, and each prant was sub-divided into Mahals or talukas, which numbered thirty-three besides a few peta mahals or sub-talukas. The prants were the *Baroda prant* was the centre, the *Navsari prant* to the South, the *Kadi prant* to the north, while the Kathiawar portion was usually known as the *Amreli prant*.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Clarke and Desai, *Gazetter of the Baroda State*, Vol-I, Baroda State Press, p-1

<sup>22</sup> Mehta R.N. *Archaeology of the Baroda, Broach and Surat district upto 1300 A.D.* M.S. University of Baroda, 1957, p-7

<sup>23</sup> *Imerial Gazeteer of India Baroda*, Superintendent of Government Printing Calcutta, 1908, p-1

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, pp-1-2



### Baroda Prant

This prant of state lay between 21°50' and 22°45' N and 72°35' and 73°50' E with an area of 1,887 square miles. It was bounded on the north by the Kaira district of Bombay; on the west by Baroda, Cambay and part of Kaira; on the south by Baroda and the Rewa Kantha; on the east by the Rewa Kantha and the Panch Mahals.<sup>25</sup> The following table gives particulars about taluka, area, number of towns and number of villages:

| Taluka                 | Area in Mile | No. of Town | No. of Village |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Baroda (city excluded) | 160          | ..          | 110            |
| Padra                  | 196          | 1           | 82             |
| Petlad                 | 181          | 7           | 68             |
| Savli                  | 188          | 1           | 75             |
| Sisva                  | 83           | 1           | 30             |
| Chorande               | 284          | ..          | 99             |
| Vaghodia               | 143          | ..          | 71             |
| Dabhoi                 | 190          | 1           | 102            |
| Sinor                  | 139          | 1           | 45             |
| Sankheda               | 280          | 2           | 190            |
| Tilakwada              | 34           | 1           | 32             |
| Total                  | 1878         | 15          | 904            |
| Baroda city cantonment | 9            | 2           | ....           |

Source: Imperial Gazetteer of India, Baroda, p-87

### Navsari Prant

Navsari Prant of the Baroda state was the most southerly of four prants into which the Gaekwad territory was divided and was much intermingled with the British District of Surat. It was bounded on the north by Broach and the Rewa Kantha Agency; on the south by Surat district, Bansda and Dangs; on the east by Khandesh; and on the west by Surat and the Arabian Sea. Its area was 1952 square miles. Two natural division may be mentioned; the Rani or forest taluka and The Rasti or peaceful and populous

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid, p-86

talukas.<sup>26</sup> The following table gives particulars about taluka, area, number of towns and number of villages:

| Taluka  | Area in Mile | No. of Town | No. of Village |
|---------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Navsari | 125          | 1           | 60             |
| Gandevi | 46           | 2           | 28             |
| Maherva | 143          | ..          | 69             |
| Vyara   | 360          | 1           | 153            |
| Songadh | 344          | 1           | 152            |
| Vajpur  | 460          | ..          | 91             |
| Velacha | 149          | ..          | 58             |
| Vakal   | 78           | ..          | 34             |
| Kamraj  | 156          | 1           | 75             |
| Palsana | 91           | ..          | 52             |
| Total   | 1952         | 6           | 772            |

Source: Imperial Gazetteer of India, Baroda, p-98

### Kadi Prant

Kadi Prant was situated in northern Gujarat between 23° and 24°9' N. and 71°50' and 73°15' E. with an area of 3015 square miles. It was the largest and most productive of the four prants into which the Gaekwad's territory was divided and was bounded on the north by the Palanpur and Radhanpur States; on the west by Radhanpur State and Ahmedabad district; on the South by Ahmedabad and Kaira; on the east by Mahi kantha states.<sup>27</sup> The following table gives particulars about taluka, area, number of towns and number of villages:

| Taluka    | Area in Square Mile | No. of Town | No. of Village |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Kadi      | 331                 | 1           | 118            |
| Kalol     | 267                 | 1           | 88             |
| Vijapur   | 346                 | 2           | 107            |
| Mehsana   | 172                 | 2           | 54             |
| Vadavli   | 332                 | 2           | 113            |
| Patan     | 409                 | 2           | 140            |
| Sidhpur   | 254                 | 2           | 78             |
| Kheralu   | 246                 | 3           | 88             |
| Harij     | 154                 | 2           | 43             |
| Dehgam    | 239                 | 1           | 95             |
| Atarsamba | 70                  | 1           | 56             |
| Total     | 3015                | 19          | 1063           |

Source: Imperial Gazetteer of India, Baroda, p-75

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., p-97

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., p-74

### Amreli Prant

This prant was situated in Kathiawad, with the area of 1235 square miles. It consisted of seventeen portions. The two main areas were:-

1) Okhamandal, lying between 22°5' and 22°35' N and 69°5' and 69°20' E and bounded on the north by the Gulf of Cutch on the west by the Arabian Sea and on the east and south by the Rann of Salt marsh that separates the district from Navanagar.

(2) The talukas of Amreli, Dhari, Khambha, Kodinar, Damnagar and Shianagar lying between 22°45' and 22°4' N and 70°42' and 71°55' E.<sup>28</sup> The following table gives particulars about taluka, area, number of towns and number of village.

| Taluka           | Area in Mile | No. of Town | No. of Village |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Amreli           | 228          | 1           | 58             |
| Bhimkatta        | 4            |             | 1              |
| Damnagar         | 107          | 1           | 25             |
| Shianagar        | 52           |             | 10             |
| Dhari            | 263          | 1           | 62             |
| Khamba           | 115          |             | 28             |
| Kodinar          | 204          | 1           | 69             |
| Okhamandal       | 268          | 1           | 43             |
| Beyt Shankhodhar | 4            | 1           |                |
| Total            | 1245         | 6           | 219            |

Source: Imperial Gazetteer of India, Baroda, p-105

### Natural division of the State

Baroda State may be divided into two main blocks, namely, Cutch (Kutch) and Kathiawad or Peninsular Gujarat, and mainland Gujarat or Gujarat proper. The Amreli district of the Baroda state was situated in Gujarat, had an important situation and large seaboard and it developed and preserved peculiar traits. Mainland Gujarat, which includes the Gujarat districts of Kadi, Baroda and Navsari, may be sub-divided into north, central and south Gujarat, each of which had its own peculiarities.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., p-103

<sup>29</sup> BSG, Vol. I, p-6

## Temperature

In the *Baroda prant* the hottest months were May and June. The rainy season usually set in about the middle or latter part of June, and ended in October. During this period the climate was hot, moist and very relaxing. The cold season, which commenced in November and lasted for about four months, was dry and cool. The coldest months were generally December and January, while the unhealthiest were September and October. The *Kadi prant* was the healthiest division of the State. In the hot season the temperature was high. But the rainy season was pleasantly moist and cool, forming a great contrast to the Baroda division. *Kadi prant* enjoyed a moderately good, cold season, lasting from November till the middle of February. In the *Navsari prant* a distinction must be drawn between the Rani, or forest mahals of Mahuva, Vyara, Songarh, and part of Velachha, which were unhealthy, and the Rasti mahals of Navsari, Palsana, Kamrej and Gandevi, where the climate was good. The Rani mahals were at all times insalubrious. In the Rasti mahals, the healthiest tracts during the hot season were Navsari, Gandevi, and Bilimora. In the *Amreli prant* the climate, except in the Dhari and Kodinar talukas, which were unhealthiest, was dry and salubrious. The hot season started from March to June<sup>30</sup>.

## Soil

The soil in the whole of the state was alluvial except in the hilly parts of the Navsari and Amreli prants, and in the South east corner of the Baroda prant, where they were mostly formed by the disintegration of the underlying rocks. These alluvial soils may roughly be divided into *gorat* or light red (sand and sandy loams), *besar* or mixed (loams) and *kali* or black. The land was generally flat here and there relieved by small hills and in consequence the ground was easy to work. This however, was not the case

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<sup>30</sup> IGIB, pp 7-8

in the *rani mahals* of the Navsari prant, which were mountainous, or in the eastern parts of Baroda prant, which were hilly and wooded. The soil of the *Amreli prant* (except Okhamandal ) classed under two heads, Black and Gorat, but the Gorat and Black soils of this district and inferior to the similar soils of *Baroda prant* and *Navsari prants*. The soil in the northern half of Okhamandal was light red alternating with a tolerably rich black mould. Along the whole of the coast lines it was sandy and unproductive, but inland, it was fairly fruitful. The soil in the southern portion was also light red but few fertile ingredients and in many places it was rocky and barren.

### **Agriculture**

Crops were mainly divided into the 'rains' or kharif crops and the 'dry' or rabi crops. The former were sown in June or July, and reaped in October or November; the latter were sown in October or November, and reaped in March or April. In the *Navsari prant* the gorat lands produce all kinds of jarayat or 'dry' and bagayat or garden crops, while the crops raised on black soil were rice, cotton, jowar, wheat, tuver, bajra, and adad. Of these rice and cotton flourish well, the remaining crops being deficient in out-turn and of inferior quality. In the *Baroda prant* Kahnām was famous for its superior black soil, which produced cotton and rice in abundance. This soil requires no manure, and was not irrigated, so that garden cultivation does not exist. The gorat soil is generally irrigated, and whenever this is possible it yields large returns. It was specially utilized for the growth of bajra. The best kind of gorat was found near Petlad, in Charotar, and is especially suited to tobacco. In the Kadi prant the soil was well adapted for the cultivation of poppy for opium, and in Amreli for the cultivation of cotton. The agricultural implements used in different parts of the State were of simple construction. They include the mattock (kodali), the hoe (kharpi), the small plough (hol), the large plough (nagar), and the sickle (datardu). The small plough

serves only to scratch up the surface of the soil. The nagar, which resembles the hold in construction but much heavier was employed mostly in the cultivation of sugar-cane.

### **Crops**

The principal crops were rice (*Oryza sativa*), bajra (*Pennisetum typhoideum*), jowar (*Sorghum vulgare*), wheat (*Triticum sativum*), math (*Phaseolus aconitifolus*), gram (*Cicer arietinum*), adad (*Phaseolus radiatus*), tuver (*Cajanus indicus*), val (*Dolichos Lablab*), chola (*Vigna Catiang*), kodra (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*), nagli (*Eleusine coracana*), bavto (*Panicum frumentaccum*), banti (*Panicum spicatum*), vatana (*Pisum sativum*), mag (*Phaseolus Mungo*), castor-oil seed (*Ricinus communis*), til (*Sesamum indicum*), rapeseed (*Brassica campestris*), poppy (*Papaver somniferum*), cotton (*Gossypium herbaceum*), san-hemp (*Crotalaria juncea*), tobacco (*Nicotiana Tabacum*), sugar-cane (*Saccharum officinarum*), maize (*Zea Mays*), and kasumbo (*Carthamus tinctorius*).

### **Baroda Prant**

In *Baroda prant* the prevailing black soil was very fertile and required little manure or irrigation. The chief crops were rice, bajra, jowar, wheat, math, gram, adad, tuver, val, chola, tal, diveli, cotton, sugar-cane, kasumbo and tobacco. Many other minor crops and vegetable products were raised for local consumption<sup>31</sup>.

### **Navsari prant**

The soils were classified as light sandy loam or gorat and black soil, with an intermediate class known as *besar gorat* produced all kinds of 'dry' crops and when watered and manured, valuable Rice and cotton were the chief products in the black soil. The principal crops grown are *jowar, rice, wheat, bajra, kodra, nagli, bavto,*

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<sup>31</sup> IGIB, p-87

*tuver dal, peas, gram, mag, math, udid, diveli, tal, cotton, hemp, tobacco, sugarcane, plantain, bhoising* etc. The most valuable stock was the large powerful cattle known as *hedia*<sup>32</sup>.

### **Kadi prant**

In *Kadi prant* about 90% of the total areas was composed of light sandy soil, which was very productive if manured and irrigated Black Soil was found in patches. Irrigation was chiefly supplied by wells, including large temporary wells which were used for a single season. The principal crops are bajra, jowar, wheat, banti dangar, barley vari, kodra, channa kuri, bavto, chasalio, kang, math, mag, udid, guvar, tuver, chola, chana, val, kulth sersav erandi, poppy, tal, kasumbo, tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, bhanali, chillies, sakaria, and otehr garden products. Poppy was of great importance and covered 12,262 acres in 1904-05 yielding on an average 12 lbs. of crude opium per acre<sup>33</sup>.

### **Amreli prant**

The soil was black and very fertile, but in Shianagar a tract of half-marsh half-desert was found, where wheat was grown. The soil in Dhari was lighter and became red near the Gir. The crops grown were jowar, bajra, wheat, udid, mag, math, gram, tal, banti, china, cotton, sugar-cane, rice, tobacco, and red pepper. The cultivation of cotton was extensive<sup>34</sup>.

### **Vegetables and Fruits**

During the rainy season various species of Cucumber, suran, elephant-foot, sweet potatoes, etc., were grown. Most garden crops matured in the cold season or early summer. Potatoes were planted in small patches near the large towns. They required manure in the form of cattle dung, oilcake and night-soil, and also irrigation. Brinjal

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid, p-98

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, p-75

<sup>34</sup> IGIB, pp 7-8

and chillies were cultivated wherever irrigation was available, the brinjals of Kathor being especially famous. Onions were abundant, a white variety being largely cultivated in the Amreli district at Kodinar. Garlic and radishes were plentiful everywhere. Ginger was largely grown in Baroda and Navsari districts. Carrots were cultivated everywhere, and in some parts, chiefly in Amreli, were used largely for fodder. Various indigenous vegetables were grown in abundance, and tomatoes, cabbage and cauliflowers had been introduced.<sup>35</sup>

### **Double cropping**

The practice of double cropping was only prevalent where a second rabi crop was raised by means of irrigation. Thus bajri followed by wheat in rabi or sometimes by jiru, onions, rajgaro, was a good instance of this method. Sometimes irrigated crops like chillies or tobacco were often followed by a fodder crop; this was also quite a prevalent custom. The cultivation of rabi crops like castor or wal, vatana, adad or gram after rice, was of course a well known practice. It is impossible to quote exact figures regarding the area which is double cropped, since this entirely depends on the character of the season, the case of fodder supply and the possibilities for irrigation.<sup>36</sup>

The total number of bighas under cultivation in each district separately, was, accordingly to the figures of 1920-21, as under:-

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<sup>35</sup> GBS Vol-I, 1923, p-298

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, p-298



| Name of the Crop | Baroda | Kadi   | Navsari | Amreli | Okhamandal | Total       |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Rice             | 208582 | 29747  | 102047  | 3538   | ....       | 342814      |
| Juwar            | 162953 | 516289 | 158748  | 14569  | 40387      | 1025046     |
| Bajri            | 141787 | 624173 | 969     | 157067 | 26215      | 1025046     |
| Kodra            | 87408  | ...    | 33750   | ....   | ....       | 950211      |
| Tuver            | 48057  | 48144  | 74208   | ....   | ...        | 121158      |
| Wheat            | 6120   | 135863 | 10106   | 22640  | 26         | 170409      |
| Cotton           | 634341 | 313218 | 298772  | 168861 | ..         | 1741755     |
| Sugarcane        | 83     | 138    | 1745    | 2208   | ...        | 1415192     |
| Tobacco          | 34703  | 11824  | 445     | 57     | ...        | 4174        |
| Castor           | 7726   | 157611 | 14611   | 3552   | 4324       | 47029       |
| Grass            | 740330 | 19916  | 331147  | 3567   | 192        | 187824      |
| Sesamum          | 22547  | 40635  | 3408    | 56873  | 11278      | 428852      |
| Gram             | 1182   | 3368   | 4441    | 10321  | 3645       | 13474122957 |
| Kalthi           | ...    | ...    | ...     | 2973   | ...        | 2973        |
| Others           | 52179  | 347313 | 14962   | 14989  | 321        | 429764      |
| Rapeseed         | ....   | 45750  | ....    | ...    | ...        | 45750       |
| Opium            | ...    | 5780   | ...     | ...    | ...        | 5780        |

Source: GBS Vol-I, p-299

### Agricultural condition in State

The Baroda state was divided into different economic division according to rainfall, soil, commercial crops, and density of population and means of railway communications. The percentage of irrigated area to cultivated area was 13 in the talukas of Bhadran, Petlad, Vijapur, Visnagar, Sidhpur, Kalol, Kheralu and Mehsana, where a lakh of persons lived in 2 towns and 577 villages and it was 29% in the talukas of Navsari, Gandevi, Kamrej and Palsana, where 2¼ lakhs of persons lived in 8 towns and 207 villages. In this area of 2,188 sq. miles 12,75,000 persons were living; of this, 7 lakhs of people were artificially and naturally protected from famine. In this area about 2 lakhs of people grew 50% of cotton area to the net area sown, 2 lakhs of people grew 14% of tobacco to the net area sown, 2 lakhs of people grew 8%

of wheat to the net area sown and the rest 5¼ lakhs of people grew 65% of bajri and juwar and they got 5 bumper crops of 14 annas, 10 good crops of 10 annas, 6 medium crops of 9 annas, 6 bad crops of 7 annas. On the whole, the people did not suffer from severe famines and 5 lakh of people were rich as they are growing very rich commercial crops. The percentage of commercial crop (oil seeds, cotton and tobacco) grown in the talukas of Savli, Sankheda, Vaghodia, Tilakwada, Dabhoi, Sinor, Karjan, Baroda, Padra, Mehsana, Mangrol and Kodinar ranged from 45 to 60%. The area of these talukas was 2143 sq. miles containing 13 towns and 816 villages and the population of this area is 7,05,000. The people grew more commercial crops and bought food grain for their consumption. They got adequate rainfall but it was unseasonable. They got 3 bumper crops of 14 annas, 8 good crops of 9 annas, and 10 very bad crops of 5 annas, they suffered from drought once in six years. The rest of the talukas lying in Gujarat had an area of 2,491 sq.miles with a population of 6½ lakhs and the people grew 15% of commercial crops and 70% of food crops to the net area sown. These people did not get adequate rainfall and often times the rainfall is unseasonable. These people got 2 bumper crops of 14 annas, 4 good crops of 10 annas, 7 medium crops of 9 annas, 10 bad crops of 7 annas and 7 very bad crops of 5 annas in a period of 30 years. On the whole, the people suffered very much for want of food and money once in 4 years. The talukas lying in Amreli and Okhamandal district situated in Kathiawad have got an area of 130 sq.miles with population of 2½ lakhs and the people grew 45% of commercial crops (cotton and oilseeds) but the rainfall was very precarious and very irregular. But there were big patches of black cotton soil scattered here and there and also adequate number of patches of soils of fine texture, where wheat on dry lands was grown successfully. Due to scanty and irregular rainfall, the people living in this area got 1 bumper crop of 14 annas, 6 good

crops of 10 annas, 6 medium crops of 9 annas, 10 bad crops of 7 annas and 10 very bad crops of 5 annas.<sup>37</sup>

In many parts of the country, custom and caste insisted on women remaining seclusion, read in such a context such a state of affairs would indicate adverse economic conditions in Gujarat. In spite of such sentiments that prevailed, the larger number of women supplementing the income of their families added strength to the economic structure.

The extent of indebtedness in the state cannot be stated with any accuracy, but as with rest of India, it was heavy. The Government pledged to develop co-operative credit to meet this need. Substantial measures were taken for the improvement agriculture.

As the agriculturists of Baroda were fond of growing more commercial crops to earn more money, the food grains here were not sufficient meet the demands of the total population. On an average, Baroda people had a net import of 24 crores of lbs. of food grains including 8 crores of lbs. of husked rice every year. Under the grow more food campaign the Government of Baroda had a remission of 4 annas in every rupee of the assessment of more than 10 annas per acre for growing food crops in place of cotton crops and Government of Baroda also introduced a legislation to grow medium staple cotton and were supplying good seeds in order to safeguard the important textile industry. An economic revolution was going on and the people were adjusting themselves to the altered condition of life: pride still caused some members of the higher castes to prefer to starve rather than to work with their hands. Though the dignity of labour had not yet secured general recognition, the struggle for existence daily becoming sharper tended to break down traditions however ancient.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Gawda M. Shankar Linge, *Economic and Political Life in H.N. Gaekwad Dominions 1944*, pp 29-30

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, p 31-32

## **Irrigation**

Small irrigation work that were known as "Paddy tanks" whose duty was to protect the rice crop were met with all over the Raj, by giving paddy fields water during a break in the rains and more especially giving it the last one or two watering necessary to bring it to maturity. The number of such tanks in each division or taluka varies with the nature of the staple crops, the soil and the intelligence, skill and capacity of the cultivators. The Navsari prant which was rich and irrigable soil, had intelligent cultivators who grows crops of a high order was singularly fortunate in the possession of a large number of paddy tanks, almost every village in each taluka possessing one or more.<sup>39</sup>

In the Baroda prant the rice growing talukas of Vaghodia, Savli and to a certain extent Baroda, abounded with these tanks. The Kadi prant also had a large number especially the two sister talukas of Kadi and Kalol where rice was extensively grown. The cultivation of rice was falling off, however, owing to the scanty rainfall and the bad state of report of all tanks. Hardly any rice was grown in the Amreli prant. The Navsari prant, possessed a few rivers and streams in which there was a flow through or nearly through the year. In both prants, there were bandharas or weirs thrown across such water courses and the water thus stored was led by channels to irrigate the fields. The Allidhar Vellar Bund near Harmadia the Natalia Bunal near Dhari, both in the Amreli prant and the Chikhli Bhandpada Tichakia Bund in the Navsari prant, can be mentioned as a instances of this form of irrigation. Irrigation works took years to produce their full economic effect and most of the irrigation did not have any

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<sup>39</sup> Nanavati M.B., Op. Cit. p 3

immediate effect in the increase of population. But they were undertaken in the expectation that they would have far reaching effects in the future.<sup>40</sup>

### Forests

The Navsari prant contained the largest forest tract in the state and smaller forest areas existed in Baroda and Amreli. In 1905 the total area 'reserved' as forest was 680 square miles, in addition to which there were considerable stretches of grass land and scrub jungle not yet surveyed. All the forests were classed as deciduous and mixed.

The most important species of trees were sag (*tactona grandis*), shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), tanach (*ougeinia dalbergioides*), khair (*Acacia catecha*), bia (*pterocarpus mersupium*), saded (*Terminatia tomentosa*), haladvan (*Adina cordifolia*), Kalam (*Stephegyne parvifolia*), kagar (*Acacia ferruginea*), kati (*Acacia modesta*), dhaman (*Grewia tiliacfolia*), temru (*Diaspyros melanoxylon*), bandarо (*lagerstroemia lancolata*), apta (*Bauhinia racemosa*), behedo (*Terminalia belerica*), kogdoli (*sterculia urens*), babul (*Acacia arabica*) and bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*).<sup>41</sup>

### System of Forest Management

Management of the forests commenced in 1877, but the early administration was not successful. More satisfactory results had been obtained since 1891. The forests were administered under an Act passed in 1891 when forests had been completely demarcated and settled. The Department was superintended by a Parsi conservator trained at Cooper's Hill, who had under him an assistant, a working-plan officer, 7 rangers, 7 sub-rangers, 202 guards and 15 depot keepers. Working plans had been prepared for a large area and others were being drawn up. The unreserved forests were managed by revenue officials but the price of certain kinds of trees was credited to the Forest Department. Artificial reproduction was tried in a few places; and along

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<sup>40</sup> BSG Vol-I, pp 45-46

<sup>41</sup> IGIB p-32

the sea-coast at Umreth, in the Navsari prant various trees were planted to check the spread of sand dunes inland.

'Major' forest produce in areas outside the Reserves was sold by contract while 'minor' forest products such as lac, gum resin, coloring bark, honey, wax, mahua flowers & etc., were collected by lessees. At the several depots which had been established, permits were issued at fixed rates for the extraction of dry fuel, grass, seeds, bamboos, and other 'minor' products which was not leased. Grazing was permitted in most of the reserves and fees were realized by levying certain rates per head of cattle grazed.<sup>42</sup>

### **Forest and the people**

Under the rules every family in forest tracts was entitled to receive annually inferior timber worth Rs. 5 for repairs and also timber worth Rs. 20 every ten years for reconstruction of huts. The villagers were allowed fuel, grass, leaves and thatching materials for their bonfire use and minor products for their own consumption, nothing being granted for sale or barter. In return of these concessions the villagers were bound to help the subordinate officials in protecting the forests.

### **Mineral Resources**

The first geological survey of the State was made in the year 1892 by Mr. Bruce Foote and his report was published in 1898, mentioning about mineral resources. Another survey was made in the year 1907-08 by Mr. Sambashiva Iyer of the Mysore service, who analysed most of the deposits. In his report he suggested various steps that should be taken with a view to determine the quality and the economic value of the deposits.<sup>43</sup> A list of minerals resources of the State given below

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<sup>42</sup> IGIB p-33

<sup>43</sup> BSG, Vol. I, p-53

## I. Metals

- Iron: Iron and Iron ores were worked in former time to some extent in different parts of the State but the introduction of cheap iron from Europe as in so many parts of India had unfortunately destroyed the industry. Rich magnetic iron sand was brought down in large quantities by the Tapti when in flood and the alluvium deposits on the bank of the river was full of it.
- Gold: Traces of gold were found in the high bank of the Haren river a little south-east of the small village of Sigma, 6½ miles south-east by south from Sankheda, Baroda prant.
- Iron Pyrites: On the bank of the Tapti river near Ghala Taluka, Kamrej large quantities of iron pyrites useful for the manufacture of crude sulphuric acid and other kindred products were available.
- Bauxite: Kuranga in the Okhamandal taluka has 1½ inch thick bed of bauxite useful for the manufacture of aluminium.
- Sea weeds: Near the low cliffs of the Dwarka coast were found some sea-weeds from which iodine may be extracted.
- Salt Deposits of common salt were formed every year in parts of Okhamandal and Kodinar taluka in parts of Okhamandal and Kodinar taluka in the Amreli prant. The creeks near Bhimana, Rajpipla and Charka in Okhamandal and those near Velan in Kodinar favoured salt formation. This salt provided good material for the manufacture of soda and bleaching powder.
- Natural gas: Near Mev and Kukas in the Mehsana taluka and Koda in the Visnagar taluka and in various other places in Kadi prant soda was formed either as small thin cakes mixed with sand or as pure white efflorescent

product consisting almost entirely of refined soda which could be used in the manufacture of glass and soap and also for domestic purposes.

- Sand: Quartz sand suitable for manufacture of glass occurred in several parts of the state. It was found in Vijapur taluka, Kadi prant, Songir and Lachras, Sankheda taluka and on the Dwarka coast.
- China clay: On the right bank of the Sabarmati river about a mile to the south-east of the village of Ransiour, Vijapur taluka there were deposits of china clay. This clay was good material for the manufacture of fired bricks, glass pots, porcelain and various clay products
- Cement: Calcareous material for the manufacture of lime and cement was available in large quantities in the bed and bank of the river Kim in the Mangrol taluka.
- Pigment and colours: Yellow and red ocher useful in the preparation of mineral paints and flooring and roofing tiles were available in large quantities near Ransipur in Vijapur taluka, Ghala in the Kamrej taluka and Nani Niroli in the Mangrol taluka
- Marble: Near Motipura, Sankheda Taluka marble of a dark green, white and pale pink colour was available in sufficient quantity
- Granite: Pale pink to greenish pink granite of great durability and remarkable for its intrinsic beauty was found near Virpur, Vijapur taluka in the bed of the Sabarmati river
- Basalt: It was found in most of the talukas of the Baroda, Navsari and Amreli prant
- Laterite: It was found at Kural in the Mahuva Taluka and near Gandeve in the Navsari prant



- **Milliolite:** It was available in Harmadia Adavi and Dolasa in the Kodinar taluka
- **Lime Stone:** It was available near Rajpur on the south side of the Beyt harbour and near Bardia Okhamandal taluka.
- **Sandstone:** It was available in large quantities at Pundhers in the Vijapur talukas, near Amreli and Songir in the Sankheda taluka
- **Miscellaneous Minerals:**
  - i) Agates found in large quantities in the river Mahajam, a tributary of the Watrak at Derdhapaori
  - ii) Gypsum available at a mile westward of the village of Karunga in the Okhamandal taluka
  - iii) Chank (shankha) found in a large quantity from Manekpura to Adatra point and thence to Poshitra and also around Beyt harbour.
  - iv) Window Pane Oysters found in Balapur Bay and in the area between Poshitra and the frontier, Okhamandal taluka.<sup>44</sup>

## **Land Revenue**

### **Baroda Prant**

The land revenue decreased from 37.9 lakhs in 1881 to 36.8 in 1891, but increased to 39.8 lakhs in 1901. In 1904-05 the demand for land revenue was 30.7 lakhs but owing to famine only 23.8 lakhs was collected. The average assessment per bigha (4/7 acre) varies from about Rs. 0-3-9 in Padra to Rs. 4 in Sinor. The *prant* has settled for fifteen years between 1888 and 1893 and a revision is now in progress.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> GBS, Vol. I, pp 53-57

<sup>45</sup> IGIB, p-88

### **Navsari Prant**

The land revenue increased from 19.5 lakhs in 1881 to 24.4 lakhs in 1891, but fell to 19.3 lakhs in 1901. In 1904-5 the demand was 16.4 lakhs of which 15.7 lakhs was collected. In a few villages in the Songarh taluka land was formerly assessed on the number of ploughs used in cultivation, but this method was been replaced by the ordinary system. The average assessment in different talukas varied from Rs. 1.4 to Rs. 3.2 per bigha (4/7 acre) for 'dry' land and from Rs. 3-9 to Rs. 5-12 for 'wet' land.<sup>46</sup>

### **Kadi Prant**

The land revenue rose from 32.2 lakhs in 1881 to 35.8 lakh in 1891, and was 35.5 lakhs in 1901; and in 1904-5 while the demand for land revenue was 22 lakhs the collections amounted to only 11.2 lakhs. A settlement for fifteen years was made between 1891 and 1900. The prant contained 36 Mehwari villages, which were formerly assessed on the cultivated area only, but a settlement was made on the ordinary lines at greatly reduced rates. The average assessment varied in different talukas from Rs. 1-3-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per bigha (4/7 acre) for dry land, and from Rs. 1-9-0 to Rs. 2-11-0 for 'wet' land.<sup>47</sup>

### **Amreli Prant**

The land revenue rose from 8.1 lakhs in 1881 to 9.7 lakhs in 1891 and 10.5 lakhs in 1901. The demand for land revenue had been reduced to 6.5 lakhs in 1904-5, but owing to famine only Rs. 57,000 was collected. The average rate of assessment varied from 7 annas a bigha (4/7 acre) in Okhamandal to Rs. 3-9-0 in Amreli.

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<sup>46</sup> IGIB, p-99

<sup>47</sup> IGIB, p-99

## Ports

The territories of Baroda state were mostly situated inland except at places in Kathiawad and one in Gujarat. There were two seaports, one at Rupen in Okha and other at Mul Dwarka in Kodinar. These were fair weather ports and most of their trade was local. They were connected with the Kathiawad railways. There were two other possible ports – Byet in Okha and Velan in Kodinar – which were far superior not only to the other Baroda ports but to the rest of those of Kathiawad. Both these, with some improvements, turned into important ports with safe anchorages.<sup>48</sup>

## Transport

There was only one important river port in Gujarat, viz., Bilimora in the Navsari District on the B.B. & C.I. Rly. Main line. It was an old port and was quite an important one before the advent of the railway. But since the construction of the latter, its traffic dwindled as the railway had imposed discriminating rates. This led to its legitimate traffic being diverted. The port also got silted up. The river changed its course and some rocks appeared which prevented larger ships from entering it. Formerly ships of the capacity of 400 tons used the port but later only ships of 125 tons could enter it. The rocks found in the bed of the river were subsequently removed. Annually 1245 country crafts came and the trade amounted to Rs. 7,63,000/- where there was a congestion of traffic on the railway line, Billimora shippers got freight of local goods going to Kathiawar as this was the cheaper route. Bilimora was a fair weather port. It was a place noted for its ship-building (country craft) but gradually this industry died out.

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<sup>48</sup> GBS, Vol-I, p-49

## **Commerce and Industry**

In the beginning the important work of developing commerce, trade and agriculture was entrusted to the Revenue Department. In 1905 a separate branch was opened in that Department under a special officer in charge of commerce, industry, agriculture, customs and few other allied branches. It was found, however, that no one officer could cope with the work of all these Departments. In 1906 the office of Economic Advisory was created and converted in 1907 to the Department of Commerce and Industry was separated from the Revenue Department and placed under the Dewan so that industries should come in the direct charge of the head of the administration. In 1915 the Department was again placed under the Joint Revenue Commissioner, an arrangement which continued to the end.

**Industries, trade and commerce in different *prants* of Baroda State are discussed below:**

### **Baroda Prant**

The weaving of coarse cotton cloth was the chief industry. The manufacture of fine turbans at Dabhoi, cloths at Sojitra, Petlad and Bakrol, embroidery with gold and silver thread at Baroda, and gold and silver ornaments in most towns. Iron work was poor but good locks were made at Petlad, Sojitra and Vasu. Excellent brass and copper pots were manufactured everywhere. There was only one cotton mill at Baroda, but there were twenty six ginning factories. A dyeing factory worked in Petlad for some years. The chief centers of trade were Baroda, Dabhoi, Chandod and Petlad, which were connected by rail.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> IGIB, p-87

### **Navsari Prant**

The chief industry was the weaving of cotton cloth, embroidery to a small extent, the manufacture of gold ornaments, a little rough iron-work, brass and copper work, wood and ivory carving were also carried on. But though arts and manufacturers were scanty, trade and commerce flourished fairly well. The agriculture and forest wealth was plentiful and plantains, sugar-cane, rice, jowar molasses, sugar, teak, sadad and other produce was traded. The import trade was very good. The chief articles were European piece-goods stationery, iron-ware, glass-ware, umbrellas and brass and copper vessels.<sup>50</sup>

### **Kadi Prant**

The spinning of cotton thread and silk and cotton-weaving were the chief industries. Other industries included embroidery on a small scale; the manufacturing of ornaments in gold, silver and ivory and of betel-nut cutters, knives, brass and copper utensils, toys and pottery. The number of ginning factories was six, one connected with a weaving mill. The chief centers of trade were Patan, Kadi, Mehsana, Visnagar, Vadnagar and Sidhpur.<sup>51</sup>

### **Amreli Prant**

The industries were very limited, The weaving of cotton cloth, embroidery on cheap silk and cotton stuffs in Dari and Damnagar, a little silver-work at Amreli, a little iron-work at Dhari and some pottery at Chalavi in the Dhari taluka. There were seven gining factories which employed a fair number of workers. The chief centers of trade were Amreli, Kodinar, Dwarka, Damnagar and Dhari.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Ibid, p-98

<sup>51</sup> IBIP, p-75

<sup>52</sup> IGIB, P-105

### **Occupation of the people**

The most striking features of the occupational returns was the preponderating importance of agriculture which engaged two-thirds of the total population of the state. There was no extraction of minerals in the state worth the name. 19.5 per cent of the population was maintained by the preparation and supply of material substances. Public administration and liberal arts were the principal means of support of 7.3 per cent of the population; and miscellaneous occupations such as domestic service and unproductive and insufficiently described occupations supported 7.6 per cent of the population. There were certain occupations which were practically monopolized by females, for example the making of ropes, baskets, caps, and toys, the pounding of rice, grinding corn and the making of ghee.<sup>53</sup>

Women and children who were working at an occupation of any kind, not being an amusement or of a purely domestic character, such as cooking had been considered as actual workers. Only those who in any way added to the earning of the family were treated as a part of the work force, the rest as dependents. Some classes did not consider it respectable that a woman should help to augment the family income and if she should do so, would conceal the fact at all costs hence the returns of actual worker was probably under reported.

Occupation statistics per mile of the population given in the following table:

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<sup>53</sup> GBS, Vol-I, p-251

| District            | Agriculture | Industry | Commerce | Profession | Other occupation |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|------------------|
| Baroda State        | 640         | 119      | 80       | 33         | 128              |
| Baroda city         | 58          | 220      | 201      | 97         | 424              |
| Baroda District     | 717         | 104      | 57       | 31         | 91               |
| Kadi District       | 623         | 134      | 88       | 30         | 125              |
| Navsari District    | 747         | 77       | 51       | 16         | 109              |
| Amreli District     | 589         | 140      | 96       | 50         | 125              |
| Okhamandal District | 370         | 97       | 167      | 64         | 302              |

Source:GBS, Vol-I, p-252

Some of the persons classed as agriculturists had other subsidiary means for livelihood. The increase in the number of factories both within the state and beyond its borders, had brought about a considerable reduction in the number of field labourers.

The following table shows the percentage distribution of persons following different occupations:-

| Means of livelihood                 | Male  | Female |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Agriculture & pasturage             | 61.89 | 66.98  |
| Exploitation of minerals            | 0.15  | 0.24   |
| Industries                          | 14.63 | 6.66   |
| Trade                               | 8.28  | 5.18   |
| Transport                           | 2.05  | 0.06   |
| Public Force                        | 2.08  | --     |
| Public Administration               | 1.70  | 0.45   |
| Profession & Liberal Arts           | 3.89  | 2.29   |
| Living on Income                    | 0.62  | 1.69   |
| Domestic Service                    | 1.29  | 3.53   |
| Insufficiently described occupation | 2.84  | 12.17  |
| Unproductive                        | 0.58  | 0.75   |

The above statement show the total no of men and women working in the different fields and earn money.

### **Occupation by Caste**

In theory each caste had a distinctive occupation but it was not practiced by all its members. The castes had abandoned the narrow limit of the special occupation laid down for them by Shastra and tradition. Only five percent of the Ahirs follow their traditional occupation of cattle-breeders or graziers and the rest were either agriculturists or the rest were cultivators, loaders or labourers. The traditional profession of the Brahmans was the priesthood, but in practice, they followed all manner of pursuits. Many were clerks or cooks, while some were soldiers, lawyers, shopkeepers and even day labourers. Anavala and Jambu Brahmans were mostly agriculturists. Audich, Deshashtha, Koknastha, Khadaval, Mewada, Modh, Nagar, Tapodhan and other Brahman castes had a small proportion who followed their traditional occupation of priests, but most of them followed other occupations, such as agriculture, trade, government service, domestic service and general labour. Disaval, Kapol, Khadayata, Lad and other Vania castes mostly followed their traditional occupation of trade, but some of them took other pursuits and were employed as clerks in private and Government offices, lawyers, doctors and teachers. Thirty-five percent of Kanbis and eighteen percent of Kolis were engaged in their traditional occupation of agriculture and agricultural labour, but the rest, viz. 65 and 82 per cent respectively follow other occupation, such as industry, trade, labour and service. Less than thirty per cent of Bhavsars follow their traditional occupation as calenderers and dyers and the rest were traders, cultivators and general labourers. Only twenty percent of the workers among Ganchis were oil-pressers and the rest were shop keepers, milk-sellers and labourers. Darji, Dhobi, Harijan, Kumbhar and other artisans were more



faithful to their traditional profession, but it was not uncommon to find a few of their numbers engaged in trade, agriculture or public and private services. The Animistic tribes were still engaged in their primitive occupation of agriculture and forest labour, but they were turning to other occupations also and a few of their number were now cattle-breeders, artisans and Government servants more than half the number of untouchables were still following their old occupation of weaving and field and general labour, but some had become cultivators, traders and teachers. The decline of the weaving and cotton-carding industries diverting Khabis, Vangas, Pinjaras and Tais to trade, labour and other pursuits. An economic revolution was underway during the reign of Sayajirao III and the people were adjusting themselves to the altered conditions of life. There was also a feeling of false pride which marked some members of the high caste prefer to starve rather than accept manual occupations.<sup>54</sup>

### **Religion**

Of the total population in 1901, 1,545,992 were returned as Hindus, 176,250 as Animists, 165,014 as Musalmans, 48,290 as Jains, 8,409 as Parsis, 7,691 as Christians, 38 as Sikhs, and 8 as Jews. Taking the three main sects of Hindus, Saivas numbered 276,489, Saktas 260,096, and Vaishnavas 1,010,361. The Jains were divided into three sects: the Swetambari with 34,410 adherents, the Digambari with 9,599, and the Dhundhia with 4,281. Musalmans had two main sects: the Sunnis 129,508, and the Shias, 35,506. The Parsis were divided into two sects: the Shahanshahis (or Shenashais), 6,010 in number, and the Kadimis, 2,399. Animists included all members of the forest tribes who were neither Hindus, Musalmans, nor Christians. Practically the whole population spoke languages of the Indo-European family, only

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<sup>54</sup> GBS, Vol-I, pp 253-254

453 speakers of Dravidian languages, 4 of Mongolian languages, and 153 of Semitic languages being recorded. In the first group the number of persons speaking Gujarati was 1,773,594, Marathi 38,605, and Hindustani or Urdu 68,815. .

In the State castes were classified, according to the traditional arrangement, in four groups. Brahmans numbered 145,000, or 9 per cent of the total Hindu population. The principal class was that of Gujarati Brahmans, who number 128,000. Marathi Brahmans were also comparatively numerous (14,000). The representatives of the Kshatriyas (106,200) were arranged according to their traditional occupations as warriors (90,500), traders (11,500), and writers (4,200), the first class containing 59,000 Rajputs. Similarly the Vaisyas (459,000) divided into Banias or traders (48,000), and Kunbis (411,000), who were agriculturists. The Sudras were divided into 'clean' and 'unclean' castes. Among the clean castes, farmers were found in large number of occupational groups, none of which is singly of great importance except the Kolis (325,000). More than half the unclean classes were included in the untouchables (94,000). Most of the Jains were Banias (39,500). The Animists differed in physical type from the Hindus and Jains, being short in stature, with broad flat noses and faces, and much darker in colour. The most numerous of these tribes were the Gamits (38,200), Bhils (37,700), Dublas (28,500), and Chodhras (23,300). Among Musalmans the most numerous groups were Arabs (29,700) and Shaikhs (56,700), the latter were thought to be largely descended from Hindu ancestors.

In the whole state 1,014,027 persons, or 52 per cent of the total, were supported by agriculture, of whom 45 per cent were actual workers and 55 per cent were dependents. The proportion was lowest in the Amréli Prant (40.7 per cent), most part was covered by the forest tribes, who were numerous in the Prant, was agriculture.

### **Economic activities of the people**

As in other parts of Gujarat, the handloom weavers were generally untouchables and Musalmans, though Khattris, Tais, and Vanjhas also practised the same handicraft. Though coarse cotton cloth known as doti, khadi, or chophal, was woven in all parts, the products of the Amreli prant was the best. They were chiefly disposed off locally, as the erection of steam weaving-mills had almost destroyed the export trade in such material. Efforts were made to introduce the use of looms of improved patterns. The Khattris of the city of Baroda turned out a rough woolen cloth which was often used for blankets. In the Kadi prant a large number of Musalman and Hindu women spun cotton thread, which was afterwards woven by untouchables. A more valuable industry was carried on at Patan, where weavers manufactured mashru, which was exported to Ahmadabad and other places. Silk was also brought to Patan from Ahmadabad and Bombay, and there woven into gajis, plumbars, and the highly appreciated patolas. The sacred threads worn by Parsis were largely made at Navsari by women of the priestly class, and exported to Bombay.

At Baroda embroidery with gold and silver thread was undertaken by a few artisans, and the work in both pattern and execution was of a superior description. The Kharadis of Patan also turned out very good embroidery, while more simple work was prepared at Navsari. Carpets were made at the Baroda Central jail, and were purchased locally or exported to Ahmadabad, Bombay, and Poona. Goldsmiths were found in every town. They manufactured ornaments of gold or silver as well as pearls. The village blacksmith made and repaired rude agricultural implements, and the wandering Pomalas visited every village to make native weights and the minor cooking utensils. At Atasumba, in the Kadi prant, knives and frying-pans of good workmanship were produced, and a sword-making industry on a small scale existed at

Dehgam in the same division. At Patan good betel-nut cutters were prepared, which found a ready sale through all parts of Gujarat. In the Baroda prant, at Sojitra, Vaso, and Petlad, locks were manufactured. Brass and copper pots for the daily use of the people were manufactured throughout the State, but there was little else worthy of notice. Dabhoi was well-known for the elegance and finish of the articles turned out, and a similar remark may be made of the Kadi brass and copper work. Visnagar was famous for the excellence of its brass-ware much of which was exported to Ahmadabad and Kathiawad.

Earthen jars for holding water or for storing grain, pipe-bowls, and clay toys were manufactured in great quantities for domestic use. The only ornamental pottery was made at Patan, and this, though thin, light, and fragile, was often pretty. Some manufactured toys, hukkas, water-goblets, pipe-bowls, water-coolers, and similar articles. The art of sculpture had almost died out, but specimens of stone-carving that still existed during the period under study prove how great was once the excellence attained in this direction. At Dabhoi, Chandod, Patan, Sidhpur, Modhera, and many other places the art of sculpture was at its best. Though the art had decayed enormously, the stone-carvers of the country had done excellent work in the newly commissioned palace and other buildings at Baroda.

Ornamental wood-carving was chiefly confined to the Baroda and Kadi prants. Excellent workmen resided at Dabhoi and Sankheda, and fine specimens of their art could be seen on the doors and verandas of the houses. Similar examples were found at Vaso, Sojitra, and Petlad. In the palace at Baroda there was much wood-carving which displayed the same skill. In Kadi the best wood-carving was found at Patan, Sidhpur, and Vadnagar. Work in ivory carried on to some extent at Baroda and Patan.

The export trade of the State consists mainly of agricultural produce, such as cotton, grain, oilseeds, opium, tobacco, and raw sugar, Bombay being the chief market. Brass and copper vessels were exported from Visnagar and Kadi to Ahmadabad and Kathiawad, and the silk fabrics of Patan were in wide demand. The imports consist of rice and other grains, refined sugar, metals, salt, piece-goods, spices, and kerosene oil. Goods were largely carried by rail, but there was some traffic by sea from the ports of Dwarka, Navsari, and Bilimora.

As traders, petty shop-keepers, money-lenders, and bankers, the Banias occupied a prominent position. Some of them also traded in cloth, but in this respect the Bhavasars (or Chhipas) perhaps excelled. Brass and copper vessels were dealt with by the Kansaras. The Gandhis, who were in general Jains, traded in groceries, spices, articles of common use as drugs, and medicines prepared according to native fashion. The sale of vegetables is almost exclusively appropriated by the Kachhis, while the Ghanchis were dealers in vegetable oil and kerosene. They also sold milk and ghee. The Bohras had a special trade in iron vessels, such as frying-pans, buckets etc., and in ropes of various kinds, while the petty Bohras sold every kind of small article. Confectionery was dealt in by the Kandois, and the Tambolis sold betel-leaves, betel-nuts, and tobacco. Corn was sold by Banias or Ghanchis. They purchased wholesale from the cultivators and then sold by retail in the markets. For molasses and sugar there were special shops in large centers, but elsewhere as a general rule they were sold by the Gandhis.<sup>55</sup>

The chief centers of trade were Patan, Kadi, Mehsana, Visnagar, Vadnagar, and Sidhpur, the first being the most important. All these towns were connected by railway lines, by which the prant was exceptionally well served. In addition to the

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<sup>55</sup> IGIB, p-36

main line of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, which passes from south to north, State lines diverge from Mehsana to Kheralu, Patan, and Viramgam, and from Kalol to Kadi and Vijapur. The Ahmadabad-Prantij line also serves some places. Other lines were projected from Manund Road to Chanasma, from Visnagar to Vijapur, and from Kheralu to Dabhoda.

The prant was well provided with communications, as the main line of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway ran from north to south, with a State branch from Anand to Petlad and Cambay, and narrow-gauge lines connecting Dabhoi with Bodeli, Chandod, Sinor, and Mobha. In addition, the Baroda-Godhra chord line on the broad gauge crossed the prant. The chief roads were those from Baroda to Padra, Makarpura, Ajwa, and Savli, from Petlad to Sojitra, and from Chandod to Sinor.

### **Domestic Animals**

The domestic animals were oxen, cows, buffaloes, horses, sheep, goats, asses, and camels. Camels were used by Rabaris in the northern part of the Baroda district and the whole of the Kadi district where the soil was sandy. They were also found in the Okhamandal taluka of the Amreli district. The male was used for carrying burdens and the female for milk. Their prices varied from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200/-. Camels were in very general use they were numerous. Horses (including mares and young stock) in the whole State were owned by the large landlords, well-to-do cultivators and towns people. In the Patan taluka which was adjacent to Kankarej there was formerly considerable activity in horse-breeding. With a view to revive it, the Government of Sayajirao III had kept stud horses found in many parts of the Amreli, Dhari and Damnagar talukas at Patan. Of oxen there was the large kind used in ploughing and for driving and the small hardy kind of quick steppers used only for driving. Large

herds of cows were kept by professional herdsmen or Rabaris, who sold their produce in the shape of clarified butter or ghee, Brahmins and other Hindus kept cows for the sake of their milk but turned out the male offspring to roam about as bulls. Every cultivator throughout the State kept one or more buffaloes, according to his means. The milk, was either sold, or turned into curds for making clarified butter, or ghee. There were various breeds of buffaloes of which the best were the deshan of Kathiawad and the Dilishahi of Baroda and Kadi districts. It was the custom of most village communities to keep a bull and a he-buffalo in the village at common expense for breeding purposes. Asses were very largely employed by potters, ravals, and golas (rice-husk-sellers) for carrying loads. Goats and sheep were kept in large flocks by the Rabaris and Bharwads who used their milk for making ghee, and their wool for weaving coarse cloth which were used as blankets. Their flesh was eaten by most classes, and their hides either converted into the best kind of shoe-leather or exported to Bombay. Domestic fowls were kept by Parsis and Musalmans for sale and consumption, and also by Vaghris, Bhils and Kolis.<sup>56</sup>

### **Culture:**

#### **Food and Dress**

Being the stronghold of Jainism since the beginning of the second millennium. The doctrine of Ahimsa had worked an appreciable change as regards food and drink of the Gujaratis. Still however animal food is used by Rajputs, aboriginal and lower class Hindus. Among some of the favorite dishes include 'Shirapuri' which is popular among Jainas and the Vaisnavas. The Marathas introduced certain dishes such as 'Kalino'(Bundino) Laddu, Puranpoli and Shrikhand. The Mahomedan contact too introduced Pulav and Biryani and other varieties in certain dishes. The staple food of

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<sup>56</sup> GBS, p-75

the higher-class Hindus consists generally of rice, wheat, pulse, and bajra. Vegetables of all kinds were freely used, cooked with ghee, salt, spices, turmeric, & cakes made from bajra and wheat-flour are partaken of with milk, for both dinner and supper. Among agriculturists, however, the usual food was khichri (a spiced mixture of rice and tuver) and curry. The poorer classes used jawar as their chief good-grain, and also kodra, bavto, and banti. Dhotars or waistcloths formed the common dress of Hindus. The upper garments worn by males of the better class were badans and bandis reaching from the neck to the waist, and angarkhas extending as far as the knees. Many educated Hindus, however, wore shirts, coats, and pantaloons. Females wore chantias or petticoats and cholis or bodies.<sup>57</sup>

#### **Games and Amusement:**

The chief outdoor games played by the young people were gilli-dando, attiso-matiso, amli-pipli, etc.,. These all involve running and catching, and were very popular. Indoor amusements, such as cards, chess, etc. were very popular. Celebration of festivals and singing were the medium of the amusement of the people. Under the Mohammedan Gujaratis learnt much of luxury and pomp and taste of refinement. Gardens, fountains, perfumes and luxuries were introduced. Temples were the center of many village activities. Another source of recreation was the fair (mela). There were dancers, singers and actors, giving their performances, there were acrobatic feasts and other performances. The market contained many rare articles which the villages were anxious to purchase. Almost all the fairs are held during the month of 'Sravan' (July-August). There were large gatherings on the occasion of religious festivals. Thousands of people gathered on the bank of rivers. People believed that by taking bath in the river they wash their sins away and further gained merit by giving

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<sup>57</sup> IGIB, pp 20-23



money to holy men and beggars. Every temples had its feast days. Amusements of different kinds were held in the villages during the months when there was a little field-work. The 'Bhavai' or popular folk drama of Gujarat which seems to be the line descendant of an ancient primitive drama was coarse and obscene. The plays are performed by the people.

### **Art and Architecture:**

Sculpture and painting showed signs of Islamic influence. Wood-sculpture was usually part of the decoration of temples. Bronze art also flourished in many places.

The Fine Arts including, besides architecture and customs –designing, pottery, metal-working, drawing, landscape painting, gardening and a host of others all expressed social and religious environment and attitude towards life. Tanks and wells were artistically treated. Temples, city-walls and gates were remarkable in execution. Mostly villages or agriculturists drew objects as they thought of them. Rough pictures on walls were drawn at the marriage-ceremonies or at some religious rituals and festivals. Drawings were projections of the experience of the observer, the reproduction of new ideas. The painting of 'Sathia' (Swastika) and Rangoli (Rangavali) was an essentially bourgeois art, akin to the art which expresses itself even at the present day in Mural decorations and exquisite albeit ephemeral displays of geometric patterns in a variety of colours in front of the middle class homes on festival occasions. On all auspicious occasions upon the birth of child or at the thread and marriage ceremonies, Gauri Pujana vow, at the Nagapanchmi day, at the Navratra festivals and at the feast of lamps the women resorted to their delightful drawing.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid p-291-292

### **Music and dance:**

The 'garbo' was the popular folk dance. The 'garbo' originally a many-holed ghata (earthen pot) with a burning lamp inside it was placed on the head of a lady; this was thought to be representative of Maha-sakti. It involved rhythmic movement to the accompaniment of song; often women move round and round in a circle and sing to the accompaniment of rhythmical claps of hands and feet. In the garba there is a beautiful art form a unique mode of culture and self expression of the people, work-songs, folk-songs, grinding songs are the vocal contribution of the common people.<sup>59</sup>

### **Festivals**

The Diwali festival, which occurred during October or November, was the most noteworthy of the Hindu festivals. The temples were filled with devotees, the people put on their best attire, and the streets and houses were illuminated with lamps. At this time merchants and shopkeepers worshiped their account-books and opened new ones. The Holi took place in February or March, the Makar Sankranti in January. Other festivals were the Maha Sivaratri, the Rama Navami, and the Janma Ashtami. In the city of Baroda the Muhammadan festival of the Muharram was patronized by the Gaekwad, and many Hindus joined in the procession. But the greatest of all attractions to the people was probably the Dasara procession, which generally took place in October.

### **The Gaekwads and their relation with the British**

From the Governors of mercantile factories to Governors of territories teeming with civilized and industrious populations and masters of a rich sub-continent of Asia – this may sum up the rise and growth of the British power in India. From independent

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<sup>59</sup> Dosabhai Adalji Cultural History of Gujarat p-273

powers enjoying equality of status among themselves and superiority of position with regard to the British Factory Governors to the position of allies of equal status, by treaties and engagements and conventions with British East India Company, from the position of allies with international status of that of States in subordinate alliance, with no international relations, that is to say, from political and international equality to subordination and dependence – this in a way might sum up the history of the Native States in reference to their then existing political condition before their effacement altogether from the map of India. In making the above general statement we may not forget that the history of most of the Native States was not similar but that it varied. Each State was brought into relations with the British Government separately not under circumstances exactly alike nor all at one and the same time, but gradually, as circumstances developed.<sup>60</sup>

The relations of the Baroda Government with the East India Company date from 1802, when Ravji Appaji, the Diwan of Anandrao Gaekwad, invoked the assistance of the British troops against the insurrection of Malharrao of Kadi and for the reduction of Arab forces which had become powerful and insubordinate in the State. The East India Company was then only one of the powers in India and it was striving to maintain itself and to extend its sphere of influence like others. Articles 5 of Agreement dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 1802 provided:

“There shall be a true friendship and good understanding between the Hon’ble English East India Company and the State of Anandrao Gaekwar in pursuance of which the Company will grant the said Chief its countenance and protection in all his public concerns according to

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<sup>60</sup> Butler Committee Report, p-12

justice and as may appear to be for the good of the country, respecting which he is also to listen to advice.”<sup>61</sup>

At regards the concluding part of the above sentence it may be noted that the Marathi counterpart of the original treaty which is extant in the archives of the State, and to which the signatures of the contracting parties were affixed does not contain any reference to the Company’s Government granting its protection and advice to the Gaekwad Government.

The words in Marathi are:

गायकवाड सेना खास खेल शमशेर बहादुर व कंपनी इंग्रज बहादुर यांची परस्परे दोस्ती पुस्तदरपुस्त चालावी वाजवीचे रुईने मदद करीत जावी, ज्यांत सेना खासखेल मांचे बरे तेज करतील.<sup>62</sup>

These words translated as follows:-

“There should be continuous mutual friendship between the Gaekwar Sena Khaskhel Shamsheer Bahadur and the Company Ingrej Bahadoor and assistance should be rendered (by the Company’s Government) according as may appear proper. They will do what may be good for the Sena Khaskhel.”

This used to be a major point in protests frequently lodged by Baroda Government.

Articles 2, 6 and 10 speak of Baroda in a State of friendly alliance and this position of the State was maintained and reiterated in the supplement to the Definitive Treaty in 1817.<sup>63</sup>

Since the above treaties were entered into, the Baroda State had remained a faithful ally of the East India Company and afterwards of the British Government and never showed a hostile or unfriendly attitude towards the Company or the British Crown.

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<sup>61</sup> H.P.D. Section 26, p-11

<sup>62</sup> H.P.O. Section No. 26, तहनामे करार वगैरह, p-11

<sup>63</sup> Ibid, p-73

During the troubled times of the Mutiny in 1857-58 Maharaja Khanderao rendered good help. For this, Lord Canning thanked him. Ever since the above treaties were entered into, the British Government, from being only one of the several powers in India, gradually acquired a dominating supremacy over the others and the natural tendency was to regard all the States in India as being in subordinate union, irrespective of the period and the express provisions of their individual treaty relations. This change of attitude in the relations and the policy towards the States came about in spite of the gracious proclamation of Queen Victoria in 1858, and subsequent proclamations in 1877, in 1903 and 1911. With the passage of time new departments sprang up in Government of India. Native States often were obstacles in fulfillment of many of the British schemes.<sup>64</sup>

The method of working of these new departments is worth noting. The department formulated a policy with particular advantage to British India under the guise of Imperial policy with scant regard to the treaties with the States, and these policies were put in into effect. With a scheme already in working condition the Native State protested regarding its working to the detriment of interests of States and pointed out some stipulation of the antiquated treaty or engagement, by which the British Government could not unilaterally decide without the prior consultation with the States. The treaty under question then came for interpretation.<sup>65</sup> The legal opinion considered first the letter and spirit of the treaty but at the same time took into account its actual working with modifying usages and customs, read it whole and thus gave a different version, it favourable to British Government and thus added to the accretion of such usages. In short, the policy was not formulated taking into consideration the already existing treaties, but was fitted later on, in it and thus modifying a great deal

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<sup>64</sup> Lovat Fraser, *India under Curzon and after*, London 1911, p-216

<sup>65</sup> Chavda V.K. *Gaekwads and the British. A Study of their problems (1875-1920)* Delhi, p-11

its nature. Currency questions, problems regarding railway jurisdiction were some of the examples to that effect. What proportion the so called 'advice' of the resident assumed depicted by Wallace. Writing particularly about the Baroda State, he remarked:

“The habit of giving advice had induced a tone more lordly and an impatience more impatient, and an assumption more aggressive than in the days of Governor Duncan and Col. Walker.”<sup>66</sup>

In 1917, when Montague, the Secretary of State for India enunciated a new goal of progressive realization of responsible self-government for India, it was claimed on behalf of the Baroda State that if that was the goal for British India, consistency policy would justify an equally honorable goal for the States. This aspect of the question found due notice in the Joint Report of Montague and Lord Chelmsford on Indian Constitutional Reforms. In the fullest and freest manner they assured the Princes that no constitutional change which may take place will impair the rights, dignities and privileges secured to them by treaties, sanads and engagements or by established practice. The Baroda Government's Reply to the questionnaire sent by the Indian States Committee narrates eloquently and in a detailed manner 'violations' of their treaty rights by the British Government since the Definitive Treaty was signed in 1805. Various subjects where such violations took place included (1) Subsidiary troops, and the Contingent force, (2) Internal sovereignty and (3) Other distinctive rights.

“Important rights of the State had in the past been decided on political usage not strictly in accordance with the inherent rights of the State” and the following examples were given.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Wallace

- (1) Construction of Railways
- (2) Posts
- (3) Telegraphs
- (4) Cantonment Jurisdiction
- (5) Jurisdiction over Foreigners
- (6) Jurisdiction over Railways
- (7) Extradition.

The Reply of the Baroda government then went on to cite various arrangements introduced during the Minority Administration in contravention of the British Government's Proclamation dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 1875. During the minority period of Sayajirao III it was observed that the State's rights were reduced when:

- (1) The right of the State to regulate the strength of its military and police forces was restricted.
- (2) The right of the State to manufacture arms and ammunition required for its administrative needs or to obtain them from such sources as appeared suitable to the State authorities was curtailed.
- (3) The contingent of State cavalry maintained under Article 8 of the Treaty of 1817 was disbanded, and an annual payment of 3¼ lakh of rupees substituted in lieu thereof.
- (4) The right of the State to open ports and manufacture and charge excise tax on salt in Gujarat portion of its territory was vetoed.
- (5) The right of the State to export salt produced in its territories to other ports in India was refused recognition.

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<sup>67</sup> H.P.O. File No. 3, 41/46, The Indian State Committee, Reply of the Baroda Government to the Questionnaire (hereafter Reply) Baroda, 1928, p 1-5

“Another manner in which the rights of the State suffered was by the continuance after their *raison d'être* had disappeared of arrangements initiated to meet circumstances of a special or temporary character.”<sup>68</sup>

It appears that the Baroda Government in all its protests always drew attention to the Definitive Treaty of 1805 and its supplement of 1817.

There were faint indications as for instance, where Baroda bound itself not to make any aggression that it was to some extent under the control of the East India Company, but such indications if they deserved the name, could not change, hardly modify, the character of these treaties as a whole. Nevertheless, it was certain that in the intervening years, and probably by reason of the Crown taking over the Government of India, from the Company in 1858, these treaties had fallen entirely into disuse and, therefore, must be regarded, except of course, as regards territorial exchanges and distributions as virtually obsolete. Baroda could not claim to be able to make independent treaties and alliances with European States or America or any other foreign power. At the same time it was quite certain that were Baroda unwise enough to put forward any such claim, it would not have been favourably entertained by the Paramount Power i.e., the British Government. The plain truth was then that the position of Baroda was a little bit anomalous.

Since the British Crown took over the Government of this vast sub-continent in 1858, one thing however was pretty certain that no State in India, however important, could take the position that its only treaties represented it as being in friendly alliance with the East India Company claimed so complete independence of the supreme power as to make war on the neighbouring State or any part of the British territory. The general profession as expressed from time to time of the Government of India that it desired

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<sup>68</sup> H.P.D. File No. 341/46, p-6



as far as possible, to maintain and abide by all treaties made with the protected Indian States, appeared to be quite sincere, but it had to be taken subject to actual conditions and *mutatis mutandis*. These old treaties would have at least given Baroda the strongest claim to be granted the largest and completest internal autonomy. It grew more sensitive only to the extent to which the Paramount Power claimed to supervise, control successions, investitures and such other subjects. But if the State meant to approach the discussion of any such questions upon the basis that by its treaties it was absolutely independent of the British Crown, it was making mistake and landing itself into an awkward position.

The Definitive Treaty of 1805 and its supplement of 1817 had thus to be relegated in the background. This was the inevitable result of the well known phenomenon of the early Twentieth Century viz., growth of the concept of 'Paramountcy' of the British Government in India with regard to Indian Native States. It had a very vast sweep.

The function of the Paramount Power was said to cover.

- (1) Defence
- (2) External affairs
- (3) Disputes between States inter se
- (4) Disputed successions
- (5) Gross misrule
- (6) Education of minor princes and minority administration
- (7) Residuary jurisdiction over small states
- (8) Jurisdiction over specified class of persons viz., European British subject, in respect of certain areas like cantonments, railway lands etc., and in respect of specified offences

(9) In the internal administration of the Native States, in the manner and to the extent specially provided in the treaties and engagements with the Native State

Defence and external affairs had been ceded by Baroda State to the British Government by treaty provisions and therefore had no ground to complain, except with certain matters regarding the subsidiary troops and the commutation of Rs. 30 lakhs with regard to the Contingent. Under the interstate disputes, one item could be considered as far as the Baroda Government was concerned, to come under this. It was about interstate tributes and the sovereignty of the Gaekwad over States and estates in Kathiawad and Gujarat, tributary to Baroda, wherein the British Government had undertaken to recover tributes on behalf of the State. This question has been dealt within all its pros and cons elsewhere. According to the arrangements with regard to the succession to Gadi, it was laid down that where there was a natural heir in the direct line, he succeeded as a matter of course and the recognition of the succession by the King Emperor was conveyed by an exchange of formal communication between Prince and Crown representative. Paramount had therefore not much to do in matter of smooth and matter of course succession. Education of minor and the minority administrations were justified by the British Government on grounds of the benefit of the Prince and the State. This subject is dealt with in its proper place as this function of Paramountcy viz., this intervention had an important bearing in Baroda history.<sup>69</sup>

It now remains to be said something with regard to the intervention due to misrule. This function of the Paramountcy had also to be brought in to play during the reign of Malharrao Gaekwad and is quoted fully in the Butler Committee Report under the heading Baroda case, 1873-75. The Baroda Government owned the Ports of Dwarka,

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<sup>69</sup> Chavda V.K., Op. Cit., pp 17-18

Port Okha, Kodinar and Velan in Kathiawar. In 1817, the Baroda Government entered into a reciprocal arrangement with the British Government under which trading and other vessels from the Ports of either Government were to be allowed to visit the Ports of the other without let or hindrance. This arrangement ensured to the subjects of the Baroda Government the same freedom of commerce, navigation and transit in British India as the inhabitants of British India. In 1838, when the British Government abolished all inland and transit duties throughout the Bombay Presidency they recognised the position that the trade from and to the Ports of the Baroda Government in Kathiawar by land was entitled to the same treatment as the trade from and to British Ports by land and that they (the British Government) had the right to impose a cordon of land customs against the trade of the Baroda ports. In 1848, the British Government carried out another reform in the system of their customs administration under which they freed the trade by sea between the different provinces of British India from any customs levies.<sup>70</sup> In 1865, for the proper carrying out of these reforms they offered to all maritime Indian States an arrangement by which in return for their (the States) agreeing to levy the same or higher import and export duties on the foreign trade of their ports they (the British Government) undertook to treat the ports of the States as British Indian Ports, or, in other words, exempt goods imported at or exported from British Indian Ports from or to the ports of the States from the levy of customs duties prescribed under the customs tariff of British India.<sup>71</sup> Only five States – Travancore, Cochin, Baroda, Bhavnagar and Cambay agreed to this arrangement at the time. By this arrangement, the States agreeing to it surrendered a valuable sovereign right, viz. of levying lower duties at their ports than those levied by the Government of India at theirs. In return for this consideration the States were given

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<sup>70</sup> H.P.D. Section XV Customs

<sup>71</sup> Ibid

the privilege of exemption of their foreign trade from duties at the ports or at the land frontiers of British India. Where such land frontier duties existed against the States which subscribed to the arrangement, they were withdrawn.<sup>72</sup>

In contravention of this arrangement, the Government of India imposed in 1903 a customs cordon known as the Viramgam Customs Line against the whole of Kathiawar including the territory of the Baroda Government in the Peninsula. The protest of the Baroda Government that this action was against the terms of the engagement with them and they were being wrongly treated like other Kathiawar States with which there were no arrangements and which made no sacrifices in 1865, proved of no avail. Ultimately the cordon was withdrawn on the State agreeing in 1917 to a subsidiary arrangement under which the rights acquired by Baroda under the Treaty of 1865 were reaffirmed and some other obligations were undertaken by the State.

The rights and obligations of the Baroda Government under the engagement of 1865 and arrangement of 1917 were:-

- (1) Baroda was to levy at its ports the same duties as or higher duties than those at the British Ports on imports from or exports to foreign countries.
- (2) The trade from and to Baroda Ports was not liable to be taxed by land in British India.
- (3) It could levy any duties it liked on the trade to and from British India by sea or land (whether the goods are of foreign or Indian origin).
- (4) The trade to and from Baroda Ports was not liable to duties at the British Ports.
- (5) Baroda was entitled to administer its customs department without interference or supervision.

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<sup>72</sup> Chavda V.K., Op. Cit. p-135

(6) That so long as Baroda fulfilled its obligations, no pecuniary limit could be fixed to the customs revenue which the State could derive at its ports from the trade with foreign countries or with British India.

In spite of these Treaty Provisions, the Government of India asked the Baroda State to surrender its customs administration or agree to its supervision by British authorities and to accept a limit to the customs revenue derived at its ports.

The Baroda Government also submitted that at Port Okha (which was formerly known as the harbour of Beyt) it had constructed a pier 400 feet in length with berthing accommodation for two ocean-going steamers and an approach via duct connecting the Pier to the main land at Adatra opposite Beyt. These improvements had cost a sum of nearly Rs. 30 lakhs and the State was committed to a further expenditure of Rs. 15 lakhs on the port and connected works. A railway had been built from the approach viaduct to the frontier of Okhamandal at Kuranga at a cost of Rs. 35 lakhs; and with the concurrence of British Government, the State had advanced a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs more through a limited company in Bombay for the construction of the railway in Nawanagar connecting Kuranga with Jamnagar and so with the general railway system of India. All this large outlay exceeding a Crore of rupees was however rendered in fructuous by the action of the British Government.<sup>73</sup>

The district of Okhamandal in Kathiawar belonging to Baroda afforded natural facilities for the production of edible salt of a superior quality. Before the British Government introduced their system of excise of salt in British India, this salt could be exported to any part of India including the territories of the British Government, but after the introduction of the excise system, the entry of this salt into British India or into other portions of Baroda territory was not allowed, and the export was in

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<sup>73</sup> Chavda V.K., Op. Cit., pp 136-137

practice confined to places outside India. In 1887, in order to give effect to a decision arrived at during the minority of Sayajirao the III, an arrangement was made by the British Government with Baroda under which the export of salt to any places in British India or in foreign European settlement in India was prohibited. The Baroda Government considering this prohibition against the spirit of their engagements pressed their request to be allowed to export salt to ports of British India in which it would find a profitable market. After much correspondence, the Government of India had agreed to the salt being exported to Calcutta by sea only, on payment of the prescribed British excise duty, in the same manner as salt from foreign countries like Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy or Egypt was imported into Bengal. The salt was not allowed to be exported to other parts of India or to be exported to Calcutta by land.

Owing to these restrictions, the Baroda Government could not develop the resources of Okhamandal to their full capacity and the State lost revenue which it would otherwise have derived from royalty on salt exported. The above referred restrictions and the prohibitions were placed owing to certain fears entertained by the Government of Bombay that the export would give facility to illicit trade, which would constitute a grave menace to Imperial interests and that the cost of the preventive establishment which it would be necessary for their (Bombay) Government would be prohibitive.<sup>74</sup>

Baroda Darbar dismissing the above fears of the Bombay Government as unfounded stated that it was possible to adopt measures whereby the British Government could be assured of the levy of the full salt duty on the salt imported into British India, whether by rail or sea, and whereby any attempt at smuggling could be efficiently

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid, p-137

prevented. Again, if extra preventive establishment was rendered necessary, it was not a just ground to prevent the exercise of a legitimate right by a friendly neighbor, when the same commodity from foreign countries was allowed to be imported.<sup>75</sup> But the real reason of the British Government for imposing restriction was to maintain their monopolistic stronghold with regard to such a vital commodity of daily use to the people from which they had such large revenue throughout the Indian sub-continent. And this vested interest prevented them to mete out such equitable treatment to the Native State keeping with the terms of treaty engagements.

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<sup>75</sup> H.P.O. from in Baroda Representation salt in Okhamandal.