

The Role of Sayaji Rao Gaekwad in the
Formation of the Chamber of
Princes.

Important place among the Native Rulers.

The Gaekwad of Baroda had an important place in the Imperial Court of the British Monarch, being one of the leading Native States, whose sovereign used to receive the salute of 21 guns from the beginning of its relation with the British power. The contributing factors to this were the vastness of its area and closer relationship than others due to the intermingled territories of both the Governments. A treaty State, in friendly Alliance with the English, its enlightened policies which brought about a transformation of its state of affairs and the last factor being responsible to the progressive outlook of its Ruler ^{was} ~~and~~ its faithful execution by some of the leading administrators of the country as Dewans. All these combined to give a place of prominence, to Baroda in the comity of Indian Native States.

The progressive outlook of its Ruler was due to his early education and training as noticed before by his able 'Tutors' and partly also due to his extensive world tours, which brought about a broadening of his mental horizon and which was translated in many of his unique expressions in the architecture of his State. His title Farzand-i-khas-i-Daulat-Englishia very well indicates his relation with the Paramount Power.

Being thus in some what higher position than many of his counterparts in different States, he was frequently called upon to advise and lead the cause of Indian Ruler or a chief before the representative of the Paramount power. Sayaji Rao also whole heartedly cooperated with any movement which would give an united answer of their

class.

Causes of the unity among Rulers.

Now how did this sense of unity came about among these people ?
There were several reasons.

In the main the States had made real progress in Good Government during the last 50 years and from this achievement had followed results which may be admitted to be only natural. The results were (1) that they wanted to expand their capacity of beneficence towards their people, (2) that to the extent that they ^{found} ~~formed~~ themselves baulked in that desire their sense of disability was keener and their dissatisfaction with the then hide-bound system more acute in direct proportion (3) that their rights were clearer and consequently their desire for the revival of those that had become obliterated as the result of a policy narrowly conceived and long out of date was daily becoming more insistent, (4) their imagination had been deeply stirred and their ambition unquenchably fired by the progress that they saw all around them; and they were naturally restive under the restraints which hampered their further development.

It might be just as well to explain here that they had been too long dry-nursed and kept in leading strings not to realise that the policy of tutelage which was no doubt eminently suited to a certain stage of their advancement or rather of stationariness was a ~~per~~ policy which blocked the way to the amelioration of their 70 million subjects; and especially in the matter of industrial advancement which bade fare to be the dominant note of the Empire. ~~On India~~ In India, the questions like Tariff Reforms or changes in the opium policy, currency regulations of 1893, amended extradition

Rules, matters of administrative routine or financial manipulations, imposition of ^{taxes} ~~taxes~~, all these were settled by the British Government or legislated on them in the Imperial Legislatures without the consent or concurrence of the Indian States.

For the above results, however, the then organisation of Political department with its inelastic, dilatory and utterly uncoordinated procedure, was partly responsible, as it reduced these princely Chiefs to a position of individual^{ual} isolation which robbed of all effect, their several specific representations.

Necessity of a platform to ventilate views of common concern felt.

The need, therefore, both to enable their united expression of opinion on matters of common concern to them and to provide a venue for the referring to them of matters which were of joint concern between British India and themselves, was keenly felt in the Princely order.

While the Princes and Chiefs were in this frame of mind the Proclamation of the King Emperor issued while Lord Morley was Secretary of State for India which said " x x From the first the principle of representative institutions began to be gradually introduced, and the time has come when in the judgment of my Viceroy and Governor-General and others of my councillors, that principles may be prudently extended. Important classes among you, representing ideas that have been fostered out encouraged by British Rule, claim equality of citizenship and a greater share in legislation and Government. The politic satisfaction of such a claim will strengthen * not impair "

existing authority and powers."

The Princes demanded this same principle to apply in their case, with the difference that the necessity of the application with due regard to their position historical and political, may be recognised.

Various Schemes.

British Government also saw with wisdom the necessity of the increasing cooperation of Indian Native States for the larger interests of the Empire. To secure the full cooperation, then of the States for Imperial purposes it would appear to be open to no doubt that they must have a defined share in the administration of the Country. And such a share presupposed the introduction of recognised organisation of the States of their Princes. Various schemes for the utilisation of the Princes had been propounded from time to time. Lord Lytton suggested the establishment of an Indian Privy Council*, restricted, at all events, in the first instance, to the great chiefs and empowered to consult with and advise the Viceroy on general matters of State. Opposition to the Scheme was offered and the only result obtained was, that some of leading Princes were designated "Councillors of the Empress."

Proposal about Advisory Council in Lord Minto's time and the views of Sayaji Rao.

After the above attempt, the first systematic effort by the Government of India, was made under the Viceroyalty of Lord Minto, who and suggested an Imperial Advisory Council constituting of about sixty members for the whole of India, including about twenty Ruling Chiefs and a suitable number of territorial magnates of every province, for purely consultative purposes, to deal with such matters

as might be referred to it; on questions of common and Imperial interests. The opinion of the Maharaja Saheb was invited on the point. His Highness did not approve of the idea*, a body so composed was not capable of doing any good, it might not work smoothly, it might not have independence of judgment, it might not have influence enough to shape and command public opinion or to affect the action of the Government^{he thought}. The classing of Princes, with treaty relations, with land-holders, absolute subjects, ^{appeared to him} ~~would be~~ lowering the dignity and status of the former etc. His Highness then made alternative suggestion - a "Privy Council" consisting of 20 Ruling Princes and an equal number of British Indian Representatives, to consider questions of common interest between British India and the Native States, or an "Auxiliary Council" of Ruling Princes only with definite powers in matters of common and Imperial interest. As the idea did not receive support it fell through.

Later on it was also suggested and even contemplated by the British Government to call selected Princes~~at~~ to the House of Lords or to constitute an Indian Peerage and therefore, an Upper House or a Second Chamber of the Indian Legislature. But this was also dropped.

Establishment of Council of Princes asked for: Views of His Highness at the Conference in October 1916.

Subsequently, while replying to the opening address of Lord Hardinge on the question of the Higher College for Princes, in 1913, His Highness Maharaja Gaekwad expressed a hope that such a conference as was then convened of some Ruling Princes might be repeated in future. In 1914, on a similar occasion His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner suggested that the conference should be convened at stated

*H.P.O. Files Nos. 341/5, 341/10.

intervals. Lord Chelmsford convened a Conference of several Ruling Princes and Chiefs at Delhi in October 1916(* to advise the Government of India ~~xxxx~~ on certain matters concerning the States generally. In the opening speech the Viceroy said - " It may be that in time to come, some constitutional assemblage may grow out of these conferences, which will take its place in the Government of this great Empire."* Sayaji Rao Gaekwad, who attended that Conference, in his reply on behalf of the Princes assembled observed - " It is in our opinion of the utmost importance to ourselves, our states and our people that we should have a regularly assigned and definite place in the Constitution of the Empire and indeed that there should at an early date come into existence an institution, which we have consistently advocated. Such a Council or Assembly of Princes, formed on proper lines, where important questions can be discussed and ~~settled~~ settled.* "His Highness also added that nothing would be more productive of harmonious results between the Government of India and the Princes, than "the establishment of a Council of Princes which will meet at regular intervals."

Letter of 10th November 1917 addressed by Sayaji Rao
to Brother Princes.

After the announcement in the House of Commons on 20th August 1917, that "The policy of His Majesty's Government, with which the Government of India are in complete accord, is that of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration of the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to a progressive realisation of responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire"*, it was felt that among the

(*H.P.O. File No. 341/3
* H.P.O. File No. 341/10

new adjustments that were likely to take place in Indian policy, Indian States must come in for their share and they could not afford to stand aloof in unconcerned isolation. The Minister of the Baroda State prepared a note on the subject and the opinions of Mr. Kersaspji and Dewan Bahadur Samarth Councillors of the State, were invited. After considering all these the Maharaja addressed privately on the 10th of November 1917 *to some of the Ruling Princes. His Highness therein, suggested that there should be State Autonomy, that the Council of Princes might be continued to meet from time to time, to formulate their own agenda and lay down policies for their own guidance, that for discussion of Imperial matters and internal affairs affecting British India and States jointly, there should ^{be} established a House of Princes 'Representatives to meet simultaneously with the Imperial legislative Council, that in cases of difference there should be a conference committees consisting of an equal number of delegates from both, that there should be a federal Court to adjudicate all differences between the States and British India etc.

At Second Delhi Conference a Committee of four Princes appointed to draw up a scheme.

On 10th November 1917, the Ruling Princes assemble at Second Delhi Conference, in their speech in reply to the Viceroy's address said - " We are now all the more anxious to see the early establishment of a Constitutional Chamber which may safeguard the interests and rights of ourselves and of our States." * The Viceroy in his address in reply assured them that any scheme which they might put forward would receive the most careful and sympathetic consideration

of his Government. The same afternoon the Princes in an informal meeting appointed by a Majority of Votes, a committee of four Ruling Princes, viz. Maharajas of Bikaner, Alwar, Patiala and Nawanagar to draw up a scheme.

Outlines of the Scheme drawn up by the Committee
at Bikaner.

The Committee of Princes met at Bikaner* and after discussions and deliberations for a week framed a scheme. The Scheme suggested a Chamber of Princes to discuss questions relating to their dignity and the preservation of their rights, these affecting the States jointly with British India and those affecting the interests of the British Empire, the appointment of an advisory Board to advise the Political Department, the placing of all States and Princes in direct political relations with the Government of India either individually or by groups, the appointment of a Supreme Judicial Tribunal to adjudicate on disputes between the Government of India and the States, the appointment of Commissioners of Enquiry to investigate charges against Ruling Princes or members of a Ruling family and the representation on the Imperial Cabinet and Imperial Conferences. The Committee invited suggestions about the discussion of matter of common interest.

His Highness approved of the Scheme generally. His opinion on the several points.

Subsequently, the Committee of Princes met at Alwar * but the discussion there was not fruitful of much result. While generally approving of the Scheme His Highness remarked % that the Chamber of Princes should be advisory only, that ~~the~~ the Viceroy should preside

*H.P.O. File No. 341/33
%H.P.O. File No. 341/36.

over its deliberations, that matters of common interest should be referred to a House of representatives of States nominated in numbers corresponding to the relative importance and position of the States, that in the event of difference delegates from this House and Indian Legislative Council should meet together, that a Board formed from amongst the Representatives of the Princes should assist the Foreign and Political Secretary and that there should be representation of the Princes on the Imperial Cabinet and the Imperial Conferences.

Baroda Darbar's opinion of the Scheme settled
at Patiala.

Afterwards the Committee of the Princes met at Patiala and the Bikaner Scheme was recast in light of the opinion received from several Ruling Princes. There was no fundamental change with regard to matter of common interest, a joint committee composed of Representatives nominated by the Chamber of Ruling Princes and an equal number of delegates selected by the Government of India from the Imperial Legislative Council was suggested. His Highness Sayaji Rao Gaekwad observed* that the objects of the Chamber should emphasise the importance of adding to the internal autonomy of the States and removing unnecessary interference with free intercourse with their Brother Princes in the Chamber and outside, that reference to the Judicial Tribunal should ordinarily be the usual practice, that disputes with Estates under any guarantee or protection should also be referred to the Tribunal, the Government of India being deemed a party to them, that there should be Commissions of Enquiries also when Ruler is unduly kept back from his full rights, that the position of the

Political Agent or the Resident should resemble that of a diplomatic Agent with little or no power of internal interference and that as there was no unanimity the claim to send a representative to the Imperial Cabinet and Conferences ~~was~~ was untenable.

Even with regard to Chamber and its composition and functions, it may be noted here, ^{that} there was a difference of opinion among the Rulers and the Princes, the Principal opponent of any such Chamber being Nizam. ^{His} opinion was that there should not be such a Chamber as it would take away, ultimately, the freedom of direct individual association with the British Government. The Sindhia was in favour of a limited Chamber of six ^{to} eight Princes, as the Princes cannot keep up isolation and must ultimately, coordinate. Bhopal Nawab demanded an organic connection with British India and disagreed with some of the detailed provisions of the Scheme. His Highness of Baria did not wish to cooperate with the Chamber of Princes as he thought there was no need to mistrust British India, while His Highness, Benares advocated one federation of States claiming a voice in matters affecting British India *. One of the advisors to the Princes' Committee Sir Ali Imam thought that a consultative Committee to consider the essentials of a Bill in its very first stage, was not very convenient device. He favoured executive action and not legislative coordination of the Princes' Chamber. Thus there were varied opinions on the Scheme, however, the need of a Chamber of Princes was generally recognised by the Majority of the Rulers and Princes.

The Final Scheme presented by the Princes at Delhi,
February 1918.

Several Ruling Princes were invited to meet the Viceroy and

the Secretary of State at Delhi on the 4th and 5th February 1918. After emphasising that the treaty rights, position as Sovereign Princes and allies and the dignity, honour, privileges and prerogatives of the Ruling Princes shall be maintained in tact, and strictly safeguarded, it was proposed that "The Chamber of Ruling Princes" should be brought into existence for deliberative consultative and advisory purposes, that it should be composed of Ruling Princes exercising full sovereign powers and other Princes enjoying hereditary salutes of 11 guns and over that the Chamber should have the power to initiate on the consideration of the Viceroy proposals and recommendations relating to the preservation of Treaty rights etc., to discuss matters of common interests and offer advice thereon, to appoint representatives to joint committees of reference and so on. It was further suggested that the advisory Board consisting of four members selected by the Government from a panel of 5 to 7 nominated by the Chamber should be appointed to advise the Government on matters relating to the Princes and states, that a Judicial Tribunal composed of three members viz one Judicial Officer not lower in rank than High Court Judge and one nominee of either party to the dispute should be appointed to decide finally all disputes between two States or between a State and Government, that no Ruling Prince or /their apparent should be deprived temporarily or permanently of his rights, privileges and so on; unless the question is first investigated by Commission composed of two Ruling Princes and one Judicial Officer, not lower in rank than a High Court Judge, the Prince or heir-apparent etc. concerned to have the right to challenge the nomination of any Prince but not more than twice, that a Prince should have a representative on the Imperial Cabinet and Imperial Conferences of the Empire, that for matters of common interest a joint Committee should be constituted

composed of Representatives nominated by the Chamber of Ruling Princes and an equal number from the Indian Legislature etc. *

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Government of India request views on Proposal on Indian States in the Reform Scheme.

The result of the above confabulation between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State on one side and Princes on the other was the famous Report on constitutional Reforms, which is known in the Indian History as Montford Reforms after ~~the~~ ^{its} names of ~~his~~ authors Mr. Mantague, the Secretary of State for India and Lord Chelmsford the Viceroy of India.

Chapter X dealt with the Indian States. The proposal contained in that Chapter were fixed to be discussed in the Conference of Ruling Princes scheduled to be held at Delhi from 7th to the 13th November 1918. In the meanwhile, a request for the views of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwad ^{was made} ~~were invited~~ by the Residency for the communication to Central Government.

Proposals outlined. Apprehensions about proposals to codify existing practice.

The proposals contained in the Chapter X were ultimately responsible for the formal inauguration of the Chamber of Princes in 1921, and therefore, demanded careful examination of the Baroda Government.

From the perusal of the Chapter X it appeared that the authors had sympathetically considered the Scheme presented by the Princes and accepted in principles all most all suggestions. They believed that "it would improve and assist future relations between the Crown and the States if a definite line could be drawn separating Rulers who enjoy full powers of internal administration from the other.% The

proposals in paras 306 to 311 of the said Chapter related only to States with full powers. It was admitted in the Report that there was some misunderstanding in the interpretation of treaties and the exact relations subsisting between the Princes and the Government of India, it was proposed to review the situation, only by consent of Princes not necessarily with a view to any change of policy, but in order to simplify, standardise, and codify existing practice for the future. The authors added, "we think the Princes should be assured in the fullest and freest manner that no constitutional changes which may take place will impair the rights, dignities, and privileges secured to them by Treaties, sanads and Engagements or by established practice. "* As the review was to be by consent of parties, it rested with the individual State whether to consent to it or not. The Baroda Government held that such a review was not asked for in the Scheme presented at Delhi and it was apprehended that if a general review was attempted it might prejudicially affect the relations as vouchsafed by the Treaties at the time they were entered into, in spite^{of}/the aforesaid assurances.

A permanent Council of Princes enjoying full powers to advise Government of India.

As regards the "Council of Princes" the proposal was to call into existence a "permanent Consultative Body" to advise Government on questions affecting the States generally and those which were of concern to British India and the States in common or to the Empire as a whole. The Viceroy was to be the President and in his absence one of the Princes was to be the Chairman. The Rules of Business were to be framed by the Viceroy after consultation with the Princes, the

Agenda to be approved by the Viceroy and so on. It was stated that the direct transaction of business between the Government of India and any State would not be affected by the institution of the Council. It also seemed that it was optional with any ruling Prince to be a member of the Council or not. "There seems to be no objection", the Baroda Government observed, "to accept this proposal. The Council is to be composed of Princes with full powers." As stated above, the inquiry was to be made as to who enjoyed 'full powers' and of this provision the Baroda Government thought they could not object to its carrying out. *

Advisory Committee appointed by the Council.

The next proposal was about the appointment annually of a small Committee by a Council of Princes, to advise the Viceroy or the Political Department on questions of usage or custom to be referred to them. No reference affecting any individual State was to be made to the Committee without the concurrence of its Ruler. On the Committee the Council of Princes might appoint not only Princes but Dewans or Ministers. This was considered to be a good idea by the Baroda Durbar. But the Committee instead of being annual, it was suggested on the part of the State, may be for ~~three~~ or five years. A standing Body, it was thought, would exercise better influence and acquire better experience.

Commissions of Enquiry to adjudicate in interstatal disputes etc. Modifications necessary.

As to adjudications of disputes between States and those between States and Government, it was proposed that whenever in such cases

the Viceroy felt that such an enquiry was desirable, he should appoint a Commission on which both parties would be represented to inquire into the matter and report his conclusions to him. If the Viceroy were unable to accept the finding, the matter would be referred for decision ^{to} ~~by~~ the Secretary of State. The Commission would be composed of a Judicial Officer of rank not lower than a High Court Judge and one nominee of each of the parties concerned. As to this proposal, the Baroda Government felt that, whenever Government was a party to the dispute, there should be a Commission of enquiry, if the State concerned asked for it. The Baroda Government moreover observed that there was no indication in the proposal about the incidence of costs of this enquiry; and this would require a discussion at the Princes' Conference. The Princes' Scheme of February had suggested that the finding of the Commission should be final. To Baroda Government it seemed doubtful whether the Government of India would accept that view*. Again when Viceroy differing from the finding of the Commission, referred the matter for decision ^{to} ~~by~~ the Secretary of State, the Durbar felt that the State concerned should have an opportunity to represent that case to that authority.

Commissions of Inquiry before depriving Ruling Princes of their rights etc. Some points to be cleared.

When questions arose of depriving the Ruler of a State of His rights, dignities and powers or of debarring from succession a member of his family, it was proposed that such cases should always be referred to a commission to be appointed by the Viceroy to advise him and that

It should consist of five members, including ordinarily a High Court Judge and two Ruling Princes, the names to be intimated to the defendant in advance before they were appointed. It may be made clear that there should be an enquiry by commission also when a ruler is temporarily deprived of his rights etc. and when he is to be kept back from his rights etc. for some time after attaining majority. This was the first demand of the Baroda Government with regard to this proposal.* The second one was that mere intimations of names was not enough; the defendant should have the right to challenge the nomination, the right to be exercised twice. The ~~third~~ third demand was that against the decision of the Viceroy the defendant should have the right of appeal to the Secretary of State. These points along with question of costs would have to be made clear ~~by~~ the Darbar thought.

Direct Political relations with the Government of India.
What should be the aim of new adjustments.

It was recommended in the Reforms that all important States should be placed in the direct Political relations with the Central Government. This was already the case with the States of Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore and Kashmir. In other cases it was intended to revise the existing arrangements. In the opinion of the Baroda Government "this was a good suggestion. Such an arrangement would ensure uniformity of procedure and perhaps will secure better treatment. But need we rest content with that? What was hinted in the Scheme of the Princes was that the present tone of the diplomatic service should ~~be a diplomatic~~ improve; that the political officer should be a diplomatic Agent or Representative with little or no power of internal interference, that the internal autonomy of the States should be effectively advanced and promoted; that restrictions on free intercourse

with brother Princes and with Provinces in British India, (in matters of non-controversial Character) should be relaxed. That is to be the aim of the new adjustments. These points will have to be discussed at the Conference." *

Provision of means of Joint Deliberations on matters of
Common interest.

As regards questions of common interests, it was proposed to refer them to the Council of Princes. It was added that it would be possible for the Viceroy, when he thought fit, to arrange for joint deliberation and discussion between the Council of State and the Council of Princes or between representatives of each body. He might also invite members of the Council of Princes to serve on Committees of the Privy Council, which was proposed to be organised as suggested in Para 287 of the Report, to advise the Governor General on questions of Policy and administration. The authors of the Report had abandoned, for some time, all considerations of suggestions that the Ruling Princes or some representatives of their order should be members of the Council of State. As to the procedure of reference and of joint deliberations the same would have to be settled after the Council of State and the Privy Council came into existence. The Baroda Government observed that the Princes conference would have to decide whether Princes themselves or their representatives should sit in the Council of State; but indicated its support to the proposal as it stood then, with the presumption that before a decision of any subject of joint interest was made applicable to any particular State it would be formally consulted.

Minister's note dated 14th September 1918.*

Dewan Mr. Manubhai's note of opinion on certain points dated 14th September 1918 will be found useful here to make the views of the Baroda Government clearer with regard to the constitutional Reforms. He observes:-

- "1. Some line will have to be drawn somewhere to differentiate the Sovereign States, with full powers on internal autonomy from minor States not enjoying such independent powers. If mere valuable privileges and improved relations have to be secured for the important Princes, they would have to be separated in a higher class as against from minor chiefs.
- "2. No such attempt at standardisation or codification of Treaties is desirable or wise. We have separately addressed to the Government of India, pointing out to them the violations of our treaties and engagements; and it will be quite enough if these infringements are remedied and greater autonomy vouchsafed to the States. A codification of treaties will tend to have a levelling influence which it will be prudent for us to keep from us at an arm's length.
- "3. x x The one object of such a Council of Princes would be to secure the removal of unnecessary restrictions on the freedom of exchanging ideas with brother Princes. To make the Council really effective, however, the Agenda will have to be prepared by the Princes and not by the Viceroy alone, Moreover the system of interpellations may be allowed to be adopted and should

be ~~adepte~~ asked for. The Report postulates that the "direct transaction of negotiations between the Government and the States" is not to be supplemented by the advice taken with the Council of Princes. It will not be obligatory on the Princes to join or to continue as members of the Council. With these safeguards for individual freedom of action we may not oppose the constitution of a Council of Princes. Concerted action and deliberations on questions like (1) Surrender of Jurisdiction over Railways, (2) the disability of acquiring property in British India (3) Mining leases and so on is likely to be more effective than individual negotiation. Questions of dignity and Izzat will also be better solved by concerted deliberation.

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- "5. Reference to the Judicial Tribunal (or Commission of Inquiry) should follow if either party to the dispute claimed it and should not be left to the option of the Viceroy. It should not be only an advisory Commission of Inquiry, but a Judicial Tribunal and its decisions should be final, subject to an appeal at the instance of either party to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.
- "6. The Commission of Investigation into the conduct of a Prince should also be a Judicial Tribunal and not merely an Advisory Committee. Its decision should be final, subject to an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.
- "7. We need not press for the raising up of the other States to a level with the highest or Premier States by urging for their being placed directly under the control of the Government of India. We should press for the recognition of the proper character

and functions of the Resident. They will be these of only a diplomatic Agents or Ambassador, as a channel of communication and with no power of internal interference or power to decide disputes or appeals or to withhold communications."

It will be seen from the foregoing discussion of the subject that Baroda Government mainly pressed for acceptance some of the broad principles with regard to the introduction of reforms. They may be briefly stated thus:-

1. Throughout the discussion we will be able to notice that the question of preserving the dignity, Izzat and honour are always in the background in the pleading of the Princes. They would like them preserved at any cost.
2. Secondly, it always advocates the right of the State of 'Individual Freedom of action', as very important in promoting self-confidence in the authorities of the Native State.
3. The Baroda Government also demands that in their relation with the British Government the important principle of adopting Judicial proceedings to decide major questions of political character, like Tribunals, Commissions, should be encouraged and adequate provision for appeals to higher authorities should be made.
4. The Baroda Darbar strongly favours the free intercourse between brother princes and other provinces of the British Government of course on non-controversial subjects, instead of channelising them through Residency always.
5. And lastly, the Baroda Government is a firm believer in the autonomy of the State, with the least or no interference of

the British Government's representative in the internal affairs of the State.

The suggestions of the Baroda Government had carried a great weight in the formulation of the final proposals relating to the Chamber of Princes. Sayaji rao also always gave a ready help to the various committees of the Princes of the benefit of his views and also readily deputed his officers, however they might be busy with state affairs, to serve on different committees. Mr. Manubhai Mehta, the Dewan, was one of architects of the Draft Scheme of the Chamber of Princes which was finally adopted and had contributed by subscribing a studied note on the methods of coordination, which reflects his sound understanding of the whole question and his able administrative experience.