

INDIAN NEWSPAPER REPORTS c1868-1942

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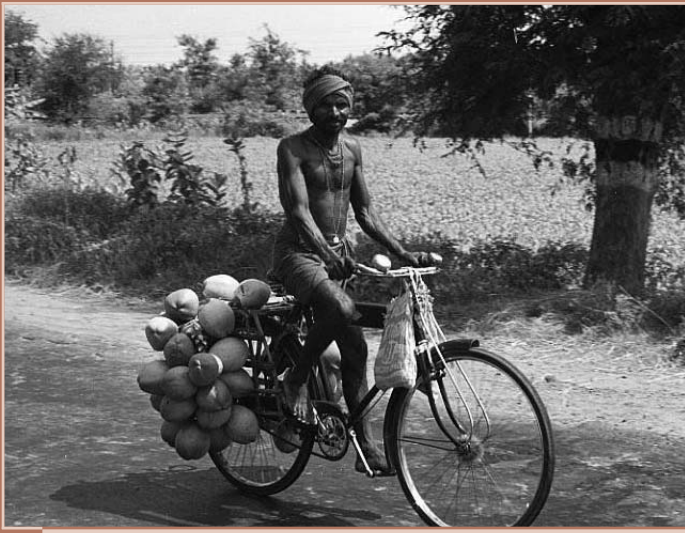
Part 5: Madras, 1876-1921
Part 6: Bombay, 1874-1898

The 'Jame Jamsed' of the 28th July says that to improve the wretched condition of the Indian land-holders and ryots, Government should refrain from imposing heavy taxes on the former so long as they improve their estates and spend money upon them...

An extract from a July 1881 report.



Adam Matthew Publications



Madras (or Chennai as this global metropolis and port city is now known) is of compelling interest for many reasons:

- It is India's fourth largest city and has grown into a large commercial and industrial centre - one of the biggest metropolitan areas in the world.
- It became known as the "Gateway to South India" and developed into a major trade entrepôt and naval base.
- In the story of emerging Indian nationalism, it offers interesting contrasts to cities such as Bombay and Calcutta.
- How important were the early Tamil Revolutionary Nationalists?
- How strong was support for Gandhi in the south?
- How did the provincial politics of the south compare with northern counterparts?
- How were Muslim rights and liberties to be protected?

As well as the Madras Presidency, also covered are the native states of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin, and the French Territories of Pondicherry and Karikal.

The reports contain a wealth of information on subjects as diverse as:

- the Press Act
- inspectors of schools
- village sanitation
- death rate in Madras
- gold mining in Kolar

- Gandhi's programme
- the medical school at Calicut
- sugar industry in India
- Travancore and political reforms

Bombay, known as Mumbai since 1995, is the capital of the state of Maharashtra. It is the world's most

populated city, with an estimated population of 13 million.

It was the East India Company's first port in 1668 and in 1687 became the Company's headquarters. During the

"The 'Andhrapatrika' of 28 March 1918 says: Mr Gandhi preached the principle of passive resistance to the riots of Kaira with the result that the latter submitted a memorial refusing to pay land assessment under any circumstances. The firmness of Mr Gandhi cannot be made light of. It will be well for the Bombay Government to heed the representations of the people at once and do justice...."

American Civil War the city became the world's chief cotton trading market. The opening of the Suez canal in 1869 transformed it into one of the world's largest seaports.

These reports cover the period after the Bombay Municipal Act of 1872 through to Lord Curzon's arrival in Bombay as Viceroy of India, on the last day of 1898.

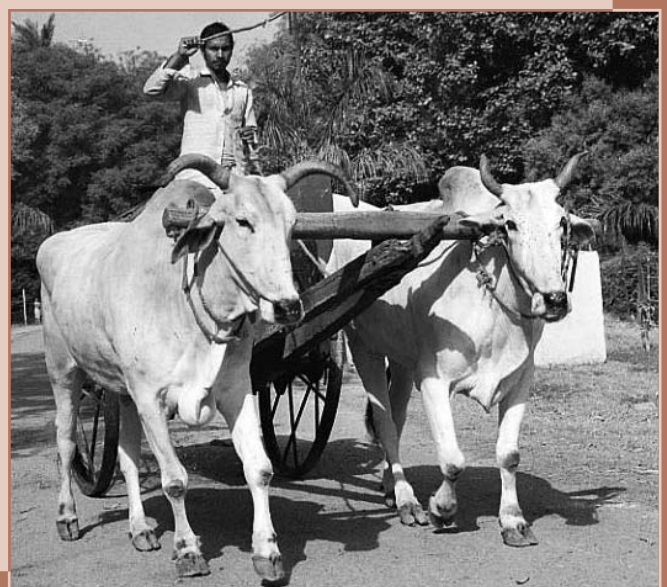
Views of the Bombay Association found expression in newspapers such as *Rast Gofdar*, *Indu Prakash* and *Native Opinion*. An early

complaint was the financial mismanagement of the Bombay municipality and the resultant increase in local taxation. In the early 1870's these Bombay businessmen launched a major ratepayers' reform campaign. The Bombay Municipal Act of 1872 gave ratepayers the power to elect half of the members of the reformed Bombay Corporation, though the franchise qualification remained absurdly high until it was lowered in 1888.

Three lawyers founded the Bombay Presidency Association in 1885. Thanks to their energy this association quickly became a significant political force in the region, discussing local issues and making regular demands in writing to the Government of India.

The reports contain detail on subjects as diverse as:

- the exclusion of Natives from higher posts in the Government
- the state of the roads and lack of lights in Bombay
- overcrowding of railway carriages
- new regulations regarding the manufacture of salt in Mysore
- the Contagious Diseases Act
- noisy street music
- meetings of the Indian National Congress



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