

British Policy Towards The State Of Pudukkottai Since 1919-1935

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Abstract

The aim of this article is highlights about the British policy towards the state of Pudukkottai since 1919-1935. The relations of the British with the Thondaimans were mutual but unravel political relations officially began since 1801. As a result the loyal Thondaimans occupied a subordinate's position and became the depended chief of the British. In actual working the state exhibited certain in fraturnas distantly its own. The Name of the State' Dharma Samasthanam and Agama Sarthiri holding the post of the court prohibit Indicate that the state followed Hindu traitors. But the rulers were at the mercy of the Britishers. In May 1923, the Madras Government ordered the Municipal Councils in the Madras Presidency to exempt the vehicles and animals conveying the ruling Chiefs and their belongings from tolls. The people requested the Durbar to abolish toll-gates in the State also The British – Pudukkottai relations from 1919 to 1935 have been noticed in detail. The Non-Co-operation and Civil disobedience Companions of the 1920 and 1930. Threatened the British Government. The Government have some respect to the views of the Raja and protected the Raja. The Raja was considered as a force in all-India politics in the 'thirties and a gradual relaxation of the hold of the supreme power on the native state was visible. Pudukkottai State began to claim a share in the customs government to ass the 1935 Act.

Keynotes: - Thondaimans, Pudukkottai State, British, Tiruchirappalli, Dewan, Darbar, Madras Presidency.

Introduction

Pudukkottai now the head Quarters of Pudukkottai Taluk and district of Tamil Nadu is situated three hundred and ninety Kilometers (390) from Chennai. Fifty three (53) Kilometers from Tiruchirappalli and fifty seven (57) Kilometers from Thanjavur is one of the ancient regions in the country. The year 1919-20 is a period of importance in the national movement with the ascendancy of Gandhi. Also it produced several reforms. Slowly but steadily the government grew into civil disobedience agitations in early 1930s. These and other factors had great impact on the British rule. The British Policy towards the Native States during 1919-35

had shown clear change. The various changes are taken note of in the following pages.

Hitherto the main tendency had been the extension and consolidation of British rule in India. But from the passing of Montague's Act the main tendency was towards the extension of Indian rule. The new policy was to develop self-government in India on British lines. The legislative were to be representative as well as responsible. To foster common interests and inter connection with British India. A Chamber of Princes was to be established, at Delhi for regular meetings and discussions. In 1919, the British gave the Princes a formal outlet for their grievances in the chamber of Princes. It was inaugurated at Delhi on the 8th February 1921.

Many people desired that the administration of the State of Pudukkottai be entrusted as in England to a Cabinet responsible to the people. In November 1919, the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford spoke, that, in Europe self-government was being established in lieu of autocratic rule. He supported and favoured the idea that responsible government was to be introduced in British India and in Indian States. In 1922, the Raja of Pudukkottai decided to vest the administration of the State in a Regent. Raja Vijay Raghunatha Dorai Raja assumed charge of the Regency in October 1922.

Rajagopala Tondaiman, born on 23-6-1922, ascended the throne of the Pudukkottai state on 19-11-1928. He assumed full administrative power only on 17-1-1928. Alexander Tottenham a great linguist, he could speak fluently in Malayalam, Tamil and English. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1897 and served as the collector of Trichy, Madurai, Ramnad, Chingleput and Madras. For seven Years, he was the second in command at Malabar. With his rich experience of 36 years as administrator he introduced many administrative reforms in Pudukkottai.

The State was under the Madras Presidency. The Head of the Province of Madras was to act as Agent for the Central Government in his relations with Indian States. But in October 1923, the state was brought into direct political relations with the Government of India through an Agent of the Governor – General. The headquarters was at Tiruvananthapuram. The Legislative Council for Pudukkottai was inaugurated by Regent on September, 28 1924. Seventy percent of the seats in the Council was thrown open for election.

On 22.09.1921 some members of the representative Assembly Visited Karaikudi and Presented a welcome address to Mahathma Gandhi. Immediately the Darbar cancel their membership in the municipality and Assembly. In 1924, the Darbar issued an order for creation of Legislative Assembly with Limited Franchise. And it was inaugurated in September 29th. The Assembly was neither representative nor responsive because the Franchise was limited. It had a right to be consulted and a right to warn. The Cut motions introduced were often with drawn. The Heads of the department answered

various raised the members. Generally the members competed with one other in exiting their loyalty to the state.

On the death of Martanda Bhairava Tondaiman, Rajagopala Tondaiman Succeeded to the throne. He was installed by the Agent to Governor General on 19 November 1928. The Tondaiman minor government of India issued orders that the administration of the Pudukkottai State was to be conducted by a Council during the minority of the Raja. The Council consisted of a President, a Dewan and the Chief Judge. The orders of the Council of Administration were to be considered as those of the Darbar. The Raja assumed charge of administration on the afternoon of 28 February 1929, and the council also began to function at the same time. The Regent laid down his office on the first March, 1929, the retired Regent was given a furnished house, a motor car and servant during his life time with a pension of Rs. 1250 per mensem.

T. Raghaviah, Ganapathy Sastri and P.S. Sivagnanam were to function as President, Dewan and Ex-officio member of the council respectively. This council of Administration functioned up to November 1931.

On 4th March 1931, Ganapathy Sastri retired from the service of the State. The Government of India directed that the administration was to be carried on by an administrator. Mr. Holdsworth assumed charge of the administration on November 18, 1931.

Rao Bahadur, E.K. Govndan was succeeded by R. Krishnamachariar as Assistant Administrator. The administration of the State vested in Holds worth assisted by Krishna machariar.

The Vice royal visit to the Pudukkottai provided an opportunity to release the prisoners who had participated in the riots. In the second round table conferences (1931-32) Ragavaigha pleaded on behalf of the state to grant co equal powers between the princely states and presidencies. Muthusammy vallatharisu cop landed about unchanging monotonies administration. On January 3, 1934, Holds worth reverted to British service. With effect from that date, sir Alexander Tottenham was appointed as

Administrator under the orders of the Government of India.

During the period the Government of India regulated the foreign travels of native princes. While abroad on personal affairs the princes were not to participate in official functions. Princes travelling in British territory on Official invitation were to be considered official.

Government of India had ruled that State sepoys and retainers in attendance on a ruling prince were to be regarded as on Duty and as such exempt under entry 2(d) Schedule. Indian Arms Rules. 1924, Four Sepoys were allowed with muzzle loading guns, to accompany the Prince when he was on tour in British India. A Jamendar also was to accompany him.

The Legislative Council for Pudukkottai was inaugurated by Regent on September, 28 1924. Seventy percent of the seats in the Council was thrown open for election. The Office of Assistant Agent at Tiruchirapalli was abolished and the Darbar was to address direct to the Agent – To – the Governor – general, Madras States, Tiruvananthapuram with effect from 1st October 1926.

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The state abounds in several ancient monuments of historical, archaeological and artistic interest. This necessitated the introduction of a Bill in 1929 on the basis of the British Indian Act of 1904. The British Act had been touched up here and there so that it might suit local needs and conditions. In British parts and other places 3 pies were charged per hide for retail sales. The market fee levied in the State for hide in 6 pies per hide. It had been in force since 1898. The Government of India appointed Archaeological, Geological and Scientific Surveyors. When such work was done on behalf of an Indian state as part of the regular programme of a Departmental Survey and where a result of that advice is given to an Indian State no charge was levied on the State. People demanded the Durbar to depute a special officer as in Madras to investigate into the possibilities of Industrial developments and the facilities that could be afforded therefore.

The Pudukkottai Government had not entered into any agreement with the British Government matter of petrol tax. But the State was given a share in the petrol-tax. But the state was given a

share in the patrol-tax collected by the British government for the development of roads within the state proportionate to the quantity of petrol consumed within the state. The contribution from the British Government towards the Road development fund was about Rs. 17,000. The starting of railway lines in Pudukkottai was delayed because of the unwillingness of the king to allow the British another opportunity of spreading their influence. But the laying of Rameswaram line via Madurai served as an eye-opener and the Railway work over a length of about 40 miles (64 kms) was going on in 1928 in the State, and the work was affording relief to a large number of poor people.

In forming roads the Durbar asked the political Agent to mediate and help to extend the State roads beyond its bounds into the British districts. In 1931, the Darbar requested some 30 cents of lands for acquisition of certain lands in the Kolakattagudi Village, Trichirapalli for form the Mathura road from the British district of Trichirapalli. The Trichirapalli district Board had to acquire the land and take possession. Then the land had to be alienated to the Durbar with the sanction of the British Government. But the British Government not prepared to sanction the transfer of any land for the purpose. But the Madras Government allowed the State to form the road acting as the Agent of the District Board. The Sovereignty of over the British Indian portion of the road was to continue to vest in the British Government.

In May 1923, the Madras Government ordered the Municipal Councils in the Madras Presidency to exempt the vehicles and animals conveying the ruling Chiefs and their belongings from tolls. In British India Toll-gates had been abolished and the state alone was retaining them. The people requested the Durbar to abolish toll-gates in the State also. The British – Pudukkottai relations from 1919 to 1935 have been noticed in detail. The Non-Co-operation and Civil disobedience Companions of the 1920 and 1930. Threatened the British Government. The Government have some respect to the views of the Raja and protected the Raja. The Raja was considered as a force in all-India politics in the 'thirties and a gradual relaxation of the hold of the supreme power on the native state was visible.

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