

The legend Marthanda Varma

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Abstract:-- Marthanda Varma the founder of modern Travancore. He was born in 1705. Anizham Tirunal Marthanda Varma rule of Travancore in 1729. Marthanda Varma headquarters in Kalkulam. Marthanda Varma very important policy in Blood and Iron policy. Marthanda Varma reorganised the financial department the palace of Padmanabhapuram was improved and several new buildings. There was improvement of communication following the opening of new Roads and canals. Irrigation works like the ponmana and puthen dams. Marthanda Varma rulling period very important war in Battle of Colachel. The As the Dutch military team captain Eustachius De Lannoy and our soldiers surrendered in Travancore king. Marthanda Varma asked Dutch captain Delannoy to work for the Travancore army Delannoy accepted to take service under the maharaja Delannoy trained with European style of military drill and tactics. Commander in chief of the Travancore military, locally called as valia kapitaan. This king period Padmanabhaswamy temple in Ottakkal mandapam built in Marthanda Varma. The king decided to donate his realm to Sri Padmanabha and thereafter rule as the deity's vice regent the dedication took place on January 3, 1750 and thereafter he was referred to as Padmanabhadasa Thrippadidanam. The legend king Marthanda Varma 7 July 1758 is dead.

Keywords:-- Marthanda Varma, Battle of Colachel, Dutch military captain Delannoy

INTRODUCTION

Anizham Tirunal Marthanda Varma was a ruler of the Southern Indian state of Travancore from 1729 and his death in 1758. He was most celebrated for crushing the Dutch expansionist designs at the Battle of Colachel in 1741 Marthanda Varma, was a most powerful ruler in the Travancore state. This research paper deals. With the life and his successful administration during this period.

EARLY LIFE

Anizham Tirunal Marthanda Varma Warli born in 1705. To queen Karthika Thirunal Uma Devi and Ragava Varma of Killimanur royal house. Queen Karthika Thirunal an adoptee from the kingdom of Kannur in the north was the senior queen of Attingal at the time. The state was ruled by chief Ravi Varma during this period.

ADMINISTRATION

The Rajah 's following was small and his authority so that the Ettuvittle Pillaimars and madampimars were more independent rulers of their own estates. Anarchy prevailed in south Travancore to a sad extant which was further intensitied by the regicidal proclivities of these Petti chieftains and the Yogakkars a body of managers of the temple of Sri Padmanabhaswamy owning enormous landed and commanding the influence and power which go with it. The young rajah of fender years, he set himself to put down with a strong hand the lawlessness of these disloyal chief.

In consequence he had earned their undying hatred and his life was more than once attempted. He sought the aid of the

English and the Dutch and would have completely quelled the rebels but for the timidity and weakness of his uncle the king who completed him to desist.

Men of real worth were selected to fill offices of trust and responsibility. Arumugan Pillai, the acting Dalva and his officer of high merit, was confirmed and Kumaraswamy Pillai, abrave and veteran soldier, was made the commander in chief with Thanu Pillai, the Dalawa's brother as his assistant. In the palace was establishment. Rama Iyen an intelligent and honest Brahmin youth of the state itself, was appointed Rayasom(under secretary) an office of great trust and difficulty in those times.

Marthanda Varma reorganised the financial department, enforced economy in every branch of the state expenditure and improved the army. The regiments were increased in number, better discipline was enforced superior arms were supplied and a better sense of loyalty and obedience was infused among the rank and file with a strong and well disciplined army of his disposal, the young maharaja thought the maintenance of the Trichinopoly forces an unnecessary drain on his treasury and there upon disbanded it, and in its place he soon raised an army of marvas.

Besides decisive military victories, Marthanda Varma brought about administrative reforms within the state revenue, budgetary and Puplic works sectors amongst others known as chempakaraman Pillai, reorganised the commercial sector and monopolized the spice trade. New roads and inns were opened throughout the state with military outposts.

Marthanda Varma also made villages the most basic sector of the kingdom and created a post known as the mandapathu

vathikkal similar to improving agriculture in the state. The portions of land lying east of Nagercoil Kanyakumari called nanjil nadu was considered the granary of Kerala due to its extensive cultivation of paddy rice. The fertility of this area was only due to the irrigation facilities introduced by Marthanda Varma. His edicts on the subjects of irrigation issued between 1729 and 1758 fill several pages in Travancore land revenue manual by R.Mahadeva Iyer. Only due to the digging of new canals for irrigation during his reign, the single- crop paddy fields of that area became double - crop fields almost doubling their production.

Pallikondan dam, Chattuputhoor dam, Sabari dam, Kumari dam, and Chozhanthitta dam, all on the river Pazhaya in the vicinity of Nagercoil, were constructed by him and are still operational. Near Bhootappandy, Chattuputhoor dam, was constructed and a new channel named puthanarru was dug from it migrate the Thovalai areas. Puthan dam, built by him near Padmanabhapuram, provided drinking water to that area.

The region of Marthanda Varma saw the introduction of some important administrative reforms. It was the Raja's good fortune to have been assisted in the task of administration by able loyal ministers of the calibre of Ramayyan Dalawa. The administrative system was improved considerably several works of public utility were undertaken all over the kingdom. The palace at Padmanabhapuram was improved and several new buildings like the Krishnapuram palace were constructed. There was improvement of communication following the opening of new roads and canals. The improvement of agriculture received the special attention of the raja irrigation works like the Ponmana and Puthen dams were executed. The letter while irrigating vast areas, of land also supplied drinking water to the inhabitants of Padmanabhapuram and suburbs. A number of canals reservoirs and tanks were also constructed in order to provide water for irrigation purposes. The defence system received the special attention of the ruler forts were built in important centres like Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum etc. The old forts in palace like Quilon, Mavelikara, Changanacherry etc. were repaired.

The collection of revenue received the special attention of the raja. In 1739 Mallan Sankaran of Palliyadi was appointed on special duty to effect the settlement of lands both wet and dry. The classification of lands under the main heads of Devaswam, Brahmaswam, Dannam and Pandaravakd was introduced by Mallan Sankaran. The double crops lands were assessed at twice the pattom for single croplands. Every land holder was given a patta specifying the tax levied on each item of land. The commercial department of the kingdom

was reorganised. The government reserved for itself the monopoly of trade in such articles as pepper, tobacco, cassia, areca, etc and built depots at different places to store these articles chow lies or customs houses were setup on the frontier in order to prevent smuggling. Special care was taken to collect export and import duties..

Marthanda Varma reorganised the system of administration with the village under the pravarthikar as the lowest unit. The pravarthikar was the man of all work attending to all affairs which required the attentions of the state at the village level. A group of villages constituted the mandapathu vatukkal which was under the Karyakar who was the prototype of the modern thasildar. An important innovation introduced by Marthanda Varma was the framing of the annual budget called the Pativukanakku allotting specific sums of money for various items of public expenditure.

BATTLE OF COLACHEL

After thus defeating the Dutch, the maharaja turned his attention to Kayankulam. When the greater portion of the Travancore forces was concentrated on Kayankulam, fresh reinforcements arrived from ceylon with which the Dutch invaded the Travancore territory. They handed off Tengapatnam, Cadiapatnam, Midalam and other places in south Travancore force was concentrated in the north and as the attack of the Dutch in the south was unexpected, several villages into their hands and they marched to Eraniel unimpeded committing atrocities all along the way. When the maharajah heard of this he marched to the south abandoning the northern expedition and ordered Rama Iyen Dalawai to join him at Padmanabhapuram. But before the arrival of the Travancore forces the whole country between Colachel and Kottar surrendered to the Dutch, who meeting with no opposition made preparations to take Padmanabhapuram. The maharajah, however, arrived at Padmanabhapuram just in time to avert the impending capture of his capital. He raised a fresh regiment of Nayars and incorporated them with the regular stationed there. Soon after Rama Iyen arrived with his whole force from the north. The Dutch lost heart on seeing the Travancore army so soon before them. The famous battle of Colachel was fought on the 15th karadagam 916 M.E(32st July 1741-AD)and the Dutch were completely defeated. They retreated to their ships deserting their fortifications. At Colachel and leaving their dead comrades on the Battle - tiled. The Travancore army took 24 prisoners, besides 389 muskets, a few pieces of cannon and a large number of Swords. In the meantime the Dutch fleet hastened back to Cochin.

It was just before this battle that the maharajah had sent ambassadors to the French at Pondicherry to conclude a treaty of friendship and mutual help. He promised the French the grant of lands at Colachel and other places for constructing factories. But as the Dutch were completely defeated and that without much effort, the negotiations were dropped. Thought the battle of Colachel was thought in 1741, peace with the Dutch was finally concluded and ratified by the Batavian government only on the 18th October 1748.

The Dutch prisoners were very kindly treated and they decided to stay and take service under the maharajah. It is said that some of the descendants of these Dutch soldiers are still found in Travancore. These two Dutch men played a very conspicuous part in the subsequent history of Travancore and their military genius and fidelity to the maharajah were of the utmost value to him In his subsequent expeditions and expansion of territory. The first Delannoy commonly known in Travancore as the Valia Kappithan(great captain) was in the manner of an experiment entrusted with the organisation and drilling of a special regiment of sepoys this did very successfully and to the achievements of this particular regiment. Delannoy was next made a captain and entrusted with the construction of forts and the organisation of magazines and arsenals. He reorganised the whole army and disciplined it on European models. Gave it a smart appearance and raised its efficiency to a very high order. About this time Nagercoil, Suchindram and Kottar were invaded by chanda sahib and baba sahib, two relatives of the Nawab of Arcot, dost alikhan their object was the acquisition of some territory for the nawab's son.

VICTORY PILLAR

Near the coast of Colachel stand the pillar of victory which gives details about the war. This pillar is made of granite and is 15 feet in height. On the top of the pillar, the kingdom of Travancore symbol of valampuri shank is engraved also the following inscription is found.

CULTURE AND RELIGION

Padmanabhaswamy temple Thiruvananthapuram was re-created as the gigantic structure of today and new state ceremonies such murajapam, Bhadra deepam and others were introduced by Marthanda Varma. The main idol of the shrine, which was mostly destroyed in a fire during his predecessor rama Varma's time Was also reconstructed using salagramas imported from nepal. He also created ottakkal mandapam as well as the Sheevelippura. Out of the seven floors of the temple gopuram, five were finished during his regin.

As a result of the annexation of neighbouring places, the artists and scholars from these palaces migrated to trivandrum, turing it into a cultural centre. Marthanda Varma gave patronage to different temple art forms including Koothu, Padhakam, Kattakli, thullal and Koodiyaattam, noted art such as Ramapurathu warrier and Kunchan Nambiar amongst others served as his court poets.

CONCLUSION

Marthanda Varma the founder of modern Travancore succeeded his uncle at the early age twenty three. At the time of his accession the state of Travancore was for from happy. There were no organised department for the transaction of state business.