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The Author

Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil

BY

H. D. DARUKHANAWALA

Author, "Parsis & Sports"

With a Foreword by

THE RIGHT HON. THE MARQUESS OF WILLINGDON

P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.,

Ex-Viceroy & Governor-General of India

AND

An Introduction by

Mr. J. R. B. JEEJEEBHOY, J.P.

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PREFACE

MY first work *Parsis and Sports* having achieved wide interest, I have been encouraged to bring out another book entitled *Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil* and have no doubt it will be received with an equal degree of enthusiasm and interest by the reading public and especially by the members of the Parsi Community.

The present volume, in the preparation of which I have spent no less than three years, claims to be almost an exhaustive record of the lives and doings of some of the greatest of the Parsis who have contributed largely to the moral and material advancement of the community.

Some books are designed for instruction, others for entertainment and information. The present volume combines all these features, it being replete with valuable materials compact in form, unequal in merit, authentic and readable. It aims at satisfying that natural and laudable curiosity of the human mind which seeks to trace back great results to their springs. No effort has been spared to make this publication educative, interesting and attractive—many thanks to the learned contributors.

My first duty is to express my sense of deepest obligation to the Rt. Hon. The Marquess of Willingdon for so kindly writing a Foreword to this book which will, I am sure, receive some sort of dignity on account of its association with His Lordship's name. The community still remembers with pleasure the noble Lord's kindness and courtesy during his stay in India, and the recollection of his many acts of goodwill will ever keep his memory green amongst them. The Parsis are proud to own him as one of their sincerest friends and well-wishers, and His Lordship's appreciation of their merits will be cherished by them with legitimate pride and honour.

My thanks are also due to our well-known historian and antiquarian Mr. J. R. B. Jeejeebhoy, J.P., for his illuminative Introduction and for supplying me with facts about men and matters and for the invaluable assistance rendered to me in general in the preparation of this book. I am further obliged to him for putting at my disposal some old and interesting pictures and portraits which have been reproduced here for the first time and which in a large measure enhance the value of this publication. I have no hesitation in saying that but for his help my task would have been unsurmountable.

With these words due to my patrons I release this work for the judgment of the reading public, a work which embodies in a handy form the varied activities covering a period of the last three centuries of the Parsi Community which has by its brilliant deeds and achievements cast such a refulgent lustre on the Indian soil.

P. O. Box 279
BOMBAY, 13*th June* 1938

H. D. DARUKHANAWALA



The Right Honourable The Marquess of WILLINGDON
P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G, G.C.I.E., G.B.E.
Ex-Viceroy and Governor-General of India

FOREWORD

BY

LORD WILLINGDON

P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E. G.B.E.

NOTHING could give me greater pleasure than to write a short 'Foreword' to a book which tells us, through an account of many of its individual leaders, the romance of the history of the Parsi community from the time that they left their original homeland in Persia and established their headquarters in India in the city of Bombay.

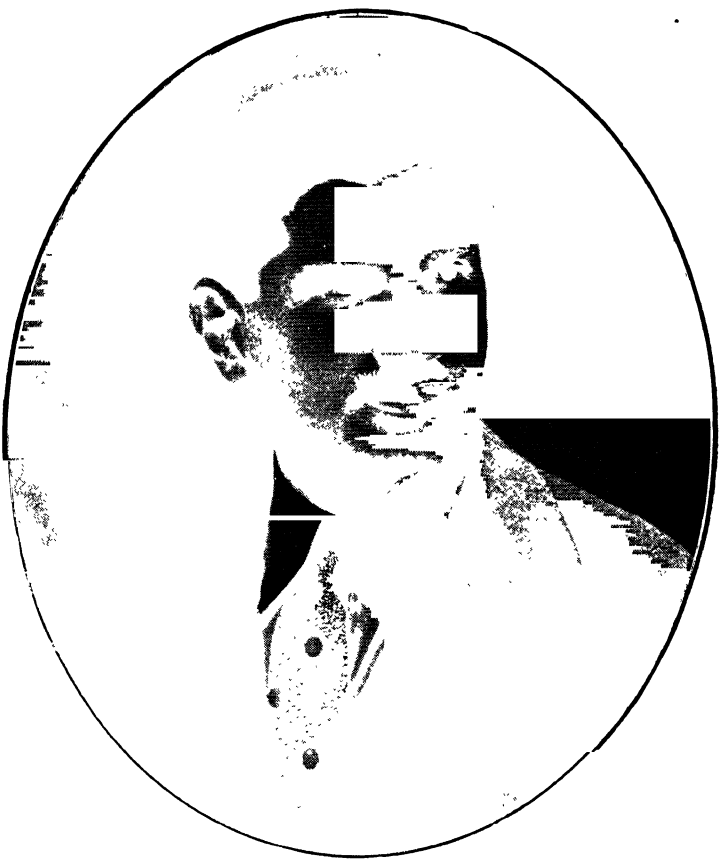
Mr. J. R. B. Jeejeebhoy's admirable and most interesting introduction gives us an historical account of their many adventures and activities from the early days of their sojourn in India up to the present time, and mentions many names of old friends of mine who have been great leaders in the political, industrial, commercial and social life of the country, men and women who have been pioneers in the general development of India whether from the business and social side of lives of the people, or in the regions of sport and play.

My close association with many members of the Parsi community began in the year 1913, and I am glad to have this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the constant help and encouragement I received from them during the six years of my life as Governor of Bombay, and their unfailing friendship and kindness to me during the further ten years that I lived there as Governor of Madras, and as Viceroy of India.

The romance of the Parsi community in India will always remain in my mind as one of the most interesting recollections of my life there. Arriving as they did as strangers long years ago, they have completely identified themselves with the land of their adoption, and though their community is a small one, infinitesimal compared with the great Hindu and Mahomedan communities that live alongside them, they have produced outstanding leaders who have exercised great influence over the public life of the country. My confident hope is that they will continue to exercise that influence in the future, and help their fellow citizens steadily and surely to move forward to their goal of Dominion Status, complete partnership in the British Commonwealth of Nations with the other Dominions under the Crown.



WALMER CASTLE,
DEAL, KENT,
23rd May 1938.



Mr. J. R. B. Jeejeebhoy, J.P.

The Author of the Introduction

INTRODUCTION

BY

MR. J. R. B. JEEJEEBHOY

IT would have been more expedient had the task of writing an Introduction to this excellent publication been entrusted to some alien hand not connected with the community whose achievements it records. A non-Parsi would have been in a better position to estimate and extol the accomplishments of this community, without being considered egoistic, than a Parsi himself whose tributes to his own co-religionists, though based on real facts, cannot but savour of egotism and partiality. But if that egotism is deriving its nutriment out of the authenticated pages of old records and historical documents, and the comments passed are within the bounds of truth and justice, the author could then express his opinion freely without the stigma of ostentation or vanity being attached to what proceeds from his pen.

The object of this book is to give in a nutshell the stories of the wealth, intellect, industry, activities, social, civic and political, and of the pioneering work done by some of the progenitors of the Parsi community, of their romantic rise from obscurity, their splendid enterprise and their manifold achievements. The reader is taken through the by-lanes of the history of this interesting people and not through its grand route, and pages abounding in the records of the social, industrial and political advancement of this microscopic community have scarcely before been presented to the public. The author has very admirably crystallized into a small compass the scattered items of information about some stalwarts of the community who have done yeoman's service to the country as social reformers, political leaders, captains of industry and large-hearted philanthropists. The spirit of their faith, enterprise and perseverance had enabled them to rapidly wing their way to the highest pedestal of honourable notoriety; their patriotism and philanthropy will ever remain enshrined in the grateful recollection of the sons and daughters of this magnificent land and their exemplary conduct which has now been brought to the notice of the present generation ought to be imitated by all as their model in life.

The year 641 was a very disastrous one in the history of the Parsis. In that year their ancestors in Iran were defeated by the Arab conquerors at the Battle of Nihavand and the mighty Persian Empire was levelled to the ground. The proud victors gave the

defeated Zoroastrians two alternatives, the Koran or the Sword, and although the magnificent splendour of a mighty Empire had just then been extinguished and all hopes of domestic felicity were shattered to pieces, the grandeur of the Persian heart, their zeal for their ancient religion, their indomitable courage and their heroic impulses could neither be subdued nor crushed. The spectre of misery, death and destruction was staring them in the face but the illustrious sons of Jamshed and Noshirwan had still glowing within their bosom so much fervour for their faith, and so much enthusiasm for their own race that they cast the boon and promise of ready emancipation to the winds and preferred to die and perish as true Zoroastrians on the altar of their religious convictions. A large number of them were therefore put to the sword, others fled the country for some hospitable shores while many who were more wordly and practical than pious and patriotic, took the verses of the Koran on their tongue—*La ilaha illa-l-lah! Muhammadur-Rasul-elah*—while in their heart of hearts were enshrined the sacred doctrines of Zarathustra—*Humat Hukhat Hwarasht.*

The Persian Empire was thus doomed and a handful of its subjects, the surviving remnant of an imperial people, molested and persecuted, as mentioned above, but with national characteristics intact, crossed the Ormuz and after great vicissitudes and hardships for a number of years, at last sailed towards the western coast of India until they reached the bountiful territory of Jadav Rana, the Prince of Sanjan.

Even about fifty or sixty years before the catastrophe, the *ramal-kars* or soothsayers, had predicted the downfall, and a band of Parsi refugees are said to have left the *madarvatan* to seek their livelihood in some foreign land. Fortunately for the refugees who reached India the tenderness and compassionate feeling of an alien people assuaged the pangs of their banishment and they found in the Indian monarch a kind-hearted, generous and veritable friend in need, tolerant and considerate. As the poet has sung :

> "*Like instincts by nature to each other turn,*
> *Demand alliance and in friendship burn.*"

Having been himself descended from a warlike race reputed to be upright and liberal-minded, hospitable and kind, the king was, as mentioned by an historian, struck with the demeanour of the refugees, martial in body, heroic in mind, heroic even in their terrible decline and downfall, loyal to their Prophet, loyal to their ancestors, loyal to their name and loyal to their religion. And who would not have extended an asylum and a helping hand to the last remnant of such a noble and mighty race, banished ruthlessly from their fatherland and deprived of their sacred books and literature? In their new abode these exiled people eked out a precarious existence and then migrated to different parts of the country. The whole of

the East at that period was slumbering in ignorance and superstition. To the new-comers that sleep proved infectious and they could achieve very little then. But although placed at the bottom of the revolving cycle of civilization, these most ancient monotheists and iconoclasts of the world, preserved with their life-blood their national and religious traditions, and their ancestral inheritance,—pluck, industry, enthusiasm, courage, enterprise, probity, foresight, initiative, —qualities which stood them in good stead several centuries thereafter. Edrisi, for instance, in 1153, says that they were "remarkable for their industry and intelligence." The spark of these inborn but dormant characteristics burnt in their bosom with a dim light for a large number of years and on the advent of the British in India it burst into a veritable pillar of fire.

From the commencement of the seventeenth century the English began to arrive on the banks of the Tapti for purely commercial pursuits and within a few years built up a large trade between England and India. Their mercantile activities kindled the inherent faculties of the Parsi immigrants for commercial enterprise and they also gradually extended their trading operations. As for their industrious aptitude let us judge them out of the pen of old historians :

Mandelslo states that about 1638 they were "engaged in mercantile pursuits" and that they were "bankers, shopkeepers and were following various other trades." Ogilby (1670) calls them "very ingenious." Alexander Hamilton (1710) says that they were "good carpenters or ship-builders, exquisite in the weavers trade and embroidery" and Carstan Niebuhr in 1764 speaks of them as"skilful merchants" and "industrious artisans." James Forbes(1770) says in his *Oriental Memoirs* that "many of the principal merchants and owners of ships at Bombay and Surat are Parsis..the best carpenters and shipwrights in India are of this tribe," and adds: "Active, robust, prudent and persevering, they now form a very valuable part of the Company's subjects on the western shores of Hindustan where they are...highly esteemed." Stavorinus (1774) says that "several among them...are rich, and may be counted among the principal merchants." We may conclude these eulogistic references to ancient Parsi traders by repeating the memorable words of Sir James Mackintosh, who was Recorder of Bombay from 1804 to 1811: "The Parsis are a small remnant of one of the mightiest nations of the ancient world, who, flying from persecution into India, were for many ages lost in obscurity and poverty, till at length they met a just Government under which they speedily rose to be one of the most popular mercantile bodies in Asia."

Thus we see that after the advent of the British in India the dormant qualities that lay concealed in the Parsi bosom for several generations obtained free scope. It was a Parsi, Hirjee Readymoney, who was the first from India to go to China in 1756 and build up trade connections between that country and this. It was a Parsi, Lowjee Wadia, who

built the first Dockyard in Bombay in 1750 and thus accelerated foreign trade. It was again a Parsi, Dadybhoy Nosherwanjee, who first opened a Cotton Screw in Bombay in 1776 and thereby gave a fillip to the then textile industry in this Presidency. The pioneering Parsis of those days first spread their trade all along the Malabar coast, afterwards extended it to China and England and almost all parts of the world and have produced within the last two centuries merchant princes like the Readymoneys and the Banajees, the Wadias and the Dadyseths, the Jamsetjees and the Camas, the Jeejeebhoys and the Petits, the Meherjees and the Patels, the Adenwallas and the Tatas, names which have elevated the Indian people to the dignity of a commercial nation.

As years rolled on the Parsis made themselves indispensable to the English who ever since their arrival in India looked upon them for support and co-operation. The responsible post of Broker to the East India Company, for instance, was enjoyed by a Parsi, Rustom Manek, in the last quarter of the seventeenth century, and in 1688-89 when the Siddis invaded the island of Bombay it was a Parsi, Rustom Dorab, who rendered signal assistance to the beleaguered inhabitants. About a decade earlier when the English first established a mint in Bombay they were in want of a good coiner and they at once hit upon a Parsi, Ratanjee of Surat, "an able workman." And what happened in the beginning of the nineteenth century during the French War, when the Bombay Government was in great financial difficulty? A Parsi, Pestonjee Bomanjee Wadia, stood by them, helped them at a most critical period and was chiefly responsible for averting a big crisis.

The catalogue of services rendered by this small band of exiled Zoroastrians to their Government, their city and their country, is too crowded to be repeated in detail and we can only touch here the most important items.

The honour of introducing gas light into India falls to the lot of a Parsi, Ardesar Kharsedjee Wadia, who for the first time lit his Mazagon house with gas on 20th February 1834. Similarly the first private residence in Bombay to be installed with special electric dynamo, was that of his grandson, the Hon'ble Mr. Naorojee Wadia, in 1897. Jamsetjee Tata was the first Indian to own an automobile in Bombay in the closing years of the last century.

The distinction of establishing the first Spinning and Weaving mill in India goes to a Parsi enthusiast, Cowasjee Nanabhoy Davar, who opened the Bombay Spinning and Weaving Mill in 1854 and thus laid the foundation of Bombay's future greatness and prosperity. It was the success of this venture that induced Ranchodlal Chottalal to start the first cotton mill in Ahmedabad and Cowasjee Davar may therefore be said indirectly to have been the creator of the Gujerat mill industry as well. The inauguration of the Hydro-Electric Works in this Presidency and of the Iron and Steel Works

in Bihar by that prince of industrialists, Jamsetjee Tata, in a spirit of national service, has completely revolutionised Indian industry, and the illustrious founder's name will be chronicled in letters of gold in the economic history of modern India of which assuredly he was one of the makers.

In the field of journalism also the Parsis have held their own Although a Printing Press was set up in Bombay so long ago as 1675 and about a century earlier in Goa, nothing definitely is known about them, but about a hundred years later one Rustomjee Kersaspjee published a Calendar for the year 1780 which fact evoked decades later the remarks from the *Bombay Times* that "it is particularly creditable...to the Parsis who have shown themselves the most enterprising of our natives that one of their number should have provided us with the first Printing Press established in India." Similarly the first vernacular press opened in this Presidency in 1812 ---the *Bombay Samachar* Press---was by Fardunjee Marzbanjee who was also the pioneer of Indian journalism. The first Indian journal in Western India, the *Bombay Samachar* was published under his editorship and proprietorship on 1st July 1822. It may be interesting to record here that the first individual in all India to obtain Certificate, in 1879, for Pitman's Shorthand was Mr. Nanabhoy Chichgar, a reporter of the *Times of India* and his success induced others to attain this lucrative distinction. Thus we see that the influence that this community exercised in all departments of life by its pioneering work is out of all proportion to its microscopic number.

From the earliest time the Parsi mind was impregnated with the idea that moneys planted in the soil of benevolence grew into harvests of prosperity. Suffering humanity seldom fails to touch his noble and generous heart. Ovington who was here so far back as 1690, writes in his book that the Parsis "assist the poor and are very ready to provide for the sustenance and comfort of such as want it. Their universal kindness, either in employing such as are ready and able to work, or bestowing a seasonable bounteous charity to such as are infirm and miserable, leave no man destitute of relief, nor suffer a beggar in all their tribe." And Carstan Niebuhr, describing the Parsis of 1763-64 states that they "make common contributions for the aid of their poor, and suffer none of their number to ask alms from people of a different religion." The pages of this volume will reveal that nothing has brought more fame and prominence to the Parsi community than its charities, more cosmopolitan in their character than communal. The Parsi loves his God through his neighbours and relieves himself by relieving distress. Go where you will, whether in large cities or small villages, there will be found, especally in the Bombay Presidency, either an asylum for the poor, or an hospital or a dispensary or an educational institution or at least a well, owing its origin to the munificence of a philanthropic Zoroastrian who knows no distinction of communities and whose benevolence is universal and extended to all mankind.

The most glorious page in the history of a people is that of education. During the Governorship (1819—1827) of Mountstuart Elphinstone, a wave swept through this Presidency and academic institutions were reared on the island under the patronage of the Bombay Education Society, and elsewhere, to reclaim the youths immersed in the darkness of ignorance and superstition. The Parsis' minds and souls were stirred by the new movement and their eyes first caught the glimpse of the illumination which they welcomed with fervid enthusiasm. And when the first great step in the history of Education in this country was taken in 1854 by the issuing of the celebrated Despatch and the opening of the Universities a few years later, there was laid the foundation of a democracy in which a large number of our countrymen who had been kept in utter darkness, came to the forefront awaiting to be lifted up from the mire of ignorance in which they were engulfed. A number of raw Parsi youths of those days formed an integral part of that noble democracy. They were early on the scene in recognizing the boon of knowledge which in a few years' time transformed them into scholars and gentlemen. Educated, polished and refined, they left no stone unturned to impart it to their female relatives, and the enlightened Parsi has been instrumental not only in promoting the intellectual and social condition of his community but also the political, economic and social advancement of his country in general.

Said Lord Sinha from his presidential chair of the Indian National Congress, in 1915 :

" Bombay has set the political fashion and has been the leader of political thought in India not only for the last thirty years but for all time that there has been any political thought in British India."

This city has thus earned the golden opinion mainly because of the influence of Parsi stalwarts who have played the leading part in the political history of this land. They had a hand in the establishment of the Indian National Congress and in shaping the administrative constitution of the country. Men like Dadabhai Naoroji. Mancherjee Bhownaggree, Shapurjee Saklatvala, the only Indians who have been hitherto returned to the British House of Commons, have enhanced the reputation of their community by voicing the grievances of the Indian people before the British public ; Pherozeshah Mehta, the Father of the Bombay Corporation and the leader of political thought in India, has rendered yeoman's service to India in general and to this Presidency and city in particular, in the local and Imperial Councils ; and men like Sorabjee Bengali, Naorojee Fardunjee, Dossabhoy Karaka, Manackjee Cursetjee, Byramjee Malabari, Kaikhasru Kabrajee, Dinsha Wacha, Pheroze Sethna Cowasjee Jehangir, Hormasjee Mody, Khoorshed Nariman and others, not to speak of those outside Bombay, such as Rustomjee of South Africa or Cowasjee of Rangoon or Hormasjee Mody of Hongkong or Jamshed Nusserwanjee of Karachi, all of whom have,

imbued with the spirit of service, given their quota for the uplift of India and the Indians and for the promotion of the happiness of all the many races and classes who inhabit this country. India would have developed no doubt without the efforts of these Parsi publicists but it might be said with confidence that it might not have developed so rapidly.

A perusal of the life-sketches of some of the individuals mentioned in this book will reveal how by a series of events scarcely paralleled in romance, tiny acorns have grown into mighty oaks whose foliage has afforded shelter to all without any distinction of nationality. Men of humble means just on the threshold of their life with scarcely a rupee in their pocket and perhaps unencumbered by decent clothing are known to have risen to positions of great eminence, financially, socially and intellectually, and have bequeathed their noble example to the present generation to reflect and to emulate We take two instances, those of Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, the prominent philanthropist, and Dadabhai Naoroji, the Grand Old Man of India. Their rise in their respective spheres is too wonderful, too instructive, too exemplary for words and presents before us a picture to study and to contemplate. The story of their struggle with poverty is nothing but heroism precisely of that type which captivates the heart even more completely than it dazzles the imagination. Deprived early of their parents and left solely on the fatherhood of God, they were armed with a breast that would not harbour any thought of despondency or despair. They realized that Providence gave every bird its food but that it did not throw it into its nest. With courage, frugality, industry, integrity and persevarence, qualities inherited from their distant forbears, these two lads paved their way onwards remembering the words of Carlyle that the gods have placed sweat in front of wealth and knowledge. Success ultimately crowned their genuine efforts and both these personalities have left their impress on the social and political life of this country, the former as the first Indian Knight and Baronet and a great philanthropist, and the latter as an ideal patriot and the Father of Indian *Swaraj*.

The history of a people, to quote Carlyle again, is the biography of their great men. The life-sketches contained in this instructive volume give us a faint outline of the history of the Parsis for the last hundred years and more. The heroic deeds of some of the great ones of the community chronicled in these pages, the story of their pursuit in search of existence, their moral courage and self-reliance, and lastly their exploits, will ennoble the mind of the reader and he will be left to wonder how this exiled band of ancient Persians could ever have, within such a short period of civilization and education, achieved in all walks of life, what the nations, even of the West, had taken centuries to accomplish. The explanation is clear. They lived in the purity of heart conscious of their strength, they lived humbly, soberly and happily, they forgot the pride of self, they had their hand on the plough and realized the dignity of labour, they were

honest and frugal, hard-working and persevering, they identified themselves with all the beneficial reforms and far-reaching influences of Western culture, they kept their purse-strings loose and lightened the burden of their neighbours, they swerved not, even in the midst of slaughter and fury, from their ancient creed which has survived for thirteen centuries all the vicissitudes of time and fortune, in short, they attuned their heart-strings to their God and their religion, and they have so far succeeded not only in saving Parseeism from utter extinction but by adding to its laurels, have restored it to the high pinnacle of its pristine glory.

The Cliff,
The Ridge,
Malabar Hill,
BOMBAY
28th February, 1938.

J. R. B. JEEJEEBHOY

Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil

Being an Account of
Parsi Religionists, Philanthropists, Politicians, Professionals, Historians, Scholars, Educationists, Officials, Reformers, Pioneers, Industrialists, Merchants, etc.,
of
Olden and Modern Times

THE PARSI PRIESTHOOD

By Sir J. C. COYAJEE, Kt.

BEHIND the modest and humble figure of the Parsi priest are to be found ancient traditions of high achievement and great efficiency. The ancestors of some at least of our priests must have borne a share of that revenue and judicial administration of the Sassanide Empire which extorted the admiration even of their Arab successors. Besides the duties of ceremonial character it was the priests who were charged with the work of national education. The head of the priesthood—the Chief Mobed—had, as Prof. Clement Huart has put it, " the supreme direction of religious matters and a decisive voice in questions of dogma and church policy." He was in a very real sense the keeper of the King's conscience. By his side stood the Chief Herbed who represented the priests attached to the fire-temples. We possess seals of some great priestly dignitaries of those days in the museums of London and Berlin—of " the administrator of the Royal magazines of Iran " and " the Chief Magiahs."

Even when political troubles drove the Parsis to India, the priesthood signalised their importance in the comparative obscurity of the time. To them is due the very preservation of Parsi religion and scriptures with their interpretation. For had they not kept up the traditional interpretation of the scriptures, the European savants could never have performed their great task of a proper interpretation of the Zoroastrian faith. The great Neriyosang Dhawal and his followers set up a notable school of Awesta and Pahlavi studies in Sanjan which translated the old texts into Sanskrit and thus prepared the ground for the future labours of our philologists. They were the very backbone of the community and applied a break to the tendencies of the community to assimilate itself to the native masses in whose midst they dwelt. Their functions had shrunk indeed from the days when they administered, judged and educated Iran; but still the remaining functions were ample and were exercised efficiently and conscientiously.

In our own day these functions have shrunk unduly and are now limited to the performance of religious ceremonies, and as time goes on the importance even of that ceremonial sphere is diminishing. That is indeed most deplorable. The spiritual, religious and social problems of the day are creating new tasks for the priesthood, which are of vital importance to the community. We see how throughout the advanced countries of the West the priestly class supplies the daily and weekly spiritual food required by the masses in the shape of sermons, discourses and exhortations. The community cannot afford to leave religious teaching and its tasks to occasional volunteers. The moral law is most important not only for religious life but for all conscious life. As has been well observed, it is " spiritual truths which give ultimate meaning to life, which serve as the basis of

universal moral law and furnish the values by which all personal and social behaviour is finally judged." The interpretation of the doctrines of Zarathushtra in the light of developments in the world should certainly form the main task of our priesthood—one for which they are well qualified by hereditary training and aptitude.

But besides this work there is the great task of religious research. How is our religious body to be kept up-to-date, how are the great and eternal truths of our faith to be vindicated and defended in the light of comparative religion, and against historical criticism, unless some at least of our priests keep up the work of research in the religious sphere? It is therefore a pleasure to notice that a small but select body of our priests have been trained to the task. And yet what are they when compared to the magnitude of the work lying before us in the shape of excavations in Persia proper, of the study of old Armenian traditions, of the examination of documents recovered from the sands of Turkestan and the examination and searching of Chinese literature of yore for forgotten legends and cults of old Iran?

But while only a few can work at such a task, a far larger number of our priests must work in another sphere—the organization of intelligent philanthropy. When once the proper objectives of charity have been determined the priesthood with its personal knowledge can find out whom the charity should seek to benefit. Here many factors have to be borne in mind, e.g., the biological welfare of the race, and the possible contribution of religion to philanthropic methods. Prof. William J. Kerby has emphasized what a glorious part the Catholic priesthood has borne in starting and working orphan asylums, hospitals, homes for erring women, homes for the aged and for victims of incurable diseases, and even schools for vocational training. Prof. Todd has also noted that "not a little of the best in so-called organized philanthropy (both spirit and methods) is traceable to the work of St. Vincent de Paul." The characteristic of his work was "to make the benevolent impulse effective through vision and organization. This was the scientific spirit." It is in this spirit and with their wide and detailed knowledge of individual circumstances and conditions that the Parsi priest is to take up his place in the scientific and well-directed social service. It is of the very nature of a church to co-operate in all charitable - nay, in all altruistic—work. While all questions of technique might well be left to the social sciences, the individual elements of charity might well be retained by our clergy.

There still remains to notice another sphere of work which might well claim far more attention from our priesthood—viz., the duty of visiting the sick and the dying and affording them spiritual consolation. This is a task which has been performed admirably by Christian clergy of all denominations and for ages. It is an essential part of the duty of the clergy in Christian countries to

attend to the sick, the ailing and the dying. In one of the most touching passages the poet Goldsmith thus describes a true clergyman's efforts in this direction :

> " Beside the bed where parting life was laid,
> And sorrow, guilt and pain by turns dismayed,
> The Reverend Champion stood ; at his control
> Despair and anguish fled the struggling soul,
> Comfort came down the trembling wretch to raise,
> And his last faltering accents whispered praise."

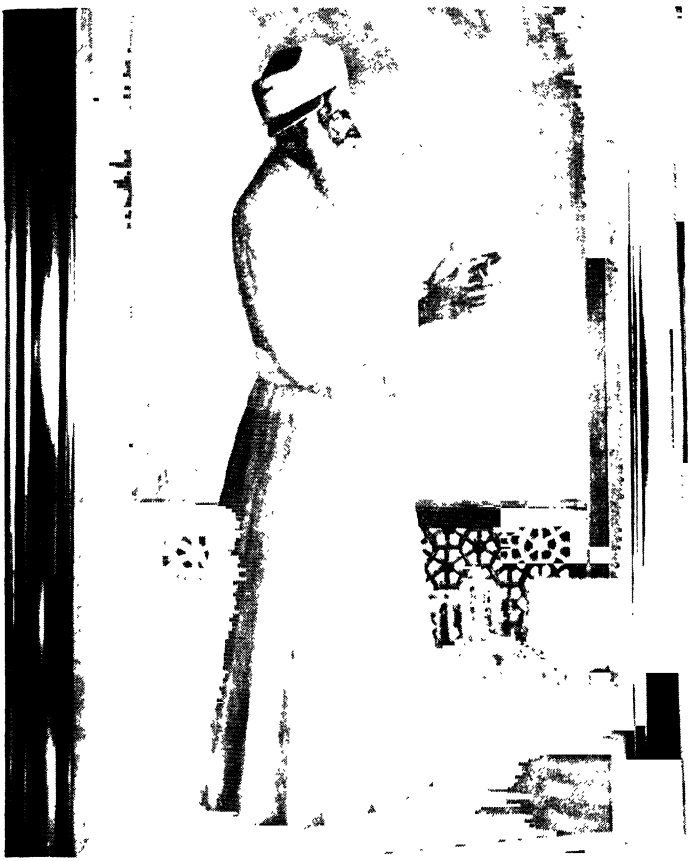
I am informed on good authority that such duties were performed by Parsi priests in the past. There is no reason why at the present day the good work should not be carried on in the proper spirit. There can be no nobler task for the spiritual energy of our priests.

But for this variety of tasks our priesthood has to be properly trained. And in the first place we must separate those young men who are suited for the sacred calling. For this purpose schools should be organized at centres like Udwada and Navsari where our great reserves of intellectual energy are at present running to waste We must make the most of these accumulated reservoirs of intellectual and spiritual energy and prevent them from being lost irretrievably. After six or seven years of general training we should separate those who are evidently called to the spititual vocation. The rest should be passed on to the " Handels Hochschuel " which should form the apex of the institutions. Such technical institutions should form the nurseries for future Tatas. Those who are to be trained for the sacred calling should be passed on to the Cama School for priests at Andheri which should be suitably strengthened so as to include courses on Theology, Philosophy, Iranian History and last but not least, on Social work. It is in this way that our budding clergy will be adjusting themselves to modern methods of thought and work. There they will learn to satisfy the present day spiritual needs and to do social work on modern scientific lines. There should be at least three scholarships at that institution for students going abroad for higher training in Research, in Theology and in Social work. Here is an urgent want which appeals to Sir Dorab Tata's, the Wadia's and other Trust funds—such research, preaching and social work among Parsis would be copied by other Indian communities. Thus any support which they gave to the movement cannot be accused of having a parochial or communal trend. Rather it will bear a hundredfold fruit from the national aspect by educating the whole nation in the elements of truly religious and philanthropic efforts.

But for the rest the Parsis have to educate and reorganize their priesthood—and while exacting a higher standard of work and capacity, to assure a higher standard of living and assured incomes. We might have to find resources for this—resources from that consolidation of our charitable trusts—resources which if well and wisely utilized are sufficient to raise at once the fortunes of the community and the efficiency of Parsi priesthood.



Religious disputations at the Court of Akbar. Akbar and Jehangir are seated on the platform. Opposite to them the white-bearded figure has been identified as Dastoor Kaikobad, son of Dastur Meherji Rana, by Father Heras. Mughal miniature of the Shah Jehan School, Size : 8-2/5" by 5-4/5". (*Collection of Mr. A. C. Ardeshir.*)



Portrait of Dastur Meherji Rana (?) reconstructed in standing posture by Mr. J. A. Lalkaka from the Group on the opposite page.



Copyright.

A group of Sufi Mystics engaged in religious discourses among whom is Dastur Meherji Rana, seated on the left side of the central figure. Contemporary Mughal miniature dated 1576. Size: 15″ × 15½″ (Collection of Mr. A. C. Ardeshir.)



Copyright

The Central figures and Dastur Meherjee Rana (on the right) enlarged to the actual size of the Mughal painting from the group on the opposite page.

Portrait of Dastur Meherji Rana, the earliest extant portrait of a Parsee in India, from a contemporary Mughal painting, dated 1576.

By A. C. ARDESHIR, M.A.

In his monumental work "The Parsees at the Court of Akbar and Dastur Meherji Rana" the late Sir Jivanji Jamsedji Mody has conclusively proved from the evidence of contemporary histories and documents, confirmed later by various sources, the following facts:—

(1) That the Indian Parsees of Naosari had gone to the Court of the great Mughal King Akbar at Agra and had explained to him the religion of Zoroaster and that these Parsees had taken part in the religious discussions at the famous *Ibadatkhana* or the House of Worship specially built by the king for this purpose.

(2) That the religious discussions commenced in 1576 and as far as the Parsees were concerned ended in 1579, when Shaikh Mubarak, in conjunction with his sons Faizi and Abul Fazl had drafted the unique document by which Akbar was certified to be "a *mutjahid*, that is, an infallible authority in all matters relating to Islam."

(3) That from 1579 the king openly adopted sun and fire worship and in 1582 he established the fourteen holidays and adopted the calendar according to the manner of Zoroastrians.

(4) That Dastur Meherji Rana (whose adoptive name was Mahyar bin Vachcha) was the head of the Naosari Parsees and the leader of the party that had gone to Akbar's Court and that in recognition of his services Akbar had granted him two hundred *bighas* of land under a special *firman* (document of grant).

(5) That Dastur Meherji Rana died in 1591.

Sir Jivanji Mody has also proved from the manuscript notes by Monsieur Anquetil Du Perron taken in India in 1755-61 that Meherji Rana first met Akbar in 1573 at the royal camp during the siege of Surat, that he was specially sent for, from the neighbouring town of Naosari as the great king "was curious to know the religion of the Parsees" and "he found only the Dastur Meheriar, son of Rana (of Naosari), who was able to explain the law to him." Dr. Vincent Smith in his history of Akbar, the Great Mughal, says on page 163 that "it is not clear whether the Dastur accompanied on his (Akbar's) return to the Capital in 1573 or followed him later but the Parsee scholar certainly took part in the debates of 1578 and went home early in 1579."

Rev. H. Heras, S.J., our great scholar, historian, and antiquarian, in the Journal, Bombay Branch, Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. III, has written a very able monograph with illustrations on "three

Mughal paintings on Akbar's religious discussions." In the painting reproduced here on page 44 Akbar and Jehangir are seated on a platform and opposite to them are two old men, one of whom he has identified as Dastur Meherji Rana and the other as a Hindu Sannyasi. The platform is situated in a garden and the hill behind has been identified as that of Fatehpur Sikri. The other disputants Mohammedans and Hindus, are seated on the ground below in a semi-circle. The reasons given by Rev. Heras for the identification of Meherji Rana are (1) the long flowing white *jama*, the white *pagdi* or turban and the long beard which he considers are " characteristic notes of a *Mobed*," (2) the aquiline nose which he considers " also denotes Persian origin " and (3) " several dishes with bread, fruits, and other eatables and four lights—two of them placed on the imperial dais itself " being " candles covered with a wire bell or cover " and he opines that " these lights in the middle of a meeting during day cannot be explained but through Parsee influence that was the guide of Akbar's proceeding for a time."

At a later date Father Heras has appended the following note in connection with this identification :—

" A more careful examination of this painting, long after I read this paper before the Society, inclined me to suspect that the Dastur represented there is not Dastur Meherji Rana. He was at Akbar's Court from 1578 till 1579, when Prince Salim was at most 10 years old. Now the painting in question represents Prince Salim as a youth over 20. Hence the Dastur opposite to him cannot be the Rana. Yet I have no doubt that he is a Dastur. On the other hand we know that the Rana's son, Dastur Kaikobad, also was for a time Akbar's guest. In 1595 Akbar granted 100 *bighas* of land to him in addition to the 200 granted to his father (Cf. Modi, o.c., p. 8). By this time Prince Salim was 26 years old. Hence the Dastur of this painting may be Dastur Kaikobad, the son of Dastur Meherji Rana." Unfortunately, before this correction was observed a large oil-painting, reconstructed in a standing posture from this painting was made by Mr. J. Lalkaka, the famous Bombay artist and this was placed in the " Atash-Behram " or principal Fire Temple at Naosari, where Dastur Meherji Rana had officiated as head-priest over 346 years ago. This oil-painted figure therefore does not represent the great Dastur."

Fortunately all the Mughal paintings illustrated by Father Heras are now in my collection. I have studied the painting referred to above very thoroughly and from my long and varied studies and examinations of Mughal paintings, I find it a little difficult to accept the portrait of the ancient as being " beyond doubt " that of a Parsee priest. The long flowing white *jama*, the white *pagdi* or turban, the long beard, and the aquiline nose may all appropriately belong to a Mohammedan as well, as can be seen from the other figures in the three pictures illustrated by Father Heras. The lights on which

Father Heras relies so strongly are only a convention used in Mughal paintings to indicate that the scene was a night scene, just as the starry sky or the moon also served the same purpose. I have many miniatures in my collection, all depicted with full light, but which are night scenes indicated only by the symbols mentioned above. The best example of this may be seen in Mr. Percy Brown's "Indian Painting under the Mughals," illustration xxxiv—subject—"The call to prayer at night," where the entire picture is bathed in full light as if it were a bright sunny day but only the two candle lights (one "with a wire bell or cover"), the crescent moon, and the starry sky indicate that it is a night scene. The dishes of bread, fruit and other eatables are generally found in Mughal paintings, especially in groups of holy men. One such painted illustration is reproduced by Mr. Percy Brown in Plate LI., a night scene labelled "priests in council." Then again this ancient "wears big round ear-rings" as Father Heras himself has noticed and very similar ear-rings are worn by some of the other disputants in this picture. Moreover the hill cannot be that of Fatehpur Sikri, which Akbar abandoned in 1585. Another perplexity in this painting, subsequently dated 1595 by Father Heras, is that the ancient is a very old man, certainly bordering on 60, and if he was Kaikobad then at that date his age would be 60. Sir Jivanji Mody under the chronological list of events in the life of Dastur Kaikobad, gives 1619 as the date of his death and which is probable, as the Dastur had composed verses addressed to the Emperor Jehangir, "48 years," to use his own words, after the taking of Surat" (1573). This would mean that even after allowing for the probability that he died in the same year, the age of Kaikobad would be nearing 84 when he wrote those verses. Another fact that must be born in mind is that the miniature is of the Shah Jehan School and is therefore not a contemporary painting. It is a later copy of an original. In view of all that I have said above, while the possibility still may exist that the portrait is that of Dastur Kaikobad, it cannot be accepted as being "beyond doubt" that it is the portrait of a Parsi Dastur.

I have however another Mughal miniature, illustrated here on page 46 bearing on the same subject. Fortunately it is dated in two places, one in very minute letters on the trunk of the tree and the other in bold letters on the *hashiya* (frame of the picture) below the picture, the respective dates being "in the 21st year of the reign of Akbar," and "the year 987 of the *Hijra*" or the Muhammedan year. Those dates computed in our present era are 1576-77 A.D. and 1579-80 A.D. respectively. The painting is beyond doubt a contemporary miniature of the Akbar School as any expert can testify at a glance. The subject of the painting is a group of men engaged in religious discourses or recitations. The central figure is that of a Muhammedan *sufi* or mystic, who has been assailed with the same "fits of religious frenzy" as Akbar himself had in 1578

and which has been testified by contemporary historians and Dr. Vincent Smith. The name of this mystic was given in minute letters but the essential portion has been deliberately rubbed off by some fanatic and only the titles are allowed to remain, stating that " this is the auspicious portrait of the holy and all-knowing master."

This inscription is again repeated in bold letters on the *hashiya* at the top and is in the same handwriting as the date on the *hashiya*, below. It states that " this is the picture of the auspicious assembly, self-explanatory (explaining to you) held in the presence of the great *Khwaja* of *Khwajas*, the protector of Hindustan, may God be pleased with him." One wonders who this greatest of all spiritual persons was at this time, for Shaikh Selim Chisti was dead. Could it be Shaikh Mubarak, father of Faizi and Abul Fazl, a mystic of the Mahdawi Sect, who earlier had been persecuted for his religious views and for his liberal tendency, by the clique of the *Ulamas* whom Akbar hated so much. Whoever he be, the person seated on his left is " beyond doubt " a Parsi. He wears a red *pheta* with a yellow band worked in design, and which to this day is worn by many Parsees. The dress too is like the modern coat (or *Sahya*) and trousers worn by the present-day Parsi. Even the red collar and cuffs are there, the only difference being that the red is shown inside the cuffs and not over them. Here undoubtedly we have the earliest known portrait of a Parsi in India and this in the reign of Akbar during the years 1576-79 as the two dates prove. His light complexion, brown eyes, and distinctive racial features stamp him as a Parsi beyond the least shadow of a doubt, and he belongs to an entirely different community from the rest of the group, consisting mostly of Muhammedans and a few Hindus.

Who is this Parsi ? His name too was minutely written on the small pillar of the white railing on his right side. It was coated over with black paint by the same individual, who had scored off the name of the central figure. I tried to rub off the paint and succeeded in partially recovering a few mutilated letters in Persian, but even after going to the furthest possible limit without actually destroying the paint or paper and having the painting enlarged by a photograph, the name unfortunately was not decipherable. The only readable portions were at the beginning and the end, with a word in the middle and these were deciphered with great difficulty by an expert as follows :—

" *Shabeeh* (portrait of)..*Mashq* (work of)..*Wanth* (Daswanth)."

From this it appears that the painter of this magnificent miniature was the famous Hindu artist Daswanth of whom it is mentioned in the " Ain-i-Akbari " of Abul Fazl that early in life he used " to draw and paint figures even on walls " and by accident " one day the eye

of His Majesty fell on him, his talent was discovered" and he was handed over for training to Khwaja Abdus Samad, the master of the school. In a short time he surpassed all the others and became "the first master of the age." The deciphering of the signature is most fortunate, for separate miniatures of this famous painter are extremely rare, and as he died in 1584 another link in the chain of evidence is established regarding the subject of the painting and the characters portrayed therein. It is unfortunate that the name of the Parsi is not decipherable. However the picture itself gives us a clue to the identity of this individual of a different creed, who in a religious assembly of Muhammedans, is given the second highest place of honour. Court etiquette during the rule of the Mughal Emperors was very strict and this we see definitely in all Mughal paintings of Durbars, and formal assemblies of groups of holy men, princes, and courtiers, where each person is placed in his correct position and pose according to his status. Even the heir-apparent among the Mughals was never allowed to sit in Durbars in the Emperor's presence and Jehangir in his Memoirs makes a specific mention of this, when as a special case he departed from this age-long family tradition and rule by allowing Shah Jehan a chair in Court assemblies near his throne (Page 395, Vol. I, Translation by Rogers and Beveridge). All paintings of durbars, without any exception, amply prove the strict rigidity of court etiquette. In paintings of groups of holy men, even the Emperor takes second rank being placed on the right hand of the sage, while princes and courtiers are seated at respectful distances. So this highly honoured Parsi must be a Dastoor and the head of the Indian Parsees of Naosari who came to the Court of Akbar between 1576-79, and the dates on the painting coincide correctly with the historical dates, for as stated above, the religious discussions "commenced in 1576 and as far as the Parsees were concerned ended in 1579." This portrait therefore must be that of the venerable Dastur Meherji Rana, who, in the words of his son Kaikobad, in the verses addressed to the Emperor Jehangir, was "a weak old man at the foot of (His Majesty's) throne" an additional fact distinctly corroborated in this painting (Page 164 of Sir Jivanji Mody's Book quoted above).

If the first date, written in minute letters, on the trunk of the tree, namely 1576-77, is the correct date, then it lends support to the fact that the Dastur accompanied Akbar on his return to the capital in 1573 after the siege of Surat, where the Emperor first made the acquaintance of the Dastur. This is fully borne out by Kaikobad's verses and Monseuir Anquetil du Perron's notes, both referred to above. If however the second date 1579-80 is the correct date, then it corresponds with the last year of the discussions on religion, as far as the Parsees were concerned. This date however has been added by a later hand and a mistake may have occurred in computing the *hijra* year from the regnal year. Such mistakes or discrepancies, when added by a later hand, are not uncommon in Mughal paintings.

But apart even from the dates mentioned, the style and characteristics of the picture, depict an early period at any rate before 1580.

The facts however remain, as Dr. Vincent Smith, the famous historian of the Emperor, has said, that "Akbar probably found more satisfaction in Zoroastrianism, the religion of the Parsees, than in any other of the numerous religions examined by him so critically in his odd detached manner" and that Dastur Meherji Rana's "eminent services at court to the religion of his fathers justly won the gratitude of his colleagues at home, who formally recognised him as their head, an honourable position which he held until his death in 1591." Moreover "Akbar rewarded him by a heritable grant of 200 *bighas* (over 100 acres) of land as subsistence allowance (*madad-i-maash*) which after his death was increased by one half in favour of his son. The deeds of grant are in existence. The Dastur taught Akbar the peculiar terms, ordinances, rites, and ceremonies of his creed, laying stress above all things on the duty of reverencing the sun and fire. A sacred fire prepared according to Parsee rules, was started accordingly in the palace and made over to the charge of Abul Fazl who was held responsible that it should never be extinguished." Dr. Smith quotes Sir Jeevanji Modi's treatise as the leading authority for Akbar's relations with the Parsees and considers it "excellent and convincing." Then again our painting is corroborated by his statement that "Akbar was by nature a mystic, who sought earnestly, like his *sufi* friends, to attain the ineffable bliss of direct contact with the Divine Reality, and now and again believed or fancied that he had succeeded." (Chapter VI, Debates on Religion.)

Marshalling up the above facts there can be little hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the figure depicted in the painting is the earliest extant portrait of a Parsee in India and that it is the portrait of the great Dastur Meherji Rana. The red *pheta* might puzzle many people, as the present head-gear of the priests is a white turban but the court dress of the Parsi priest may be different from his dress at religious ceremonies and Father Heras, who has seen my painting, has arrived at this conclusion, in which I fully concur. In Mr. Chester Beatty's famous Akbarnama, Rudolph Acquaviva and another Jesuit appear in the *Ibadatkhana*, debating with Muslim divines before Akbar, in dark brown Persian hats like the modern Fez without a tassel, even though ordinarily they may never have worn such hats. (Plate 36. The Library of A Chester Beatty—A catalogue of Indian Miniatures by Sir Thomas Arnold and J. V. S. Wilkinson, Vol. II). However in the case of Parsi priests we have no data that they necessarily wore white turbans in that age and certainly many Kadmi priests from Moola Feroze bin Kaus to some of our present day priests, always wore a red *pheta* with a shawl round it instead of the ordinary band. Up-to-date, in books written on "The Parsees in India," the *pheta* was supposed to have been introduced into India from Persia by the first Kadmi high priest Moola

Feroze, who had gone to Persia for his education. This painting is a complete refutation of this belief, for the Parsees wore *pheta* in Akbar's time. What Moola Feroze really introduced from Persia was the conical *pheta* with the shawl round it, as seen in his portraits. Another interesting and unique fact which the painting reveals is that the modern Parsi dress has undergone very little change from the days of Dastur Meherji Rana. The white *jamah* and the shining black or dull maroon spotted turban worn by the Parsees was borrowed later on from the Hindus, the turban being brought to its present starched state under Chinese handling.

The Most Revered and Saintly Dasturan—Dastur Meherji Rana of Navsari

(1510—1591)

Who went to the Court of Akbar and Impressed on the Emperor the Truth of the Zoroastrian Religion

The name and memory of Dastur Meherji Rana have been, for centuries, cherished by his co-religionists in India, and the story of his life is by no means unfamiliar to those European scholars who have taken any interest in the small community of Indian Zoroastrians.

Meherji Rana has been a by-word in the Parsi community of India since the day he was appointed First Dastur in 1579-80 in appreciation of the extremely valuable and unique services rendered by him to the Zoroastrian religion and Parsi community at the Religious Conference held by Akbar—the Great Mogul.

The exact date and year of his birth is not known; probably he was born in or about 1510. After the death of his illustrious father—Rana Jeshang, he was the leader of the whole Parsi Anjuman of Navsari, as can be seen from the *Revayats* brought from Persia and from other documents. In 1573, the Behedins of Navsari had granted him as their religious head an *Inami Jaghir* near the town.

On several occasions, doubts were raised as to whether Meherji Rana had at all gone to the Imperial Court of Akbar at Delhi. But the historical truth about his having been mainly responsible for inspiring the Emperor Akbar with an enthusiastic admiration for the faith and institutions of the ancient Persians can be traced back to very early times.

There is a long list of references both in Persian and Gujarati by several writers* of distinction to Meherji Rana's relations with Akbar, in which there is nothing whatever that is improbable.

Mr. Malabari in his "Gujarat and the Gujaratis" says: "The Dastur in India was a beneficent power even in Akbar's time. Those who have read of Meherji Rana need not take the account for a mere rhapsody."

Prof. Shapursha H. Hodiwalla, M.A., of the Bahauddin College, Junagadh, in his forceful letters published in the *Bombay Gazette* in August 1896 over the signature of "Edie Ochiltree, Junior," logically proved that it was Dastur Meherji Rana who was solely responsible for making a very favourable impression on Emperor Akbar of the truth of Zoroaster's doctrines and his great religion.

* Dastur Darab Pahlan, Herbad Jamshed Kaikobad, Dastur Shapurji Sanjana, Sohrabji S. Bengali, Dosabhai Framji Karaka, Mancherji Hormasji Kama, Bahmanji B. Patel, Byramjee Malabari, Dara S. Dastur Meherji Rana and several others.

Thereafter in 1903 Shams-ul-ulema Dr. Sir J. J. Modi, in his great historical work "The Parsis at the Court of Akbar and Dastur Meherji Rana" finally decided, *inter alia*, that Dastur Meherji Rana himself had explained to Akbar the tenets of the Zoroastrian religion and influenced him to such an extent that the Emperor openly worshipped the Sun and the Fire, etc.

In 1917, Mr. Vincent A. Smith, M.A., M.R.A.S., late of the Indian Civil Service, in his important book "Akbar—The Great Mogul, 1542-1605" speaks about Zoroastrian influence upon Akbar as under :—

". . . . . Akbar's principal teacher in Zoroastrian lore was Dastur Meherji Rana, a leading mobed or theologian from Navsari in Gujarat, then the principal centre of the Parsi priesthood in India, whose acquaintance he had made at the time of the siege of Surat in 1573, when the Imperial Army was encamped at Kankra Khari. Even at that early date, Akbar was so eager to learn the mysteries of Zoroastrianism that he extracted all the information he could from the Dastur, and persuaded him to come to Court in order to continue the discussion. It is not clear whether the Dastur accompanied Akbar on his return to the Capital in 1573 or followed him later, but the Parsi scholar certainly took part in the debates of 1578 and went home early in 1579.

"His eminent services rendered at Court to the religion of his fathers justly won the gratitude of his colleagues at home, who formally recognized him as their head, an honourable position which he held until his death in 1591. His son who succeeded him also visited Akbar. Old Parsi prayer-books of the eighteenth century are extant which include the name of Dastur Meherji Rana among the most honoured benefactors of the Zoroastrian faith.

"Akbar rewarded him by a heritable grant of 200 *bighas* of land as subsistence allowance (*madadi-maash*, which after his death was increased by one half in favour of his son. The deeds of grant are in existence. The Dastur taught Akbar the peculiar terms, ordinances, rites, and ceremonies of his creed, laying stress above all things on the duty of reverencing the Sun and Fire. A sacred fire, prepared according to Parsi rules, was started accordingly in the Palace and made over to the charge of Abu-l-Fazl, who was held responsible that it should never be extinguished . . . . . "

It would be interesting to reproduce here the famous song composed by Miyan Tansen, the famous minstrel of the Court of Akbar in connection with this event.

The Dasturan-Dastur died on 1st November 1591 Roj 8th Depader, Mah 12th Asfandarmad, 960 Yezdezardi.

રાગ—સારંગ.

'ઇઆહૂ પારશી પઢેશો કબૂલ,
ઇઆ ઘણી પારશી પઢેશો કબૂલ,
અગરકી પીઠ ચંદન લપેટેઉ,
જેશોઇ શૂખડ પડે.

ઇઆહૂ પારશી પઢેશો કબૂલ,
લંબી લંબી દાહાડી શાહ મેહેરીઆર,
તેરી મૂખપર બરશત નૂર,
ઇઆહૂ પારશી પઢેશો કબૂલ.

કેહેનો મીરાં તાનશંગ,
શૂનો શાહ અકબર,
ઇઆહી બેહેશતકો ફૂલ,
ઇઆહૂ પારશી પઢેશો કબૂલ."

Dasturan-Dastur Darabji Mahiarji Meherji Rana of Navsari

(1857—1907)

" The Pope of the Parsis "



Dastur Darabji who has been aptly described as such by his contemporaries, revived after three centuries, the glorious name of his illustrious forefather Meherji Rana, after he ascended his spiritual *Gadi* as his 13th successor in 1873 at the tender age of 16.

He had a very good and attractive physique and his strong and handsome features lent considerable dignity and impressiveness to his general appearance which was full of lustre. He was brilliant in his conversation and his forceful personality drew towards him a large circle of friends and admirers from all communities—both young and old, rich and poor.

The maturity of thought he showed at an early age was remarkable. He scrupulously observed the best traditions of communal and public life and was always generous in appreciation of his opponents. But his was a crown of thorns. As the Head of the "Samast Bhagarsath Anjuman," his whole life was spent in troubles and worries and in his staunch fights in maintaining his Anjuman's and his own prestige, rights and privileges, in spite of his lean resources and poor purse. Through all these difficulties, he never lost heart, nor set aside the ideals and principles which he had made his own. He always expounded and expressed his religious views fearlessly.

The Dasturjee Saheb was the rare embodiment of simplicity, sincerity, selflessness, self respect, religious orthodoxy and spiritual lustre. Pride, pomp, pleasure and glitter of gold dared not enter his threshold. His dignity was enhanced by his hereditary poverty and the cheap, plain white cotton 'Pichhodi' (scarf) which outshone the ostentation of woollen and brocade shawls of other Dasturs, He sacrificed his all and even incurred debts in fighting the cause of his Anjuman, but at the same time he was very anxious to see that others' rights were respected and not encroached upon.

When the late Seth Nassarwanji R. Tata built the "Tower of Silence" well-known as Tata's *Dokhma*, at Navsari in 1878, he had invited Sir Richard Temple, the then Governor of Bombay on that religious occasion. An Address was then presented to His Excellency which was read by young Dastur Darabji of twenty, and he made such a strong impression upon Sir Richard that the latter described him as a "picturesque priest," the Governor being much impressed by his magnetic personality.

As the head of the *Head Panthak*, he was well respected by other *Panthaks*. As the leader of all the communities of Navsari, he was honoured by all—Hindus and Muslims alike. The late Mr. Romesh Chandra Dutt, Prime Minister of Baroda, who was pleased to visit him several times during his sojourns at Navsari, "was highly impressed with the simplicity and piety of this High Priest and his Deputy."

Maharaja Sir Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda, who held him in high esteem, had conferred upon him the great honour of First Grade *Chhatri-Masal* for which the then Sir Jamsetji Jeejibhoy, 3rd Baronet, thanked the Maharaja personally on behalf of the whole Parsi Community at the Dinner given to His Highness at the Ripon Club, Bombay.

On the felicitous occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty King-Emperor Edward VII, he was awarded a Certificate of Merit "as Head of the Parsi Community," which can be seen from the photograph thereof on the next page.



By Command of

His Excellency the Viceroy
and
Governor General in Council

This Certificate

is presented in the name of

His Most Gracious Majesty

King Edward VII.

Emperor of India

to

Dasturji Dorabji Mahiarji Meherji Rana,

in recognition of his High position as

Head of the Parsee Community

M. J. Meade Lt.-Colonel,

1st January 1903. Resident of Baroda.

Dastur Darabji first visited Bombay in 1902 when an unprecedented ovation and honour were given to him by all sections of the Parsi Community.

On his return from Bombay, an unparalleled reception was given to him at the Navsari Station by Government and the general public, and he was taken to his residence with all pomp and cavalcade befitting a royal personage. Never had Navsari seen such a gathering of her citizens and witnessed so many of the distinguished leaders of various communities, all anxious to pay honour and respect to one who was by common consent the greatest of her sons.

The Dasturjee Saheb had predicted his death and died in 1907 at the premature age of 50 leaving the Anjuman in grief and chaos. Indeed he was a mighty influence for good in our religious, social and civic life. The funeral was most impressive and was attended by men representing every class of the cosmopolitan population of Navsari.

Dasturan-Dastur Kaikobad Darabji Dastur Meherji Rana

(Born 1895)

The Present High Priest of the Whole Bhagarsath Anjuman



Dastur Kaikobad was born at Navsari—" the Rome of Parseeism "—and succeeded his illustrious father Dasturji Darabji Mahiarji in 1907 when he was only 13 years of age. His early education began in the well-known " Talati's Parsi Boarding School " at Deolali. Subsequently he acquired knowledge of Zend-Pehlavi from the veteran Avesta Scholar Ervad Bamanji N. Dhabhar, M.A., of Mullan Phiroze Madressa, Bombay. Dastur Kaikobad is an intelligent young man possessing good command over the Gujarati, Hindustani and English languages and is an effective speaker. It is really a pleasure to hear him speaking both at communal and cosmopolitan meetings.

He is the President of *Samast* (whole) Parsi Anjuman at Navsari and takes keen interest in all public matters, religious and social.

The Bhagarsath Anjuman are indebted to him for their present democratic constitution, which came into force on account of his whole-hearted co-operation with the leaders of the community. It must be stated to his credit, without fear of contradiction, that in all important questions that came before the Bhagarsath Anjuman during the last 30 years, Dasturji Kaikobad has always respected the views of the majority and is a " prime mover " in all matters—social, religious, etc.

He is the Chairman of the Bhagarsath Committee and of the Board of Trustees of the Fire Temple and other religious Institutions of the Bhagarsath Anjuman at Navsari. Being a firm believer in the truth of the old maxims—' Summum Bonum ' (the greatest good of the greatest number) and ' Vox populi, Vox Dei ' (the voice of the

people is the Voice of God)—Dasturji Kaikobad has acquitted himself creditably in all the important and burning questions that cropped up during the long period of his Dasturship. For all the valuable services rendered by him, the Bhagarsath Anjuman has resolved to embellish the magnificent Hall of the Atash Behram Building at Navsari with his oil painting.

Shams-ul-Ulma Dastur Dr. Peshotun Beheramjee Sanjana, M.A., Ph.D. (Tubin)

(1829—1898)

A High Priest of Bombay and a Scholar



From his earliest years he was inclined towards religious education and had published several learned volumes on the Zoroastrian Religion. He was the Head Priest of Seth Wadiaji's Atash Behram and stuck to his post upto the last. He was the first Parsi to be elected a Member of the German Oriental Society in 1864. He was a Delegate of the Parsi Matrimonial Court and a Fellow of the Bombay University. He has published eight volumes of the translation of the Dinkard which is considered a really monumental work. For his high acumen he was decorated with the Shams-ul-Ulma, the first Parsi to get the distinction.

Dastur Dr. Jamaspjee Minocherjee Jamaspasana

M.A., Ph.D. (Tubin), D.D.L (Oxon.)

(1830—1898)

Parsi High Priest of Bombay, the Punjab and Aden, and a Distinguished Pehlavi Scholar



The Dasturjee Saheb began life as a teacher and all his life he laboured zealously and untiringly in spreading knowledge of the Zoroastrian religion among his co-religionists. He published a

number of books of importance which proved him to be proficient in the literature and religion of his people. His Pehlavi Dictionary attracted considerable attention among the savants of Europe and after its publication he came in contact with many well-known European scholars and Orientalists. On account of his proficiency many Honorary Degrees were conferred upon him. He was a Fellow of the Bombay University and the Head Priest of the Anjuman Fire Temple, Bombay. His portrait hangs in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

Shams-ul-Ulma Dastur Dr. Darab Peshotun Sanjana, B.A., Ph.D. (Germany), J.P.

(1857—1931)

A Profound Avestic and Pehlavi Scholar and the Author of Several Masterly Treatises



The Dasturjee Saheb graduated in 1880 and did advanced work in Avesta and Pehlavi and for his proficiency won a Gold Medal. He also studied German, French and Sanskrit and was a Fellow of the Bombay University. His most important publications are the Dinkard, Volumes X to XIX. On the death of his father in 1898 he was appointed Head-Priest of the Seth Wadiajee Fire Temple and in the year following the Principal of the Sir Jamsetjee Zarthosti Madressa. For his scholarship he was awarded the title of Shams-ul-Ulma by the Government of India and the degree of Ph.D. by the University of Marburg (Germany). A volume in his honour was published in 1925 to which a number of European and American scholars contributed.

Desaiji Saheb Khurshedji Tehmulji of Navsari ("Khurshedji Bapa")

(1698—1779)

The right of performing various religious ceremonies and rituals was enjoyed by the Bhagarias of Navsari for two centuries. But they were put to considerable trouble when these rights were encroached upon from outside. Khurshedji Bapa Saheb championed their rights, and established what has since then been known as the "Bhagarsath Anjuman." Even to-day the Bhagarias think of the Desaiji Saheb with grateful remembrance for his efforts and attainments in reviving and re-establishing their rights by making important documents with the Gaekwars of Barod.

As the Desaiji had rendered very valuable services to the Gaikwars and to the British Government, the latter besides giving him a permanent Guarantee (Baidhari) granted him a political pension of Rs. 2,400 per annum to last for three generations. The Baroda Government granted him the right to use, and an annual stipend for the maintenance of, *Palkhi* and *Masal*, besides other rights and valuable lands.

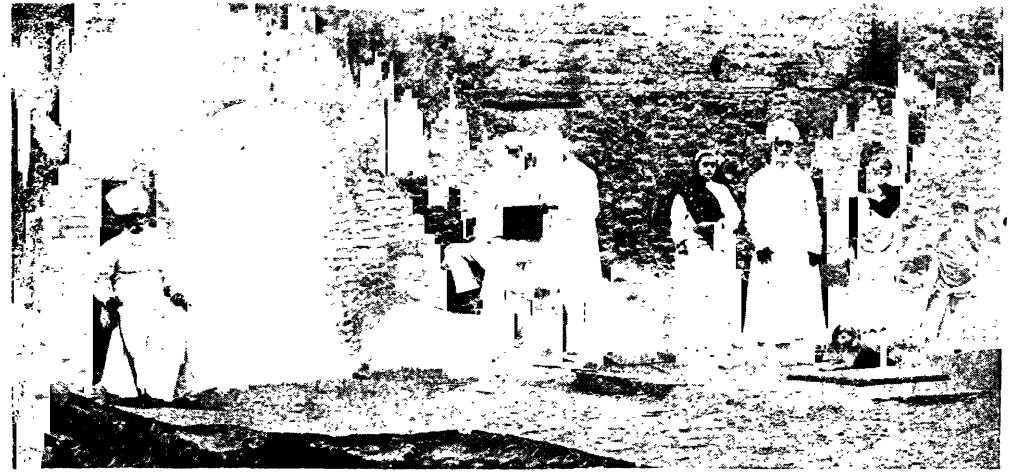
Because of his cosmopolitan interest and services the Desaiji Saheb is still remembered with respect by members of all communities, and he has left a permanent monument by his public social and religious works.

In 1779, at the age of about 82, he accompanied the Gaekwar to Kathiawar for collecting the latter's dues, as was his practice every year, and on his way back he passed away at Surat.

His 150th anniversary was observed all over India and elsewhere. At Navsari a big gathering was held on 18th January 1928 under the chairmanship of H. E. Prince Dharyshilrao of Baroda. But more important was the observance of his 158th anniversary on 16th January 1936 under the distinguished presidentship of H. H. the Maharaj Saheb Sayajirao Gaekwar of Baroda, when about seven thousand ladies and gentlemen attended.

An Education Fund has been established by his admirers in his memory and which amounts to more than Rs. 50,000. This fund is utilized for the education of Zoroastrian children in various schools and colleges. The fund is managed by a responsible committee who still accept donations.

A Group Photograph of the Family of Dastur Darab Sohrab Kumana, the Leader of the Kadimi Sect at Surat, at the start of the Sect



After the Kadimi Sect was established at Surat in 1745, Dastur Darab Shorabji Kumana, their Leader, consecrated the first Fire-Temple for the Kadimi Parsis in his own home. This building was destroyed by a great fire in 1837.

This picture was taken by Miss Menant in 1901 as this lady (a great Orientalist) was impressed with the sight of the dome of the temple and wanted to take the picture to France.

It should be noted that the first Avesta-Zend Scholar from among Europeans was Anquetil du Perron and this savant was a pupil of Dastur Darab Kumana, a fact he acknowledged openly. He was taught the elements of Zoroastrian scriptures and later helped to popularise the Avesta studies in Europe.

Dastur Kaikhusru Mahiar Kutar Dastur Darab Pahlan, M.A.

(BORN 1888)

High Priest of Wadiaji's Atashbehram, Bombay



Dastur Kaikhusru passed his Matriculation Examination from the Sir J. J. P. B. Institution, Bombay. He graduated from St. Xavier's College, Bombay, with Avesta and Pehlavi as his second language and secured the University Scholarship, the Dastur Peshotan Sanjana

Gold Medal being awarded to him from Sir Jamsetji Jejeebhoy Madresa. After passing his M.A. Examination, he began his career as a religious instructor in the Sir J. J. P. B. Institution, Bombay. In 1919 he was appointed the head religious instructor by the Bombay Zoroastrian Jassan Committee imparting religious and moral instructions in about 20 Parsi Schools in Bombay. He worked in this capacity for 18 years and 6 months. After his appointment as the High Priest of Wadiaji's Atashbehram, he works as Honorary Religious Lecturer. He has been appointed the Panthaki of the Rustom Framna Agiari, Dadar Parsi Colony, since 1929. He is the Hon. Lecturer of various educational institutions in Navsari and a trustee of several charitable concerns. His lectures on religious subjects are highly appreciated not only in Bombay but in various parts of India.

His exaltation to the high Gadi of Wadiaji's Atashbehram took place on 9th January 1938. On this unique occasion he was presented with 275 shawls from various parts of India from Dasturs, Panthakis, Mobeds, Sethias, religious and social institutions and Parsi Anjumans. His is a unique record of having been presented with 275 shawls.

Dastur Rustomji Mobedji Dastur Kumana

(1819—1890)

Head Priest of the Kadimi Sect, Surat





This High Priest was the fourth descendant of the great Dastur Darab Kumana, the teacher of Anquetil du Perron. His life was one of saintly character—simple, austere, but always benevolent. Every priest, both Kadimi and Shahanshai, used to meet under him for a discourse on religious affairs and his opinion on details of ritual and technicalities of priestcraft was held as authoritative. He cared nothing for worldly honours and preferred the company of the humble and despised the love of pomp and fear of troubles. He was an expert in priestly duties and a great believer in the equality of man. His prayers were directed to the bliss beyond this life. Five years before his death he got a presentiment of his end and rejoiced. His portrait is still on the walls of the Kadim Atash-Beheram, Surat. A man of saintly character with no earthly ambitions, he was an ideal pastor of his fold.

Erwad Behemanji Khurshedji Dastur Kumana of Surat

(1848—1934)



This great Mobed has had the enviable record of 52 years of unbroken regular service at the sanctum of the Surat Kadim Atash Beheram where he was proud to toll the Prayer-Call till 82 years of age and was at the inner shrine observing a high standard of piety demanded for this service. This record has perhaps not been beaten, at least in Surat, and may not be surpassed by the future generation.

He was exceedingly simple in the austere life he led. He never needed to consult a doctor and retained clear mental faculties till the end. While he was self-denying in needs of life he gave away in charity about Rs. 10,000, a record for an officiating Priest of Surat. Picnics or luxuries were unknown to him. He led an honest, hard-working life which should prove a model for the younger generation of priests, showing them how to devote life to a noble cause unflinchingly.

A Unique Group Photograph of the Priests present at Calcutta at the time of Consecration of the Foundation of the New Tower of Silence
(1910)



The late Dastur Kaikhushru Jamasji is in the centre. Next to him is Minocher Jamasji. Next to him on the left is Erwad Erachsha Bomanji Kumana who was the chief director of the ceremonies. Close behind him is standing Erwad Merwanji K. Beheram Kamdin Dasturna (Author of Athornan Nama). On the left of Dastur Kaikhushru is Erwad Burjorji J. Dastur Meherji Rana, the Priest-in-charge of the Mehta-Anjuman Fire-Temple of Calcutta.

The photograph depicts a unique event as it represents *both* the sects of the Parsi Priests uniting in a common Consecration ritual—a rare sight much to be admired.

A view—very rarely seen—of the Zoroastrian Ritual consecrating the foundation of a new Tower of Silence in Calcutta, 1910. *The "Tana" Ceremony is here depicted with intricate threading plan of the Foundation.*



This ceremony was performed on 25th December 1910. A rare performance, it will be memorable for the fact that both the sects of the Parsi Priests participated therein shoulder to shoulder. The Kadimi Priests of Surat and Shahanshai Priests of Navsari acted under the guidance of a Bombay High Priest! This is the first of such co-operation recorded. The picture gives a view of the intricate ritual requiring great skill in laying out a ground plan intertwined by threads round a mass of nails—a sort of magnetic charmed field over which the later structure is built for the disposal of the dead among the Parsis.

Erwad Jamaspji Eduljee Palia (1829—1902)

A Celebrated Teacher of Priests in Surat



He was a renowned and very qualified teacher conducting a special school for preparing priests in their professional practice. His skill in training even the most backward student was well known. He took personal interest in each case giving him hand-written lessons in Zend and after five years of hard labour got hardly 25 rupees as remuneration. But he loved his calling specially as he had to inculcate strict rules of purity and abstinence among his pupils. At least 200 pupils owe their perfect training to this teacher who was besides a competent conductor of higher Rituals, e.g., Nirang Din. He is said to have conducted at least 72 such rituals requiring very careful training in details of ceremonial routines. His was a simple life regular and efficient. His features were handsome and commanding. But at heart he was a noble and kind soul respected by all alike and even to-day remembered as one whose mental faculties were marvellous and whose life was one of service and guidance in the cause of his noble profession.

Dastur Kaikhushru Dastur Darab (Behram-Framroz)

(1796—1868)

High Priest of the Shahanshai Parsis of Surat



Dastur Kaikhusru Darab was a pupil of the late Dastur Tehmulji N. Sanjana. It was he who tolled the first prayer call-bell at the newly consecrated Surat Shahanshai Atash-beheram which was installed under his supervision. He was appointed as the first Delegate to the Matrimonial Court. On 15th January 1825 he conducted the special ritual for consecrating the foundation of a Tower of Silence at Surat with its intricate details of threading the nail-charms. In this he received able guidance from Dastur Sohrab R. Kumana who was the High Priest of the Kadimis of Surat. The Tower at Amroli was similarly consecrated by him in 1858. He scrupulously supervised all ceremonials at the Atash-beheram in his charge and used to remain in attendance all through higher rituals. The sacred place was his home for the major part of his life. He had a large circle of devoted admirers, almost as if he were a Pope, able to command instant obedience from them. The priests he commanded as his co-workers were impressed with his knowledge of the craft and his piety.

Dastur Noshirwan Dastur Kaikhushru
(Behram-Framroz) (1822—1897)
High Priest of the Surat Shahanshai Sect



Trained under an able father, he was famous as a Persian scholar. He was in charge of teaching Persian at the Sir J. J. School, Surat, and many old pupils still remember him as their *Guru*. Was a Delegate of the Parsi Matrimonial Court, and ably supervised, as a Trustee, all higher rituals at the Shahanshai Atash-beheram. Was a friend of the then Collector, Mr. (afterwards Sir) T. C. Hope, and other officials who paid visits to him. He was amiable, tolerant and ever unperturbed in temperament, so that even the other communities respected him. Once when someone sought to annoy him with a civil suit none of the members of the Bar would accept a brief against him so that his adversary had to withdraw. In appearance as well as in his dealings he reminded one of the dignity of our Prophet whose true follower he strove to remain by his angelic character. His learning was as vast as his character was deeply pious and benevolent.

Dastur Navroji Edalji Bakerry

(BORN 1873)

A Learned Priest of Surat



The Dastur was selected for early training by the famous saintly teacher, Dastur Kukadaru, whose insight into men's characters was remarkable; and anyone selected as his disciple got the hall-mark of proficiency. The noble example of the teacher, who strictly observed the 15 qualifications of a Parsi Priest, was instilled into Dastur Navroji's mind and he is acknowledged to be an expert in the ritualistic intricacies of Zoroastrian Priest-craft. His special experience of high ceremonials is vast and there are many admirers of his correct rendering of the Avesta recitals. In 1908 he was appointed to the Bag-e-Parsa Fire Temple to be in charge of its religious affairs; and in 1912 he got the additional charge of the Temple under the Surat Parsi Orphanage. The work at the Orphanage goes on increasing but he has bravely kept up the prestige of both institutions under his charge against all odds. His industrious habits and punctilious care are remarkable in this age when these are becoming scarce.

Jehangir Jamshedjee Vimadalal, M.A., LL.B.

(1870—1931)

A True Orthodox Zoroastrian, a Great Orator and a Friend of the Poor



A son of Dr. Jamshedjee B.Vimadalal, G.G.M.C., and the grandson of Sirdar Padumjee of Poona, Jehangir Vimadalal who was born at Navsari, graduated from St. Xavier's College and later passed his M.A., LL.B. and Solicitors Examinations and was Senior Partner in the firm of Jehangir, Gulabbhai and Billimoria, Solicitors. He was a member of the Theosophical Society from 1903 to 1912, having been its President for the last three years of his membership, but had to resign owing to some differences with his colleagues. Because of his constant lecture tours and writings he soon established his reputation in all well-known Parsi settlements in India, and throughout his life inculcated the various lofty principles of the Zoroastrian religion, working to achieve godliness and humanitarianism in daily

life. He was one of the finest speakers that the community has produced both in English and in Gujarati, and the rare quality of his voice, fluency and choice of expressions appealed to the masses and won respect from all quarters.

Vimadalal was indeed a favoured missionary of God, Nature's own nobleman, destined to lead a life of beneficent usefulness and activity, a life of zealous efforts for the moral and spiritual welfare of his community, an exemplary life of an earnest and sincere social worker. Learned in the Zoroastrian scriptures as well as in comparative philosophy, he was a veritable religious and spiritual guide of the orthodox section of the Parsi community.

He was the founder of the Jashan Committee and one of the founders of the Iran League and was one of those who ardently believed that it was Nature's wish and plan that the connection of the Parsis of India with Iran should be revived in the near future.

By temperament and breeding Jehangir Vimadalal was a true lover of mankind, a strict vegetarian who did not taste fish, flesh or wine for the last 30 years of his life. He believed in the principle of " Plain Living and High Thinking." He was, in short, a firm supporter of Zoroaster's holy tripod of " Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds " and his life was nothing but a sweet symphony of work—" work for his fellow-men, work for his community and work for his religion."

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy

(1783—1859)

A Great Philanthropist, the First Indian Knight and Baronet



Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, whose name is a synonym of philanthropy and benevolence, was born of humble parents on 15th July 1783 and in course of years earned for himself a great reputation as one of the merchant princes of the world. He amassed, by trade, great wealth and was the sole architect of his fortune, both his parents having died before he was sixteen. At this age he embarked on his first mercantile speculation with all the capital which he then possessed, amounting to Rs. 120.

On the commencement of his commercial life he made voyages to Penang, Singapore, and five times to China, taking with him on each occasion a large shipment of goods, the value of which he was, year by year, enabled to increase. On one of these voyages his ship was captured by the French, who were then at war with England, and he was taken prisoner, and after much privation and suffering he succeeded in getting to Calcutta in a Danish ship. The unfortunate result of this voyage did not damp the ardour of Jamsetjee; on the contrary, his enterprise, industry, tact and perseverance led him into gradually increasing commercial relations. His success in life may be attributed to his untiring labour and foresight, his strict system of personal superintendence, his confidence in uprightness and liberality, his ability and his skill.

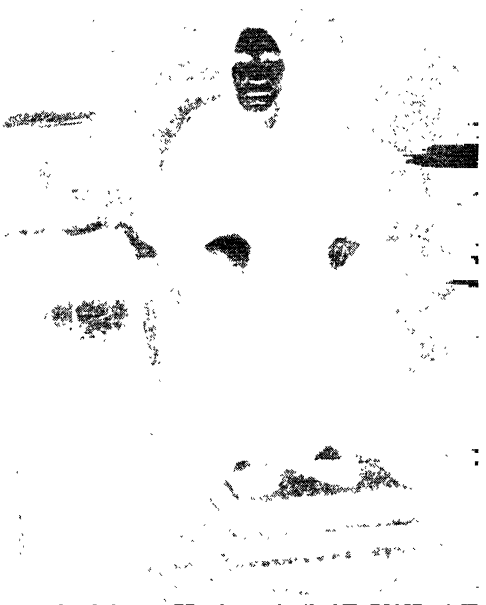
But while he was making for himself a princely fortune, he was fully alive to the claims which suffering humanity had on his sympathy; his numerous acts of benevolence have acquired a world-wide reputation. They have been as discriminating in their character as they have been varied in their object and large-hearted in their purpose, his total charities amounting to the vast sum of Rs. 41 lakhs which included the establishment of hospitals, educational and religious institutions, *dharamsalas*, etc.

For these benefactions the title of Knighthood was conferred on him in 1842 followed by the bestowal of a Baronetcy fifteen years later, the first occasion on which such honours were bestowed on a native of India. Sir Jamsetjee died on 14th April 1859 and the grateful people of Bombay erected a statue as a permanent monument of the respect and esteem entertained for him by all classes of the community. His memory even to-day is cherished by the Indian people, his name is widely associated with all that is humane and benevolent, and his fame will be carried down to posterity as one of the greatest benefactors of Western India.

Lady Awabai Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy

(1792—1870)

The First Woman in India to Hold the Title of "Lady"



When her husband, the first Baronet, was invested with the title of Knighthood in 1842, Mrs. Awabai became a Lady, the first Indian woman, as mentioned above, to be honoured with that distinction. The "Lady Jamsetjee Road" at Mahim is named after her.

Sir Cowàsjee Jehangir, Kt., C.S.I.

(1812—1878)

"The Peabody of the East"



A great Parsi philanthropist, who commenced his career as a godown-keeper and by his own industrious exertions attained, by honesty and enterprise, considerable wealth and eminence in Bombay, having founded several public institutions such as hospitals, educational buildings, public fountains, lunatic asylum, *dharamasalas*, etc., and who gave about Rs. 15 lakhs to objects of public charity. His vigorous ability and remarkable public spirit and benefactions gave him wide fame and his name will go down to posterity as a catholic-minded citizen of Western India.

Pestonjee Bomanjee Wadia

(1758—1816)

A Large Landed Proprietor, Philanthropist and Merchant



Pestonjee was a well-known merchant and landowner of Bombay and was a partner in the firm of Bruce Fawcett & Co. and also traded largely on his own account. Francis Warden, in his report on Land Tenures of Bombay (1814), mentions Pestonjee as the largest individual holder, holding some 15,600 square yards in the *Fort Area* only.

He owned a number of ships—*Hero, Anne, Taj Bux, Milford, Buhmaniar* and *Gangaver.*

He built a Tower of Silence at Ankleshwar, a *Dharamsala* at Pardi and had built steps leading from Chowpatty to the Towers of Silence in Bombay.

He was a liberal supporter of all movements for the well-being of his countrymen. During the famine of 1790 he with Dady Nusserwanji and Nusserwanjee Maneckji Wadia supported a large number of Parsis who had arrived in Bombay from different places for a period of ten months.

When he died the *Bombay Courier* wrote as follows :—

" His wealth and his knowledge gave him great power; and he was liberal of both without ostentation. From the earliest period of his life he was trained up in mercantile pursuits; and of all the Asiatics we have ever known he was eminently the best acquainted with our language, our customs and our laws. This enabled him to adjust many disputes among the rich, which might have involved them in ruin, and to relieve many of the poor from that pride of oppression, which is so generally connected with the aristocracy of mere wealth."

Merwanji Mancherji Cama, B.A.

(1849—1935)

Founder, Mancherji F. Cama Athornan Institute



This philanthropic old gentleman set apart cash and property of the value of Rupees Twenty-five lacs to establish this Institution in memory of his father and which affords education, especially religious to the sons of the Parsi priestly class whose amelioration he had always at heart. Mr. Cama was a typical Parsi Sethia having borne an unblemished character and pure life, a life which was in fact an impressive homily from beginning to end. We earnestly hope that the seeds he has sown will ripen into a bumper crop and that the future generation will reap the fruits of his princely charity.

Dadabhoy Pestonjee Wadia, J.P.

(1802—1885)

Merchant, Philanthropist and Large Landed Proprietor



Pestonjee's adopted son, Dadabhoy, started business in 1819 and soon made a name. He traded with England and China on a very extensive scale and his firm acted as Brokers to some of the largest English firms of repute.

He took active part in all movements of a public character and soon raised himself to an eminent position in the city. He took a leading part in the public life of Bombay and there was no movement with which he was not connected either as a promoter or as a member. He built a bridge at Kim, Fire Temple building in Udwada, two *Agiaries* in Bombay and two in Surat, and *Dharamsala* at Bassein and Pardi.

He was one of the founders of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the only Indian appointed on the Committee to establish the Bank of Bombay, and was a promoter of the Oriental Bank in which at one time he held three-eighths of its total shares. He was one of the first Justices of the Peace to be appointed in 1834. He converted his waste lands at Sewri, full of dust and mud, into fine salt-pans.

So great was the reputation of his firm that it received the name of "Iron Walls" and so extensive were the landed estates that Dadabhoy was in common parlance regarded as "owner of half of the city of Bombay."

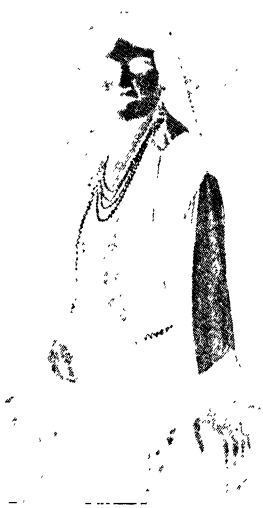
Owing to the failure of Fergusson Turner & Co., Dadabhoy lost Rs. 10 lakhs at a stroke. Later on he met with further reverses in trade and on 30th December 1850, the firm stopped payment. His liabilities were nearly Rs. 33 lakhs. "Such was the panic in Bombay in consequence of the stupendous failure of the firm," wrote the *Bombay Times*, "that his several properties had to be sold at great sacrifice." They were scattered all over the Island and took years to dispose of. And yet his creditors received fourteen annas in the rupee.

His country residence was Lal Baug, while he built a large, commodious house in 1835 for his residence and office in Parsi Bazar, which after his failure became the property of Messrs. Graham & Co.

Bai Hamabai J. K. Mehta, J.P.

(BORN 1883)

Founder, First Parsi Girls' Orphanage



Bai Hamabai Mehta is the grand-daughter of the millionaire brothers Sir Dinsha and Seth Nusserwanji Petit and has inherited the spirit of benevolence of both these philanthropists.

She is reputed to be a great sportswoman, is a keen rider and once owned race-horses and carried away prizes. She was also one of the first Parsi lady motorists. She has toured the world and has visited its remotest parts.

On the death of her mother, Bai Avabai (1852–1907), she inherited, valuable jewellery estimated at about Rs. 12 lakhs which she sold and donated the proceeds towards the foundation of the Parsi Girls' Orphanage situated at Pali Hill, Bandra, and named after her mother, "Bai Avabai Framjee Petit Parsi Girls' Orphanage."



The amount of Bai Hamabai's charities both communal and cosmopolitan, reaches a very high figure. Although whatever the world has to offer and men and women desire, is in the reach of this benevolent lady, she has a surer way of tasting happiness and that is by the diffusion of her wealth amongst suffering and needy humanity, and thus by her numerous acts of charity she has added glory to the name of the Parsi community.

Bai Hamabai married in 1919, Mr. Jehangir K. B. Metha, a

nephew of the late Hon. Sir Pherozeshah Mehta. He is a consummate rider and has toured all over the world. With the instinct of philanthropy ingrained in him he is a constant helpmate to his wife and takes a lively interest not only in the charitable institutions endowed by the Petits but also in the welfare of the Parsi community at large.

Mr. Jamsetjee Fardoonjee Parekh

(1814—1860)



Jamsetjee was assistant in the firm of Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Sons & Co. of which his father was a partner. He joined this firm along with his brother Cursetjee on the death of their father in 1841. In 1845, in conjunction with his brother Kharsedjee he founded the Fardoonjee Sorabjee Parekh Dharamsala at Chaupati for Blind and Disabled Parsis. He was elected a Trustee of the Parsi Panchayet in 1859.

Cursetjee Furdoonjee Parekh

(1812—1896)

Merchant Prince and Philanthropist, Owner of "Dresden Drop," a Diamond of the Value of Rs. 6 Lakhs, and the Builder of Flora Fountain, Bombay



The son of a wealthy merchant and having obtained a smattering of English, Cursetjee went to China in 1835 to look after his father's business, and returned within a couple of years. In 1841 he became a partner in the firm of Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Sons & Co., and on its dissolution in 1850 he carried on trade with Europe and China on his own account. He amassed a princely fortune, of which he made benevolent and philanthropic use. A European firm, Thomas Cardwell & Co., in order to mark their appreciation of him, named one of their ships " The Cursetjee Furdoonjee " after him. Cursetjee himself had built two large sailing vessels—" Albert Victor " and

" Sir Jamsetjee Family "—and had purchased another sailing ship at a considerable cost.

Cursetjee's treatment of some of the merchants evoked frequent testimony of his kindness of heart. Instances are known of his having waived his claims to profits amounting to lakhs of rupees accruing to him when he saw that to have insisted on his dues would have hopelessly wrecked their fortunes.

Cursetjee was a large landed proprietor, owning property valued at Rs. 35 lakhs including Grant's Building, Colaba. The *Dresden Drop*, one of the celebrated diamonds of the world, owned by him, was worth Rs. 6 lakhs.

In 1855 he became a J.P. and five years later a Trustee of the Parsi Panchayet and had the honour of occupying a seat in Court, then known as the Petty Sessions Court. He was made Sheriff of Bombay in 1877.

From 1862 to 1865 he devoted Rs. 5,21,000 to support European, Hindu, Parsi and other families in Bombay.

During the Gujerat famine of 1863-64 he distributed at Surat rice worth about Rs. 88,000. In addition to these his contributions and donations to dispensaries, *pinjrapoles*, schools, libraries, etc., amounted to Rs. 4 lakhs. He also gave about Rs. 20,000 for the construction of Flora Fountain in Bombay.

Cursetjee died in Bombay at the patriarchal age of eighty-five. He was a real merchant prince and his name was almost proverbial for benevolence and philanthropy. He was charitable simply for the sake of doing good to his fellowmen. No genuine appeal to relieve distress was ever made to him from any part of the globe but it was responded to with an alacrity and handsomeness beyond the expectations of those from whom it proceeded. The share mania of 1864-65 deprived him of his fortune but he bore his loss with exemplary resignation and his good name remained intact till the day of his death. He was held in affection and respect by members of all communities.



(L. to R.) *Standing:*—Nusserwanji Merwanji Panday (1851-1914) ; Sirdar Nowroji Pudumji C.I.E. (1841-1930); Pestonji Nusserwanji Wadia (1849-1923) ; Dr. Cowasji Hormusji, G.G.M.C. (1837-1920) ; Jamsetji Dhunjibhoy F. Patel (1850-1905) ; Godreji Dorabji Pudumji (1857-1925) ; Cowasji Dinshaw Petit (1845-1878). *Sitting :*—Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, C.S.I. (1822-1890) ; Merwanji Framji Panday (1812-1876) ; Framji Nesserwanji Patel, (1804-1892) ; Sirdar Pudumji Pestonji (1820-1894) ; Sir Dinshaw M. Petit, Bart. (1st) (1823-1901). *On the ground:*—Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy (1864-1922); Bomanji Dinahaw Petit (1859-1915).

Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, C.S.I. (1822—1890)

Philanthropist and Founder of Several Educational Institutions and Medical Schools in the Bombay Presidency

and His Grandson Rustomjee (1864—1922)



Son of the celebrated Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy. At an early age he became broker to several firms and was a Member of the Board of Directors to various Joint Stock Companies. He projected a Weaving Mill, a Fire Insurance Company; kept aloof from the speculative mania of 1864-65, and judiciously distributed his wealth for the amelioration of the poor. He established a High School at Thana, a Medical School at Poona and another at Ahmedabad and the institution in Bombay named after him, where about 400 poor Parsi boys receive free education and meals. For his various acts of charity he was rewarded with the membership of the Bombay Legislative Council and the title of C.S.I. He was a very shrewd and far-sighted business man. His hospitality was as warm and cordial as his benefactions were numerous and widespread and his exemplary life ought to be brought to the notice of our rising men to be imitated by them as their model in life.

Lady Dhunjibhoy Bomanji



Lady Freany Dhunjibhoy Bomanji is the wife of the late Sir Dhunjibhoy Bomanji, to whose revered memory this book is respectfully dedicated. She has set a shining example to the women of her community by her unique love and life-long devotion to her late husband. Highly educated and accomplished, deeply religious, philanthropic, gentle and unassuming in her ways, she has ever evinced a genuine interest in the welfare of her community and will, fittingly, play the role of a very worthy successor to her late husband.

Mrs. Jehangir Cowasji Jehangir



Miss Mheroo Ardeshir Bomanji, as she was before her marriage, is the adopted daughter of the late Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji. Her father, Mr. A. C. Ardeshir, is the eldest brother of Lady Bomanji. Talented and imbued with the same ideas and discipline as her mother, Lady Bomanji, she promises to be a prominent member of her community.

Ardesar Hormaşjee Bomanjee Wadia

(1812—1882)

Merchant and Philanthropist, Co-Founder, Seth Hormasjee Bomanjee Wadia Atesh Behram



He was born on the 28th August 1812 and the news of the happy event was published in the *Bombay Courier* of the next day, the first time among Indians that such an announcement had appeared in a public paper.

Ardesar took little interest in public affairs. In 1837 he became an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland and in 1840 a Justice of the Peace. In the following year Government appointed him an Honorary Commissioner of the Court of Requests. He was also a member of the Committee of the Native Education Society. He and his brothers were the founders of the Wadia Fire Temple.

The stream of his philanthropy flowed copiously and in manifold channels, and when he died a wide circle of the public of Bombay mourned the loss of the noble-hearted Sethia who for years had been a power for good to those in whose midst he lived and worked.

In his will he left a sum of about Rs. 12 lakhs in the hands of his Trustees for distribution in charity throughout the Bombay Presidency.

Seth Rustomji M. Kooka

(1859—1924)

Founder, Parsi Orphanage, Surat



Well-known Parsi philanthropist of priestly class born in Surat who rose from humble beginnings—trading in silk with Arabia—to be a partner in the Chhoi Kooka Silk Mills. Founded the Parsi Orphanage, Surat, in 1912, and publicly donated about Rs. 3½ lakhs to Surat educational schemes. His private charity was very extensive. He secured about Rs. 3 lakhs from friends. His favourite method was notable. He used to give a sum to the Orphanage in the name of a friend on occasions of rejoicing, &c., then he used the "receipt" of that institution as a gift-packet like a cheque and secured the sympathy of that friend in greater measure. He was a great advocate of higher education among the Parsis and donated sums for endowed scholarships at colleges. After his death his daughter gave further large sums to charities from his estate. He was unassuming, practical and most devoted to the cause of communal welfare.

Ratanjee Manekjee Enti

(1733—1804)

After whom is named the "Entisahi Rupee" of Surat



Ratanjee was a very influential and leading merchant of Surat. Joining business at an early age, he had to travel to Jeddah and other places of Arabistan and was also connected with the English Factory and the Nawab's Government at Surat. Cotton was his chief trade. During the famine of 1790 he was deputed by the great Dadyseth of Bombay to distribute cheap food-stuffs to the famine-stricken people of Gujrat. But Ratanjee insisted on receiving only new coins for the food supplied and owing to his inordinate stubbornness in this respect he was nicknamed *Enti*, i.e., obstinate or unyielding, and the new coin came to be known after him as "Entisahi Rupee." Ratanjee was a philanthropic-minded *Sethia* of the eighteenth century and had built a Fire Temple at Srimari and a *Dharamsala* at Surat. He left a large sum, reputed to be a quarter of a crore, considered a colossal figure in those days.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart. (1853—1934)

A Large-hearted Philanthropist and Founder of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Public Hall



Sir Cowasjee, the grand-nephew, adopted son and successor of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Kt., was educated at the Proprietary High School and Elphinstone College, and for his numerous acts of charity was Knighted in 1895 and received his Baronetcy thirteen years later. He had the honour of receiving the Order of Knighthood direct from Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Among his benefactions are Rs. 2 lakhs for the erection of the Readymoney Wing of the Imperial Institute, London, Rs. 4 lakhs for the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Public Hall, and large sums for Hospitals, Schools, and other Charitable Institutions.

Sir Cowasjee's munificence was large and diffusive, not confined to particular individuals or institutions but extended in general to all that could make out any just claim to it. Universally known amongst all his friends and even acquaintances as *Bawa*, Sir Cowasjee possessing a jovial and merry temperament, made himself a *persona grata* with members of all communities. He passed away after completing his four score years honoured, loved and respected by all his fellowmen.



Bai Hirabai Jamsetji N. Petit (1857—1927).

Seth Jamsetji N. Petit (1856—1888). An elegant Poet, after whom the Parsi Boys' Orphanage and the J. N. Petit Institute are named.

Bai Dinbai Nusserwanji Petit (1831—1898). A large-hearted lady philanthropist who gave more than 25 lakhs in charity.

Seth Nusserwanji Maneckji Petit (1827—1891). Founder of the J. N. Petit Parsee Boys' Orphanage and other charitable institutions.

Bai Avabai Framji Petit (1852—1907) after whom the Parsi Girls' Orphanage at Bandra is named.

Seth Framji Dinshaw Petit (1848—1895). J.P. The Sanitarium at Cumballa Hill, Bombay, is named after him.

Kharsetjee Cowasjee Banaji, J.P.

(1790—1847)

"A Parsi Lion"



Kharsetjee Cowasjee was one of the active and enterprising Parsi merchants of China and England, his firm owning six sailing vessels. The Grant Buildings at Colaba were constructed by him and in 1830 he became owner of the Goregaum Estate, in Salsette, which he greatly improved. He was one of the twelve Justices of the Peace first created by Government in 1834. He was a member of the Parsi Punchayet and a most fearless and independent Parsi of his day. In the heyday of his life he wielded an enormous influence with Government officials which would well excite the envy of modern magnates and millionaires. On one occasion he called on the Collector of Thána in connection with his business and the *chaprasi*, contrary to the then prevailing practice, asked him to leave his shoes outside the official's room. Kharsetjee's inherent

dignity thereupon broke out in all its plenitude and without losing any time, he forthwith repaired to Government House and complained to the Governor about the humiliation offered to him. The story goes that the Governor sent for the Collector and along with him called on the Parsi potentate to offer apologies to him personally which he accepted with great hesitation.

On another occasion Kharsetjee hanged the effigy of a Governor on Cross Island in the harbour of Bombay in fulfilment of a challenge to an officer of His Excellency who had threatened him with capital punishment for some supposed crime. The official had said that the Governor would hang him but Kharsetjee replied that he would hang the Governor first and so carried out his threat by executing the effigy of the head of the Presidency.

When Kharsetjee died in 1847, a Bombay English newspaper came out with the headline " The Death of a Parsi Lion," such being the esteem and respect in which he had been held even among the European community. We are bankrupt at the present day of persons of such heroic and iron courage !

(*Concluded from next page*)

the Udwada Anjuman and other *pantheks* under its control. Under his patronage was started a Dispensary at Udwada in 1867 and for which he put, at the disposal of the organizers, his house entirely free of rent. During his lifetime he had established charitable institutions and had set apart a decent sum for similar benefactions. He was held in great respect by the Portuguese Government and was one of the grandees of Gujrat.

Manekjee Cawasjee Damaunwalla

(1828—1890)

A Very Respected Citizen of Damaun Held in High Respect by the Portuguese Government



He was engaged in trade with his father ever since 1845 and was the leading citizen of Damaun where he was on most friendly relations with the Portuguese Government. When his father died in 1854 he conducted the paternal business with his brother Dadabhoy. He was the Chief Karbhari and adviser of the Dharampur State, and as intermediary between His Highness and the British Government enjoyed the perfect confidence of the latter. Several villages near Damaun were held by him in his proprietary right, including the villages of Barai and Kanthiria. He was the head of

(*Continued on previous page*)

PARSIS AND STOCK EXCHANGE

By K. R. P. SHROFF, J.P.

President, Bombay Stock Exchange

ALTHOUGH in 1875 the Share Bazaar was established, the business of dealing in securities was well founded long before that date. In 1840 there were six persons who called themselves Share Brokers and by 1860 it swelled to 60, of whom the leader was Premchand Raichand. In the above-mentioned year a few leading brokers, including (Sir) Shapurjee Broacha, Byramjee Bhikhajee Kanga, Ruttonjee Maneckjee Rutnagar and Nusserwanjee Mancherjee Mama, recognized the desirability of some organization and they formed, in July of that year, an Association for protecting the status and interest of Share Brokers. In 1887 a proper Deed of Association was drawn upby Jamsetjee Cama, Solicitor, and executed, and the Parsi members of the first Managing Committee were (Sir) Shapurjee Broacha, Byramjee Kanga, Cowasjee Nusserwanjee Kanga, Ruttonjee Rutnagar and Dinshaw Hormusjee.

During the last 60 years and more,the Share Bazaar has enjoyed the proud position which it occupies in the mercantile life of Bombay and it is entirely due to the able and wise guidance of its past President, Sir Shapurjee Broacha. The only other Parsi Presidents of the Share Bazaar were Mr. Nusserwanjee P. Karani and myself.

Sir Shapurjee guided the destinies of the Association for well-nigh a quarter of a century, during which period he wielded considerable power and authority, his decisions being universally respected. During his regime the funds of the Share Bazaar rose from Rs. 1¼ lakhs to Rs. 22½ lakhs. He also started the Brokers' Helping Fund with a view to make some provision for brokers and their families in cases of reverses of fortune, pecuniary difficulties and distress caused by illness, death or ill-luck, and himself contributed Rs. 68,000 towards this Fund. In the words of Lord Brabourne: "The position of the Association to-day is one which Sir Shapurjee Broacha would have wished to see, and is worthy of the traditions which he established."

Sir Shapurjee Barjorjee Bharucha, Kt.

(1845—1920)

A Self-made and Large-hearted Man, Financier and Business Magnate



Born of poor parents and with insufficient funds, Shapurjee Bharucha came to Bombay from Broach, his native town, in the fifties of the last century, failed in his matriculation examination, joined the B. B. & C. I. Railway as a petty clerk, then the Asiatic Bank in the same capacity and ultimately became a Broker in 1864.

He soon attained the highest pinnacle of his profession and in later years became a prominent figure in the financial world of Bombay. He gave evidence in London before the Herschel Committee, was a J.P. and Sheriff of Bombay and was Knighted in recognition of his cosmopolitan charities. The sum of his total benefactions amount to more than Rs. 25 lakhs. His munificence was indeed large and diffusive and extended in general to all that could make out any just claim to it. In him were confined in almost perfectly balanced proportions two predominant qualities seldom found in close association, the shrewd intuitive perception necessary to the acquisition of great riches and the moral impulses which prompt to a benevolent distribution of them. Moreover, in the methods of acquisition employed by him the soul of mercantile integrity and honour was eminently conspicuous. He has set an example of wise philanthropy capable of being imitated, without undermining the self-reliant spirit of the poor. Above all, his example teaches us the true uses of wealth,—on what conditions it should be held by its proprietors, in what way it might be fruitfully employed in one's lifetime and what durable honour and happiness it is to receive the blessings of the poor to whom it is given. Rich and poor alike might contemplate Shapurjee's career with practical advantage. His life was worth living, his example is worth following.

Jalbhoy Ardesar Seth

(1858—1911)

The Founder of the Parsi Gymkhana at Matheran



Seth Jalbhoy was the lineal descendant of the famous Mobedan Mobed Nerioshang Dhaval who performed the consecration ceremony of the first Parsi Fire Temple now situated at Udwada. He was the 8th holder (Mutavli) of the large estate known as Nowrosjee Hill which was acquired by the Improvement Trust in the first decade of this century. Jalbhoy passed his matriculation in 1879 and was appointed a J.P. and a member of the Bombay Corporation. He reconstructed the building of the Manekjee Seth Fire Temple at Parsee Bazar Street, Fort, at the cost of Rs. 80,000 and had also established the Parsi Gymkhana at Matheran for which he spent about Rs. 30,000. He had made several voyages to Europe and was the Trustee and Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Anjuman Fire Temple in Bombay.

Bai Motlabai Jehangir Wadia (1811—1897)

Founder of Bai Motlabai Obstetric Hospital, Bombay



This philanthropic lady who was married to Manekjee Navroji Wadia, during her widowhood of 66 years, gave away freely to all without distinction of caste or creed, and erected several institutions of public utility, the total amount of her benefactions amounting to more than 25 lakhs of rupees. The Motlabai Obstetric Hospital, for which she donated Rs. 1,52,000, and the land (about 20,000 sq. yards) on which the hospital stands, is a living monument of her benevolent disposition and which will enshrine her memory for ever in the hearts of the grateful people of Bombay.

Khan Bahadur Pestonjee Sorabjee

(1790—1861)

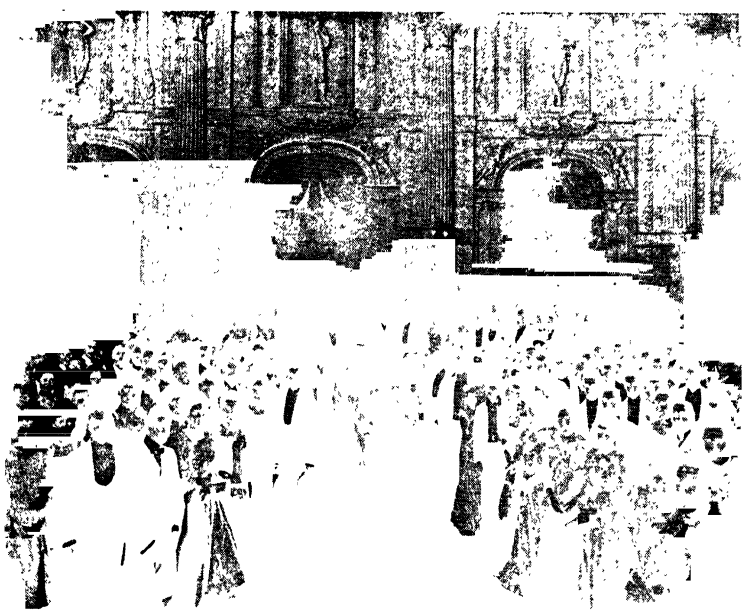
A Well-known Mail Contractor and Philanthropist of Poona



Khan Bahadur Pestonjee Sorabjee migrated from Surat to Bombay in 1801, and to Poona in 1814 where he first opened a Europe shop. He retired from business in 1836 and signalised himself by undertaking the Government Mail Contract between Poona, Aurangabad and Nagpur and in 1842 between Poona and Bombay. The contract entailed a daily run of 500 runs for which 700 horses and numberless conveyances were employed. The contract lasted till 1864 when the mail was transferred to the railways.

Pestonjee was actively helped by his son Padumjee and for their valuable services during the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58 both father and son were awarded by Government medals and the title of Khan Bahadur at a public Durbar at Dapoli on 19th June 1860, by Sir George Russel Clerk, the then Governor of Bombay. The Poona

public, to perpetuate the memory of these worthies, raised a fund of Rs. 8,500 to which the Khan Bahadurs added Rs. 6,500 and the aggregate amount (Rs. 15,000) was handed over to the Bombay Government to maintain a public Dispensary at Poona which was subsequently lodged in a commodious premises presented by Khan Bahadur Padamjee. Pestonjee died in 1861 at the age of 70, having during his lifetime expended in all Rs. 61,000 in public charities in the Deccan and in Gujarat which included the building of *Dharamsalas* at Poona, Ahmednagar and Adajan.



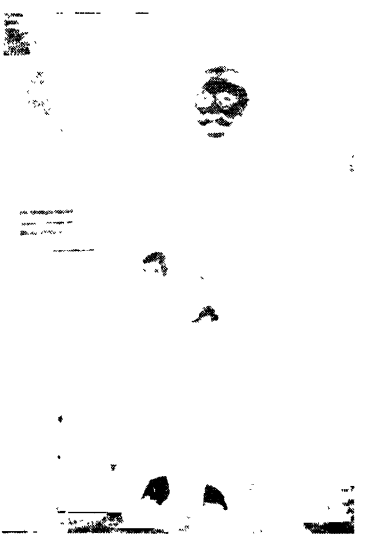
Reception held in London in 1902 in honour of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart. (4th). Amor those seen on the dais are : Dadabhai Naoroji, Lady Gulbai Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Sir Jamse Jejeebhoy Bart (4th), Field-Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar, Miss Virbaiji J. Jejeebhoy (M J. D. Daver), Rustomjee J. Jejeebhoy (Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart 5th), Sir Mancherji Bhavnagri, K.C.I.E., M.P.

Framjee Nusserwanjee Patel

(1804—1892)

The "Nestor of the Parsees"

Who Established the Well-known Firm of Framji Sands & Co.



With a thorough grasp of his own vernacular and a smattering of English, young Framjee entered upon a business career in 1819 and a mercantile pursuit proved so propitious to him that in 1844 he founded a business house under the name of Wallace & Co.; fourteen years later he established Framji Sands & Co., which in latter years was styled Framjee Sons & Co. For upwards of thirty years he became associated with trade and commerce of Bombay and he was recognized as one of the most eminent merchant princes of Western India.

Mr. Framji also took an active part in public affairs. The passing by the Government of India of the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act and the Parsi Intested Succession Act was chiefly due to the efforts of Framji who was a member of the Commission whose recommendation resulted in the passing of these Acts.

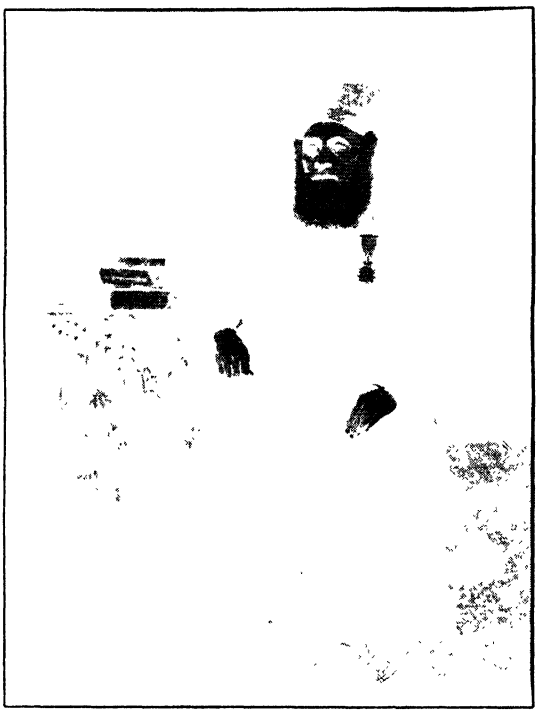
In 1866 he became a member of the Bombay Legislative Council where his services in the cause of the public were universally recognized.

During the whole of his eventful career Framjee was one of the best beloved and highly revered natives of India and his character was built upon the most correct principles of integrity, benevolence and honourable conduct. Pious without cant, philanthropic without show, dignified without effort, this great Parsi was no less remarkable for the generosity of his disposition than he was for those graceful and courteous manners which gained him the honour, the esteem, and the admiration of his countrymen. Thus, with a wreath of laurels bedecking his brow, this "Nestor of the Parsees," as Sir George Birdwood called him, breathed his last on 21st March 1892 at the ripe old age of four score years and eight, universally regretted by all his fellow citizens.

Pestonjee Hormasjee Cama, C.I.E.

(1817—1893)

Founder, Cama Hospital, Bombay



In early life he entered into business, went to China and was one of the partners of the first Indian House of business in London established in 1855. He retired in 1871 and endowed a large trust for charitable purposes. He established the Cama Hospital with a donation of Rs. 1,64,311 for which benefaction he was decorated with the C.I.E. He was keenly interested in the cause of reform and progress in the Indian community.



SOME MEMBERS OF THE SIR JAMSETJEE JEJEEBBOY FAMILY.

From left to right : (1) *Maneckji (Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 3rd Baronet)* (1851-1898); (2) *Cursetjee (Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 2nd Baronet)* (1811-1877); (3) *Rustomjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy* (1824-1872); (4) *Cowasji (Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 4th Baronet)* (1852-1908).







Sir Cusrow N. N. Wadia, Kt. C.I.E.
(Born 1869)

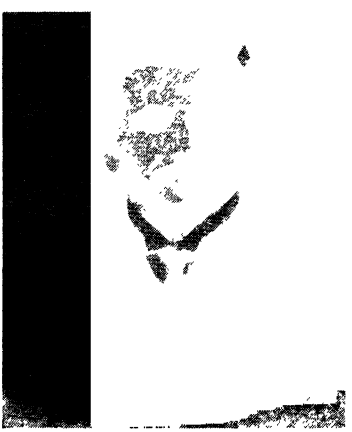
Bai Jerbai N. N. Wadia
(1852—1926)

Sir Ness N. N. Wadia, Kt., K.B.E., C.I.E.
(Born 1873)

Who have set a glorious example of phenomenal large-heartedness by giving a Crore and a quarter of Rupees for the establishment of Communal and Cosmopolitan Benevolent Institutions.

The Wadia Brothers—Sir Cusrow and Sir Ness—along with their mother, Bai Jerbai, have spent Rs. 20¼ lakhs on the erection of Navroz Baug, Rs. 35¾ lakhs on Rustom Baug, Rs. 15 lacs on Jer Baug, and Rs. 27 lakhs on Cusrow Baug.

Bombay will keep alive their memory with grateful admiration, and let us trust their names, emblazoned by their philanthropic works, will exercise a talismanic influence in persuading the prosperous to recognize their responsibilities and do what good their hands can find to do whilst they yet live so that they might superintend and rejoice in the effects of their goodness and beneficence.



Rustom N. N. Wadia

(1876—1910)

Sir Hormusji Cowasji Dinshaw, Kt., O.B.E., M.V.O.

(Born 1857)

The Last of the Parsi Sethias



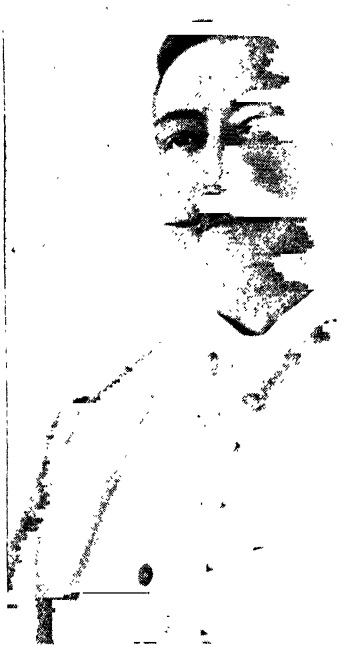
Sir Hormusji, the eldest son of Mr. Cowasji Dinshaw, was born in Bombay and educated at the Elphinstone High School and College and King's College (Evening Classes), London. He commenced life as apprentice at James Barber & Son, London, and then at Leopold Bing Fils & Gans, Paris. He joined his father's firm in 1879 and is now the Senior Partner. He was a Trustee of the Aden Port Trust and member of the Aden Port Commission, and is also the head of the Aden Parsi community. He established an Anglo-Gujarati School in Aden for Gujarati boys and has given an endowment fund of Rs. 50,000 for the same. He had the honour of presenting, on behalf of the residents of Aden, the Address to H. M. King George V on his way to India in 1911. Sir Hormusji represented the Aden

Chamber of Commerce at the Fifth International Congress held at Boston in 1911. Sir Hormusji who is a member of the Parsi Panchayat, Bombay, takes a very active and useful part in all activities relating to the advancement of the Parsis of Bombay and is *persona grata* with the orthodox section of his community. He is Consul for Portugal and Austria in Aden. All the elements that go to make a Sethia are present in him and he is practically the last of the class which is now fast dying out.

Mr. P. A. Hormarjee Wadia

A Successful Mill Agent and Philanthropist

BORN, 2-11-1859 DIED, 24-2-1924

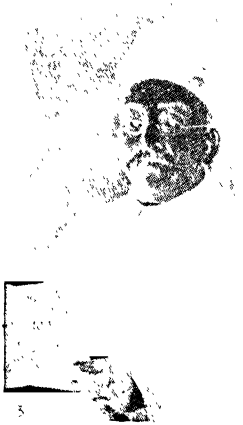


Mr. Pestonjee Ardesar Wadia was the fourth son of Seth Ardesar Hormarjee Wadia. He had been connected with the Cotton Mill Industry of Bombay City since 1877. His father, residing at "Lowjee Castle," Parel, Bombay, was a very wealthy Parsi merchant of those days trading in the name of Messrs. B. & A. Hormarjee and had close business relations with most reputable and influential firms in Europe and China. He built a new Cotton Mill in Coorla, near Bombay, and decided to train up his son Pestonjee in cotton spinning and weaving under an experienced manager. This was an unusual thing in those days when the sons of wealthy Indians considered the mill line as intended solely for the uneducated and poor classes of youths who could not take up higher University education or any of the professions as doctors or lawyers. Mr. Pestonjee was not only well

educated, but was an intelligent and energetic worker. After a training of about three years in the Alexandra Mills, then under the Agency of Mr. Keshavjee Naik, Mr. Pestonjee was engaged as an Assistant at his father's mill at Coorla of which he subsequently became Manager. A shrewd and careful financier, Mr. Pestonjee saved sufficient money to start a Cotton Spinning Mill under his personal management and agency, viz., the China Mills, in 1888. In the year 1896 he started another mill, the Moon Mills. Both these concerns worked well. Availing of the boom time the China Mill was taken into voluntary liquidation in 1920 and in consequence, for each share of Rs. 1,000 of this company a shareholder obtained Rs. 6,106. The success and economic working of both the China and the Moon Mills owed much to the technical knowledge and practical experience of Mr. Pestonjee assisted by his sons, Messrs. Nusserwanjee & Cursetjee who had also received practical training in spinning machinery and mill management. Mr. Pestonjee remained the senior partner of the firm of Messrs. P. A. Hormarjee & Company till his death, Mr. C. P. Wadia, his son, and Mr. Adi C. P. Wadia, his grandson, being now partners having the Moon Mills, Limited, still under their management.

Mr. Pestonjee left Rs. 10,00,000 for Parsi charities.

Rattonjee Framjee Daboo
(1846—1908)
A Self-made Sethia of Navsari and Baroda



Rajratna Dinshaw Rattonjee Daboo, B. A.
(BORN 1885)
A Prominent Citizen of Navsari



Educated at Jarthoshti Madressa, Navsari, Rattonjee at an early age joined the Railway service at Navsari and subsequently became Post Master. He then commenced business as Contractor, and executed several works of public character in Baroda.

In 1873 he took up waste Government land for development and eventually acquired 35,000 bighas paying assessment of Rs. 50,000 per annum. He was a philanthropist and has endowed many charitable institutions. His noble character, renowned business career, open-hearted generosity and complete devotion to the principles of his faith, are worthy to be recorded in annals relating to famous men who have lived unselfishly for the benefit of others.

Rajratna Dinsha after graduation toured Europe in 1912 and joined his father's business of Forest Public Works and Liquor Distillation contracts. He was a member of the Baroda Legislative Council for seven years. He is a member of the Navsari Municipality since 1914 and was elected President in 1923, the first non-official to hold that post. He was again re-elected President in 1934. He is also a member of the Navsari District Board since 1919 and is Vice-President for seven years. He is a Director of the Co-operative Bank, member of the Kali Prag Committee, Banking Inquiry Committee, Baroda Central Communication Board and Baroda Education Board.

Bai Ratanbai Edulji Bamji (Tata)

(1846—1930)

A Philanthropic Parsi Lady of Navsari



Bai Ratanbai Edulji Bamji (Tata) was the sister of the late Mr. Jamshedji N. Tata. She became a widow at the age of 28 and the rest of her very long life she devoted to works of public utility and charity and founded several institutions. At Lunsikui, Navsari, she built a Sanitarium for Parsis and the Mahila Vishram of Navsari. Her Highness the Maharani Chimnabai of Baroda performed the opening ceremony of the latter institution, when she personally paid a visit to Bai Ratanbai in Tata House. Bai Ratanbai also built the J. N. Tata Hunarshala (Technical Institute) and the Hall of the Sayaji Vaibhav Library, in Navsari. She endowed the Deolali Tower of Silence, the Sardar Nosherwan Dastur Girls' High School in Poona with the Kaikhashru Bamji Hall, the Girls' Orphanage in Baroda, the Hall in the Garothman Baug and buildings for poor

(*Continued on page* 123)

Raj Ratna Dr. Dhanjibhai Hormasjee Mehta C.I.E.

(Born 1864)

A Prominent Social Worker



Dr. Mehta was educated at the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Navsari Zarthosti Madressa and at the Grant Medical College from which he passed his L.M. & S. Examination in 1885. His educational career was above the ordinary, he having won the English Scholarship and the Sir Richard Temple Prize at school and the Anderson Scholarship at college. He joined the Baroda State Service and from 1887 to 1922 held several appointments. He was Superintendent of the Baroda Central Jail from 1904 to 1908 and also from 1916 to 1921. He was also Physician to Prince Fatehsinhrao's House in 1905-07. Dr. Mehta was Sanitary Commissioner, Baroda State, in 1921-22, and on his retirement his friends and admirers put up his portrait in the Chief Medical Officer's Office and resolved to give five silver Memorial Medals bearing his effigy to students passing with highest marks (three in Ambulance and two in Nursing) in Baroda and Bombay.

Dr. Mehta had the honour of popularizing in India the St. John Ambulance Association since 1900, giving nearly a thousand lectures in five languages—English, Gujarati, Mahratti, Hindustani and Hindi—in 300 towns including 60 States. He opened five Ambulance

and 41 Red Cross Branches. His lectures were presided over by Her Excellency Lady Irwin, Sir Malcolm Hailey, Sir Leslie Wilson, Lady Sykes, Sir Frederick White and several Maharajahs, Ruling Chiefs, etc. He thus earned about Rs. 10,000 for the Association and about Rs 1,34,000 for the Society by enrolling over 3,300 members.

Dr. Mehta gave evidence before the First Plague Commission and helped Prof. Haffkine in establishing the value of anti-plague serum. Dr. Mehta has donated Rs. 12,000 for the Lady Willingdon Building for the Parsi Ambulance Division Headquarters, Bombay. He has conducted fifty classes in First-Aid, Nursing and Home Hygiene of ten lectures each, and has presented thousands of copies of his book, worth nearly Rs. 10,000, to the Association and to the Society. He is also the Editor of a quarterly named *Arogya*, an organ of the Baroda Red Cross Branch.

Dr. Mehta is the holder of the following decorations :—
Raj Ratna (Silver) of Baroda, 1916.
Donat Badge (Silver) of St. John, 1917.
Kaisar-I-Hind (Gold), 1920.
C.I.E., 1932.
Associate Officer of St. John, 1934.
Maharajah Gaikwad's Diamond Jubilee Medal, 1936.

Dr. Mehta had the honour of being invested Associate Serving Brother at His Imperial Majesty's hands at Buckingham Palace and of being presented to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (King Edward VIII) in June 1931. He attended the 15th International Red Cross Conference at Tokio as a Delegate from the Baroda Branch and was promoted to Associate Commander of St. John in 1937. Dr. Mehta has to his credit about fifty publications on Ambulance, Nursing, Red Cross, etc.

(*Concluded from page* 121)

Parsis in Navsari, and many other institutions too numerous to mention. The Nasherwanjee Tata Girls' High School Building in Teheran (Persia) was built out of a lakh of rupees donated by Bai Ratanbai for the purpose.

She has left all her fortune in charity.

Datar Merwanji Nanabhoy Mehta

(1857—1928)



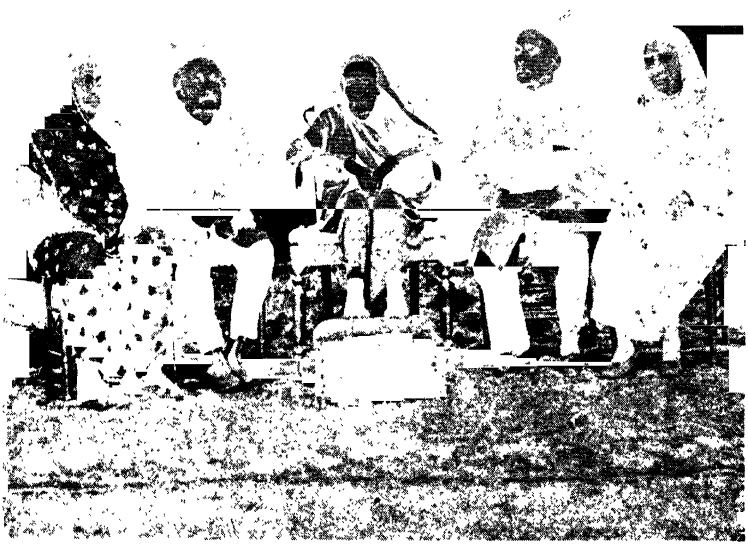
Born on Dhanteras Day, 1st October 1857, Merwanji Nanabhoy Mehta acquired his commercial education in the Commercial College, Calcutta, for three years after which he served a well-known firm for seven months. He then entered business life because in 1879 his uncle Edaljee Navrojee Chinai sent him thirteen cases of China bangles to start him in business and his intelligence, ability and hard work soon brought him success in his new enterprise. He opened a branch in China in 1897, put it in charge of his brother Dorabji, another in Japan in 1915 of which his nephew Manaji was put in charge, and also one in Bombay, all of which flourished to his entire satisfaction.

Merwanjee was a very charitably disposed person and gave freely to the poor of his community, because having himself risen from the ranks he knew what the sting of poverty was like.

Among his benefactions may be mentioned Rs. 700 for Tower of Silence at Tarapore, Rs. 2,000 for Mehta Agiari at Calcutta, Rs. 4,000 for Tower of Silence at Calcutta, Rs. 4,000 for a Rest House at Calcutta, Rs. 2,400 for Navajbag at Navsari, Rs. 6,400 for the Mehta Club at Navsari, Rs. 2,000 for Pestonji E. Mehta Memorial Fund at Navsari, Rs. 2,000 for Rustomji J. Jijibhoy A.-V. School at Navsari, Rs. 1,00,000 for Dorabji Nanabhoy Mehta Lying-in-Hospital at Navsari, Rs. 500 for a well at Jalalpur, Rs. 700 for Sayaji Vaibhar Library at Navsari, Rs. 500 for Ratanji F. Daboo Hospital at Navsari, Rs. 20,000 for the Avan Arduishoor Building in Atashbehram at Navsari, Rs. 12,000 for extension of R. J. J. A.-V. School, Rs. 200 every month to a convent for several years, Rs. 350 every month to poor Parsis of Navsari for several years, and Rs. 1,000 every month for Mehta family Muktat for several years.

In recognition of his philanthropy, Maharaja Sir Sayajee Rao Gaekwad awarded him the "Datar Mandal Gold Medal" and his own friends and admirers raised his marble bust in the Lying-in-Hospital founded by him at Navsari.

A Unique Group of Bai Motlabai Wadia, Her Sons and Daughters-in-law



Reading from left to right :—Mrs. Hirabai N. M. Wadia (1841—1915); Nowroji Wadia, C.I.E. (N. M. Wadia), (1837—1909); Bai Motlabai Wadia (1811—1897); Nusserwanji Wadia (Nusserwanji Lord) (1838—1897); Mrs. Pirojbai Nusserwanji Wadia (1841—1906).

Mr. Nowroji Wadia, second from left, was the founder of the Seth N. M. Wadia Charities, amounting to more than a crore of rupees, the annual interest of which is spent in alleviating distress in all parts of the world, especially India.

Seth Nowrojee Framjee Dhunjibhoy Batliwalla

(1856—1936)

A Philanthropic-minded Parsi Gentleman



Mr. Nowrojee Framjee Batliwalla belonged to the family to which Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, the first Baronet, was connected by marriage to his wife Lady Awabai who was the sister of Nowrojee's paternal grandfather. Nowrojee's mother was also the daughter of Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy, the great Parsi Sethia, whose philanthropic instincts filtered down to his grandson who gave away large sums in charity for the amelioration of the members of his community. Amongst his benefactions were Rs. 25,000 for the renovation and development of the Cama Baug which was enlarged and made commodious and for which boon an artistic oil-painting of the generous donor was placed in the hall to perpetuate his memory with that institution. Mr. Nowrojee also gave a like amount to the Parsi Panchayet and yet another sum of Rs. 25,000 to the Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Charities for religious and charitable purposes. Mr. Nowrojee was an economically-minded and an amiable gentleman and his death was a distinct loss to many who had invariably received monetary assistance from his hands.

BARA LAKH SANATORIUM

Mr. Maneckshaw Framjee Dubash (Bara-Lakh)

(BORN 1886)

Founder of the Bara-Lakh Sanatorium shown on opposite page



The Bara-Lakh Sanatorium was built at Davihur (Umergaum Road Station) in 1936 by Mr. Maneckshaw Framjee Dubash (also seen seated seventh from left to right in the group photograph) to commemorate the memory of his wife Bai Banubai (1889—1924) and his son Mr. Sam (1912—1934) whose portraits are inset left and right in the picture of the Sanatorium. The Sanatorium is situated at a distance of 2½ miles from the railway station at a lovely spot facing the sea and was built at a cost of Rs. 40,000 for accommodating Parsi visitors. Very close by is situated another Sanatorium built for the poor class in memory of Mr. Maneckshaw's second daughter, Miss Nargeshbanoo (1919—1922) and a third one is now (1937) under construction in memory of Mr. Maneckshaw's first daughter, Miss Zazerbanoo (1914—1918).

Sir Dhanjishah Bomanji Cooper, Kt., J.P.

(BORN 1878)

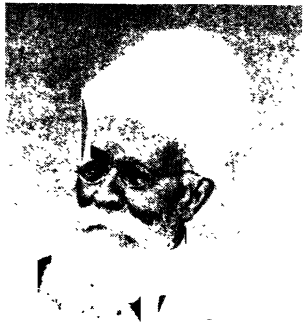
The First Prime Minister of the Bombay Presidency



Sir Dhanjishah Cooper of Satara was Member, Bombay Legislative Council (1921 to 1926), and was again elected in 1930, from the Satara District Constituency; Minister in charge of Local Self-Government, Medical, Public Health and Public Works Departments, November 1933 to June 1934; appointed Member of Council, Government of Bombay, in charge of Revenue and Finance Departments, June 1934 to March 1937.

Sir Dhanjishah had the honour of being the first Prime Minister, Bombay Presidency, selected in April 1937 under the new Government of India Act, 1935.

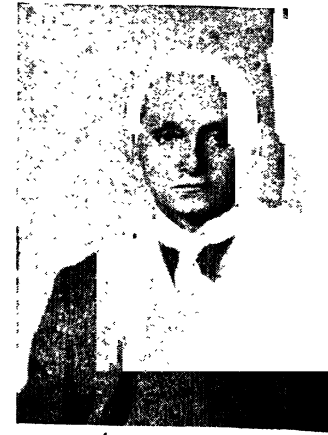
Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P.
(1825—1917)
Liberal



Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree
K.C.I.E., M.P. (1851—1933)
Conservative



Shapurji Saklatvala, M.P.
(1874—1936)
Communist



The only three Parsi and Indian Members of the British House of Commons.

The Hon. Sir Pherozeshah Merwanjee Mehta, K.C.I.E., M.A., LL.D., Bar-at-Law

(1845—1915)

"The Uncrowned King of Bombay"



Yours very Sincerely
Pherozeshah M. Mehta

Amongst the brilliant stars that twinkled on the firmament of Western India during the last quarter of the nineteenth and in the early years of the present century, none shone with such dazzling lustre as the Hon'ble Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, the maker of the Bombay Corporation and its member for an unprecedented term of 46 years, having been four times its Chairman and President, Member of the Bombay Legislative and the Imperial Councils, Member of the Bombay University Senate, its Syndic, Dean and Vice-Chancellor, a Parsi of rare intellect and forensic ability, a keen debater and a brilliant orator, a magnetic and powerful personality, the bulwark of the rights and liberties of the people of this country, co-Founder and President of the Indian National Congress and the Bombay Presidency Association, a patriot whose life-work, extending over well-nigh 50 years, earned for him the rare distinction of being the "Uncrowned King of Bombay."

His invaluable services in the cause of Local Self-Government, higher education and constitutional progress combined with a firm grasp of principles and broad outlook, made him one of the greatest and most brilliant of Indian leaders, and will remain a splendid example and rich heritage for the people of India whom he served with rare ability, indomitable courage and sagacious statesmanship and his name will be an unfailing source of inspiration to generations yet unborn.

Sir Dinsha Wacha, Kt., J.P.

(1844—1936)

An Authority on Indian Finance



Although Sir Dinsha Wacha made his reputation as a consummate politician, he began life in a mercantile office, and from 1874 was associated with the cotton mill industry and was a prominent figure in the Bombay Millowners' Association. About a quarter of a century ago it was said of him that his business acumen and knowledge of trade of India, and the statistics bearing on it, rendered him one of the foremost authorities in the country in all commercial and financial matters, he having been one of the first to declare that the ill-timed manipulation of Exchange by the Indian Government had been the principal factor in the chronic embarrassment of Indian finance. The late Mr. G. K. Gokhale said in 1896:

> "Next to Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Mr. Wacha is our principal adviser on questions of Finance and Commerce. We all know that Mr. Wacha in point of grasp of financial questions and in point of the details of Finance, is unrivalled, and that he is one of the foremost financiers we have amongst us."

Mr. Gokhale added:—

> "Those of you who may have the privilege of knowing Mr. Wacha as intimately as I have known for the past few years, will bear me out when I say that a nobler, a purer, a simpler and an honester individual does not exist."



Sirdar Sir Rustom Jehangir Vakil, Kt.

(1878—1933)

The First Parsi Minister of the Government of Bombay

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart.

K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A., M.A. (Cantab.) (BORN 1879)

The First Parsi Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Bombay



Sir Cowasjee, the second Baronet, has inherited the business acumen and philanthropic instincts of his father and grandfather, and the ability and shrewdness of his tactful mother, Lady Dhunbai, the daughter of Seth Ardesar Wadia.

He passed his matriculation in 1895, went to Cambridge and graduated at St. John's College. He was Member and President, Bombay Corporation, and Chairman of its Standing Committee; Member, Legislative Council, and also of the Executive Council of the Government of Bombay from 1923 to 1928. He is also a Member of the Government of India's Legislative Assembly. He was a Delegate of the Round Table Conference, 1930, 1931, 1932, and of the London Monetary and Economic Conference. He was elected President of the National Liberal Federation which met at Calcutta in 1937.

Sir Cowasjee is a connoisseur and collector of Indian antiques and old paintings and his residence at Malabar Hill is a veritable museum of its kind, one of the rarest private collections in India.

In keeping with his family traditions he has given a large donation to the Infirmary for Helpless Beggars. Sir Cowasjee illustrates in his own life and action how it is possible to combine with ardent patriotism a breadth of sympathy extending beyond communal limits.

Khursetji Jamsetji Mody of Poona

(1755—1815)

Who rose to Great Eminence at the Court of Bajirao II



In the middle of the 18th century a branch of the famous Davar Mody family of Surat settled in Cambay for the purpose of trade. Khursetji belonged to that branch. In 1800 he joined the service of the British Residency at Poona, and soon rose to the office of Native Agent to Colonel (Sir Barry) Close, Resident at Poona. He worked in that capacity for nearly 10 years, meanwhile attracting the attention of the Peshwa Bajirao II. The latter took him over to his service and

appointed him to the high post of Sur-Suba or the Revenue Commissioner of the Carnatic. He soon became a victim to the machinations of the Maratha clique, and was compelled by Mountstuart Elphinstone, the then Resident at Poona, to leave the Maratha service. Later on a Maratha Chief, Trimbakjee Danglia, accused him before Elphinstone of conspiring with the Marathas against the English. Khursetji saw that his life was not safe, and was about to leave Poona, but a day before his departure he was poisoned, and inspite of strenuous efforts on the part of the British the culprit was not traced. Grant Duff, the author of the History of the Mahrattas, speaks of him as a person of "comprehensive judgment and of great address, who soon attained considerable influence with his master."

Naorojee Fardunjee, C.I.E.

(1817—1885)

"The Tribune of the People"



Educated at the Native Education Society's School, Naorojee began life as a teacher, then Assistant Professor at the Elphinstone Institute and leader of the "Young Bombay Party" and was one of the founders of the first Girls' School, Native General Library, Literary Society, Debating Club and other associations and institutions for religious and social reform. In 1836 he went to Kabul as Native Secretary and Translator to Sir Alexander Burnes, Political Missionary to Afghanistan. He then became Interpreter in the Bombay High Court, and resigning office, devoted himself to public service and took a very active part in Municipal affairs. He looked after the interests of the ratepayers with unabated zeal which earned for him the title of "The Tribune of the People." He was guided in all he did by a high ideal—exaggeration, abuse, sycophancy had no place in his armoury. In the nobility of his life he has left us a valuable example which might well be emulated by the present generation.

The Hon'ble Sir Phiroze Cursetjee Sethna, Kt., O.B.E.

(Born 1866)

A Prominent Parsi Publicist and Business Man



Sir Phiroze Sethna passed his Matriculation from the Calcutta University and after graduating from the Bombay University in 1887, joined his father in business. In 1907 he entered the Bombay Municipality, became the Chairman of the Standing Committee in 1911 and the President of the Corporation in 1915. He was a Port Trustee for more than a decade, President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber and also of the National Liberal Federation. He is a Justice of the Peace and an Honorary Presidency Magistrate.

With regard to the part played by the Women's Branch of the Bombay Presidency War and Relief Fund, of which Sir Phiroze was Secretary in 1919, the Commander-in-Chief, in his Despatch dated 19th March 1919, commended his services as having been of particular value and his name was published in the *London Gazette* in a restricted list in which out of only ten names from the Bombay Presidency, Mr. Phiroze Sethna's was the only Indian name.

Sir Phiroze was first nominated to the Bombay Legislative Council in 1916 and since 1921 has been continuously elected a member of the Council of State where he has greatly distinguished himself.

He is also connected with several important institutions pertaining to his own community, being a Trustee of the Parsi Panchayet, the Sir Ratan Tata Charities, the N. M. Petit Charities, etc. He is one of the Trustees of the Anjuman Atash-behram. Sir Phiroze was instrumental in introducing in 1934, in the Council of State, amendments to the existing Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, and the subsequent passage of the revised Act in 1936 is due to his powerful advocacy.

Sir Phiroze has been Chairman of the Central Bank of India since 1921 and a Director of more than three dozen leading companies. He was also connected with the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada for full thirty-three years and resigned from the position of General Manager for India, Burma and Ceylon in 1933, and he had working under him about two dozen Europeans.

Sir Phiroze was appointed by the Government of India a member of the Indian Sandhurst Committee and also of the Sub-Committee which visited the Military Schools in the United Kingdom, France, Canada and the U.S.A. He was one of the six delegates sent by the Government of India to the Union of South Africa to settle the question in regard to Indians residing in the Union. He was also a member of the Committee appointed to report on the affairs of the Army Canteen Board and was later appointed Chairman of the Canteen Contractors' Board. He was appointed by Government a member of the Insurance Experts' Committee in November 1936.

Sir Phiroze served on the three Indian Round Table Conferences in London and was the only Parsi Delegate from British India to the Joint Select Parliamentary Committee in 1933.

Sir Phiroze was for two years Grand Master Depute of all Scottish Freemasonry in India and is a Past President of the Bombay Rotary Club.

In 1900 Sir Phiroze was seriously injured in a railway accident in England when his companion, Mr. Manecksha J. Talyarkhan, was killed on the spot. Sir Phiroze had to remain in the Windsor Infirmary for six weeks where Her Majesty Queen Victoria very graciously made personal inquiries after his health and he was presented to her on 29th August 1900.

For his manifold services Sir Phiroze was awarded O. B. E. in 1916 and received his Knighthood in 1926.

Mr. Edwin Howard, at one time Editor of the *Pioneer*, speaking before the East India Association in London on the "Indian Legislature," referred to Sir Phiroze in the following terms :—

"Bombay gives the Council two fire-brands. One is Mr. Sethna who speaks with swift fluency and so loudly that his attacks on the Government are flung back by the echoing walls like machine-gun salvoes. He is no mere utterer of diatribes. He puts the Bombay view with force and his case is invariably prepared with care and not a little knowledge. As a business man he naturally delights in taking the Government to task on financial matters, and army expenditure finds in him a severe critic."

[Sir Phiroze died in 1938 while this book was being printed.]

Sir Hormusjee Pirojsha Mody, K.B.E., M.L.A.

M.A., LL.B.

(BORN 1881)

Scholar, Speaker, Politician and a Prominent Figure in the Commercial Life of Bombay



Sir Hormusjee, popularly called Homi Mody, entered the Bombay Corporation in 1913, soon became the Chairman of its Standing Committee and its President ten years later. His literary scholarship and forensic powers stood him in good stead in public life and after the death of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, whose biography he has written, was one of the stalwarts of that body. The public spirit which glows in Mody's bosom derived its first impulse and inspiration from this great personality, and every successive year we see him rise in the civic and political life of this City and country.

He was the Chairman of the Bombay Millowners' Association, President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, the Employers' Federation of India, Member of the Legislative Assembly of India, the Round Table Conference and the Reserve Bank Committee. He is a Director of Tata Sons, Ltd. When the history of Bombay comes to be written Mody will be accorded a prominent place amongst those who have laboured and devoted their time and talent to the City in particular and to India in general.

Khurshed Framjee Nariman, M.L.A., B.A., LL.B.

(Born 1885)

The Popular Leader of Political Activities in Bombay



K. F. or Vir Nariman, as he is popularly called, is an Advocate of the Bombay High Court, a Member of the Bombay Corporation thrice topping the poll, a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council, Leader of the Congress Swarajist Party, Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party in the Bombay Corporation. He successively fought the defamation suit brought against him by Mr. Harvey, Superintendent, Development Department, and fearlessly exposed Bombay Development scandals. Elected President of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, led the Civil Disobedience Movement in Bombay in 1930 and was imprisoned four times. He was Mayor of Bombay, and Member, All-India Congress Committee. He takes a leading part in all civic and public activities in Bombay and was deprived of the Premiership of the Bombay Legislative Assembly constituted under the Government of India Act, 1935, on account of race prejudice.

In 1928 he started the Youth League and was selected its first President.

Vir Nariman is an amazing instance of what ambition, heated by enthusiasm, fired by patriotism and aided by natural vigour of mind, could do. His legal knowledge, gift of the gab, indefatigable activity, outspokenness and invariable resolution, have rendered him a real leader of the political movement in Bombay. He has sacrificed his lucrative practice and has devoted himself wholeheartedly to public service to procuring freedom and liberty to his country, the highest object to which ambition can aim. Had he but served the British Government with half the zeal he served the Congress Party, they would not have left his services unrecognised as was done by his colleagues of the National Congress.

Rustomjee Jivanjee Ghorkhodu

(1864—1924)

Popularly known as "Parsi Rustomjee" who actively helped Mahatma Gandhi in the cause of Indian Settlers in South Africa



Without a pie in his pocket young Rustomjee set sail for Durban, South Africa, at the tender age of seventeen to earn his living in that foreign country. He obtained service as a coolie at an aerated waters concern conducted by a Moslem and later by dint of industry and push, became a partner in the business. Thereafter he came to be known as "Parsi Rustomjee." The Indian settlers at that time were subjected to great hardship by the local Government and Rustomjee as the right-hand man of Mahatma Gandhi, took up the cudgels on their behalf, joined the *Satyagraha* movement, fought for his countrymen year in and year out and was several times sentenced to imprisonment for breaking the law. But that deterred him not and he continued the fight disinterestedly under his leader and established the Indian Congress to watch their interests in South Africa. He liberally helped the Mahatma in continuing the "*Native Opinion*," the organ of the Indian population and also established in 1921 the "M. K. Gandhi Free Library" and the "Parsi Rustomjee Hall." His philanthropy ran in several directions and the "Parsi Rustomjee Orphanage" and the "M. K. Gandhi Tamil School" came into being through his generosity. The fire of a true Zoroastrian was ever kept burning in his bosom and as a prominent citizen of Durban he fought fearlessly for the oppressed Indians of South Africa and if their lot to-day has been improved, it was mainly due to the persistent advocacy and fearless struggle and hardships undergone by Mahatma Gandhi and his able lieutenant "Parsi Rustomjee."

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Sir) John Jardine and the Delegates of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court, Bombay, 1895



GROUP TAKEN AT TATA PALACE, BOMBAY

Sitting *(from left to right)*—

(1) *Jamsetjee Cursetjee Jamsetjee, J.P.* (1860-1916).
(2) *Dinsha Mancherjee B. Panthaky* (1844-1908).
(3) *Jamsetjee Bomanjee H. Wadia* (1845-1923).
(4) *Dhanjibhoy Merwanjee Jeejeebhoy* (1845-1897).
(5) *Naorojee Jehangir Gamadia* (1845-1916).
(6) *Khan Bahadur Mancherjee Cowasjee Marzban, C.I.E.* (1839-1917).
(7) *The Hon'ble Mr. (Sir) Justice Jardine* (1844-1919).
(8) *Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart. (3rd)* (1851-1898).
(9) *Dastur Darasha Dasturjee Rustomjee Sanjana Kalianiwalla.*
(10) *Naorojee Maneckjee Wadia, C.I.E.* (1837-1909).
(11) *Khan Bahadur Byramjee Dadabhoy Registrar* (1831-1918).
(12) *Dadabhoy Bomanjee Jeejeebhoy* (1837-1898).
(13) *Ardesar Framjee Moos* (1827-1895).
(14) *Shams-ul-Ulma Dastur Peshotun Byramjee Sanjana* (1829-1898)

Standing *1st row (left to right)*—

(1) *An Official of the Court.*
(2) *Shams-ul-Ulma (Dr. Sir) Jivanjee Jamshedjee Mody, B.A.* (1854-1933).
(3) *Jehangir Byramjee Marzban* (1848-1928).
(4) *Kavasjee Merwanjee Sbroff* (1852-1903).
(5) *Judge's tip-staff.*
(6) *(Khan Bahadur) Bomanjee Byramjee Patel* (1849-1908).
(7) *Naorojee Jamsetjee Antia* (1840-1908).
(8) *Nanabhoy Rustamjee Ranina* (1832-1900)
(9) *Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy* (1864-1922).
(10) *Kharsedjee Rustomjee Kama* (1831-1909).

Standing *last row (left to right)*—

(1) *Bomanjee Pestonjee Master* (1825-1897).
(2) *Pestonjee Nusserwanjee Wadia* (1848-1923).
(3) *Kharsedjee Nusserwanjee Wadia* (1866).
(4) *Jamsetjee Nusserwanjee Tata* (1839-1904)

The Rt. Hon. Sir Dinshaw Fardunjee Mulla, P.C., C.I.E., M.A., LL.D.

(1868—1934)

The First Parsi Privy Councillor



Sir Dinshaw Mulla, Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Honorary Bencher, Lincoln's Inn, Acting Advocate-General and Judge of the Bombay High Court, Law Member of the Governor-General's Council, though born of humble parents and nurtured in poverty, acquired a unique and distinguished position in the domain of law, a position which very few of his countrymen has hitherto attained. He made his mark as a Jurist displaying a mastery of legal principles in his numerous publications which have become classics of their kind. Sir Dinshaw was a Parsi of Parsis who combined with vast learning and transcendant ability every virtue that can adorn an honourable gentleman and whose unblemished character and phenomenal rise by merit alone will for a long time be a glorious example and an inspiration to generations yet unborn.

The Hon'ble Justice Sir Dinsha Dhunjeebhoy Davar, Kt.

(1856—1916)

The first Parsi High Court Judge and acting Chief Justice of Bombay, whose decision in the Parsi Panchayet case, preventing Juddins from being admitted into the Parsi fold, acclaimed him as the Saviour of the Zoroastrian Religion by the orthodox Parsis



Sir Dinsha commenced his education in the Proprietary High School, passed his Matriculation and joined the Elphinstone College where he was prominent not only as a brilliant student but had also made his name in Football, Cricket and Amateur Theatricals. In 1877 he went to England, joined the Middle Temple, and was called to the Bar in 1880. He was admitted an Advocate of the Bombay High Court in the same year and soon distinguished himself in the

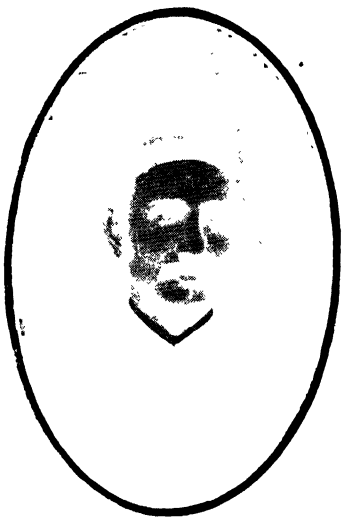
Small Causes Court and the Police Court for his astuteness and quick grasp of legal technicalities. In the Tilak Case (1897) he defended the Hindu leader as the junior of Mr. Pugh of Calcutta and it was an irony of fate that he himself had to sentence his erstwhile client to six years' rigorous imprisonment for sedition at the Bombay Criminal Sessions in 1908. After 1898 his practice was solely confined to the High Court and he was entrusted with a very large number of briefs and kept himself busy, especially in mercantile suits. The junior Indian Bar owe him a debt of gratitude for the manner in which he fought for the equality of rights of Indian and European Barristers practising in the Bombay High Court for it was he who was responsible for the eradication of all the distinctions that had existed between these two groups. He was gazetted a Judge of the Bombay High Court in London, on 19th October 1906, being the first Parsi to hold that distinguished post, and had also acted as Chief Justice for about a month, a unique honour for a native of India. The great Parsi Panchayet case was decided by him and Mr. Justice Beaman on 27th October 1908, the decision being against the admission of non-Parsis (Juddins) into the Zoroastrian fold, for which he was acclaimed as the saviour of Zoroastrianism by the orthodox section of his community. For his keen interest in the welfare of the Parsi community he was appointed a member of the Parsi Panchayet. He died on 29th July 1916, and in a notification issued by Government, soon after, it was stated that

> "The Presidency has lost a wise and vigorous Judge, distinguished by legal ability, by knowledge of the world, and by outspokenness, who devoted his talents whole-heartedly to the service of the public."

Mr. Maneckshah Jehangirshah Taleyarkhan B.A., LL.B.

(1847—1900)

A Leading Pleader and Citizen



Mr. Maneckshah was a member of the well-known Taleyarkhan family of Surat. He was educated at Elphinstone College. He took his B.A. Degree in 1868, and served for a year as a Dakshina Fellow of his College. In 1870 he passed his LL.B. Examination and commenced to practise as a pleader. Within a short time he acquired a great reputation at the local Bar. He was the first Parsi pleader to practise on the Appellate side. He was frequently engaged in the mofussil, and his name was famous in Thana, Ratnagiri and Gujerat. From Sir Michael Westropp down to Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justices, all held him in high esteem.

Apart from law he had other activities. He was a trustee of several Parsi institutions, a Justice of the Peace, a member of the Municipal Corporation and a Fellow of the Bombay University. He was an active member of the Bombay Presidency Association, and was for 17 years Honorary Secretary of the Pleaders' Association of Western India. He was a great critic of the Abkari administration of Government, and frequently contributed to the public Press on Abkari questions. He rendered valuable assistance to the Parsis of Nargol

and Udwada, who on various occasions presented him with Addresses in grateful remembrance of his services. Sir Phiroze Sethna unveiled his portrait at Nargol on 19th April 1930. Mr. Maneckshah died in a railway accident in England on 16th June 1900.

Dossabhoy Framjee Karaka, C.S.I.

(1829—1902)

The First Indian Chief Presidency Magistrate in Bombay and the First Indian Chairman of the Bombay Municipal Corporation



Mr. Karaka began life as a journalist, and going to England in 1858-59, wrote there "The Parsis, Their History, Manners, Customs and Religion." He was the first Indian Chief Presidency Magistrate (Acting) in 1874, the first Indian Chairman of the Bombay Municipality, 1875, and a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council. He took a very active part in the public life of Bombay, and his "History of the Parsis" is even to-day considered as a monumental work and is widely read both in India and in England.

Sir Hormazdiyar Phiroze Dastur, Kt., B.A. LL.B., Bar-at-Law

(Born 1878)

The First Parsi Chief Presidency Magistrate (Permanent) in Bombay



He entered the Bombay Judicial Department in 1923 and was in turn Taxing Master, Clerk of the Crown, High Court, and Presidency Magistrate. He was appointed Chief Presidency Magistrate in April 1929 to which post he was later confirmed, and knighted in 1932. He retired in 1938.

Mr. Furdoonji Sorabji Taleyarkhan

Bar-at-Law

(*Born 15th December 1872. Died 1st October 1934.*)

Eminent Barrister and Citizen



Mr. Furdoonji Sorabji Taleyarkhan was a scion of the ancient and historic Parsi family of the Taleyarkhans of Surat, and was the eldest son of Sorabji Jehangir, J.P., of British and Baroda service. Mr. Furdoonji was called to the Bar in 1893, and was enrolled as a member of the Bombay Bar in 1894. A man with a natural aptitude for the law, it did not take him long to acquire a busy practice. Though as a practising barrister he displayed all-round qualities, which caused him to be sought after in every kind of litigation, F. S. Taleyarkhan was at his best in political appeals and Sessions trials. He established his reputation as a criminal lawyer and appeared for the defence in

many sensational cases in Bombay and in the mofussil. He twice acted as Fourth Presidency Magistrate and once as Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court.

Apart from his study of law he had other interests in life. At one time he was a lieutenant of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and often figured on the public platform. He was a Justice of the Peace and was for some time a member of the Municipal Corporation and also an active member of the Zoroastrian Conference. He presided at the meeting of the Bombay lawyers to protest against the Rowlatt Act. He was a member of the Court of Inquiry under the Trades Disputes Act, a Vice-President of the Young Men's Parsi Association, and took an active part in the affairs of the Iran League being anxious to see that the Parsis of India revived their connection with the motherland. He, for some time, edited the English columns of the *Kaiser-i-Hind* and *The Parsi*, and was one of the finest orators in the Parsi community.

Mr. Khersetji K. Suntoke, B.A., LL.B.

(1871—1932)

A Leading Pleader and Citizen



Mr. Khersetji Kavasji Suntoke was a scion of a family which came from Elav in Gujerat and settled in Bombay in 1744. The founder of this family, Suntokji Burjorji, was an *Akabar* (leader) of the Parsi Panchayet of those days. Mr. Khersetji, after receiving his education at the Wilson College, and after taking his degree of LL.B., was enrolled as a Pleader of the Bombay High Court in 1893. His practice was confined mainly to the Small Causes Court, and within a few years he rose to the position of a leader of the Bar. At one time his practice exceeded that of any other pleader in the city of Bombay. At the time of his death he was the President of the Bombay Advocates' Association.

Mr. Suntoke was a man of culture and was well-versed in history both ancient and modern. In social and religious matters he was an orthodox, but in politics he had a leaning towards the national movements.

Khan Bahadur Barjorji Noshervanji Vakil

(1849—1921)

A Prominent Citizen of Surat



The Vakil family of Surat is an old and well-known family. Khan Bahadur Barjorji's grandfather, Mr. Pestonji Kalabhoy Vakil, built a Fire Temple in Surat which is still maintained (without any outside monetary aid from the public) by a family fund set apart for the purpose, of which Khan Bahadur Barjorji was a Managing Trustee. The street where the Fire Temple stands is named after Seth Pestonji Vakil and is still known as "Pestonji Vakil's Street."

Khan Bahadur Barjorji was a High Court Pleader and a leading member of the Surat Bar for some 30 years. He was third in succession in this family of lawyers.

Khan Bahadur Barjorji rendered long service in the Surat Municipality and he was the first non-official elected President of the Board. His services were recognized by Government in the year 1901 by bestowing on him the title of Khan Bahadur.

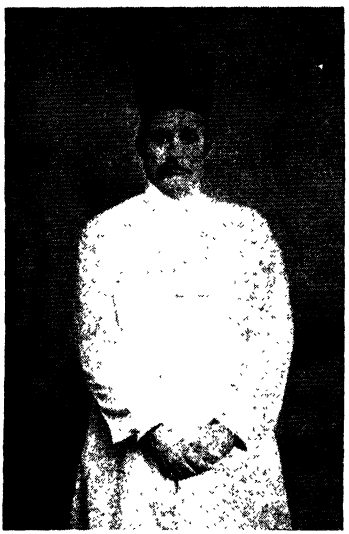
Khan Bahadur Barjorji was also a member of the Surat Parsi Panchayat Board from 1892 to 1921 and during this period he was Vice-President from 1896 and President from 1903, and through his efforts an Orphanage for boys, a Parsi Maternity Hospital and a Parsi General Hospital came into existence—which have proved a great boon to the Parsi community.

Khan Bahadur Barjorji was a Delegate of the Surat District Matrimonial Court. He was a Legal Adviser to the Maharaja Saheb of Dharampore.

Hormasjee Shapurjee Chothia, J.P.

(1841—1905)

A Leading Bombay Solicitor and Municipal Corporator



Took training in Bombay in Elphinstone Institute and then in Elphinstone College. Matriculated in 1861. Passed High Court Pleaders Examination in 1867. Enlisted as Articled Clerk in the firm of Messrs. Hearn, Cleveland & Peel and passed as Solicitor in 1876.

Joined the firm of Messrs. Ardeshir Ghaswala and became a leading member therein. The firm of Messrs. Ardeshir, Hormusji & Dinshaw owed its rise to his intelligence and brilliant career as the foremost lawyer of his time. Nominated J. P. in 1890.

Had extensive sympathy for the depressed members of his community and assisted financially many in distress, unknown to the general public. Rendered service to his native place, Bulsar, and by his philanthropic actions was nominated head of the Anjuman and Trustee of the Funds. Had been twice to England.

Was appointed a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation and was instrumental in introducing various reforms in several departments of the municipality.

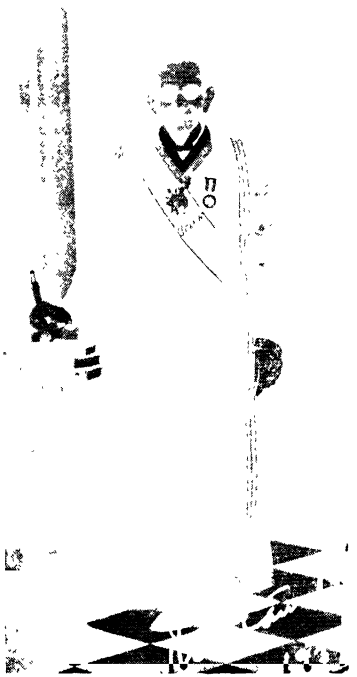
Suffered from kidney trouble. Dr. Morris from England was specially called to Bombay to operate at the princely fee of 4,000 guineas.

Died after a month and a half of the operation on 10th January 1905, at the age of 64.

Rustom K. R. Cama, B.A., LL.B.

(Born 1860)

Corporator, Freemason and University Examiner



Son of Khurshedji Rustomji Cama, a great Avestic and Pahelvi Scholar, Mr. Rustom passed his Matriculation in 1876 and graduated with honours in 1879. He was enrolled in 1883 as High Court Pleader and passed his Solicitor's Examination a year later. He was a Fellow of the Bombay University and Syndic in Law and University Examiner in Arts and Law. He was also for many years a member of the Bombay Corporation and took a lively interest in its debates. He is a stalwart Freemason, being a District Grand Supreme Ruler of the District Grand Conclave at Bombay of the Order of the Secret Monitor. From 1915 to 1918 he held the Managing Directorship of the *Bombay Chronicle*.

Ardesir Bomonji Setna, B.A., LL.B.

(Born 1870)

A Successful Lawyer, Public Worker and Sportsman



Mr. Setna, who is a grandson of Sirdar Khan Bahadur Pudumji Pestonji of Poona, was educated at St. Vincent's High School, Poona, and St. Xavier's College, Bombay, and commenced his legal practice at Poona in 1901. He is a well-known figure in Poona society, being Chairman of the Camp Education Society and a member of the Poona Cantonment Board. He is also the President of the Sir Dinsha Petit Poona Parsi Gymkhana and a Delegate of the Parsi Matrimonial Court and Trustee of several local, philanthropic and religious institutions. Mr. Setna is a keen sportsman and used to play good tennis and badminton when young and had won many cups. He still plays billiards and takes an interest in all kinds of sports.

Dr. Kaikhasru Nusserwanjee Bahadurjee
M.D. (Lond.)

(1860—1898)

The first Parsi and the First Indian to Attain this Medical Distinction

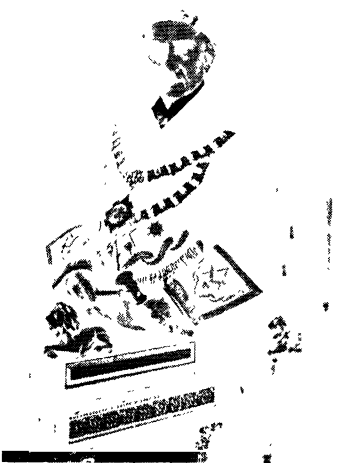


Dr. Kaikhasru N. Bahadurjee was born of poor parents at Surat. He obtained the Gilchrist Scholarship in 1882, being placed first among the many students who had competed for it from all parts of India. This enabled him to proceed to England where he obtained his M.R.C.S. and M.B. degrees, ultimately passing his M.D. (Lond.) examination with Double Honours, being the first native of Western India to attain that highly coveted distinction. On his returning to Bombay, Lord Reay, the then Governor, appointed him extra Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology at the Grant Medical College, but he had soon to sever his connection with the College owing to a dispute with the authorities. He immediately established a practice in Bombay and to his credit devoted himself to public questions of great importance at great sacrifice. During the plague epidemic he set a splendid example by bringing qualified medical assistance within the reach of all patients by establishing the Parsi Fever Hospital and devoted his services absolutely free to his community. His love for his fellow-citizens was greater than his love for making money, a disposition which is rarely found in the public life of this country. He was an active member of the Bombay Municipality and died in the prime of life, loved, respected and admired both by the Parsis and the members of the other communities.

Sir Tehmulji Bhicaji Nariman, Kt., L.M.

(BORN 1848)

The Oldest Qualified Medical Practitioner in India and the First Indian Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India



Sir Tehmulji qualified himself as a medical practitioner sixty-six years ago, that is, in 1872 and founded the Parsi Lying-in Hospital, the first of its kind in the community. Syndic and Dean in Medicine 1901-1902, President, Bombay Medical Union, and Society for the Protection of Children in Western India, J.P., 1884. Invited to the Coronation Durbar, 1903, received Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal, 1904, Member, Bombay Legislative Council, 1909, knighted, 1914, Sheriff of Bombay, 1923. One of the Founders of Lodge "Imperial Brotherhood" and Past Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India. He married 85 years ago and has celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Diamond Jubilee, a record amongst the Parsis and indeed amongst the other communities of the present generation.

Lt.-Col. Phiroze Behramjee Bharucha, F.R.C.S., I.M.S., D.S.O., O.B.E.

(Born 1885)

The First Parsi D.S.O.



Mr. Bharucha after passing his medical examination in 1909 in Bombay went to England where he passed both the examinations F.R.C.S. and I.M.S., coming first-class first. Returning to India he was posted on the Frontier. At the beginning of the World War (1914-1918) he went with the Expeditionary Force to Mesopotamia and was present at the siege of Kut-el-Amara under General Sir Charles Townsend and was taken prisoner by the Turks. He was exchanged with the Turkish prisoners and was awarded the D.S.O. for war services. Posted again to the Frontier, he took part in the Afghan War and was awarded the O.B.E. He was then appointed Professor of Surgery, Mayo College, Lahore, and in

1936 was given the post of Principal of the King Edward Medical College, Lahore. He is very well known as a Surgeon in Northern India.

When His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab was shot by a would-be assassin he was operated upon by Col. Bharucha who extracted the bullet.

Lt.-Col. Sir Jamshedji Nasservanji Duggan

C.I.E., O.B.E., L.M.&S., F.C.P.S., D.O., J.P.

(BORN 1884)

An Ophthalmic Surgeon of World-wide Reputation



Sir Jamshedji Duggan is the Superintendent of the Sir Cawasji Jehangir Ophthalmic Hospital and Professor of Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery, Grant Medical College, Bombay. He had the honour of being the Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to all War Hospitals in Bombay as Major, I.M.S. He is now the President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and an Honorary Presidency Magistrate. He has written numerous treatises on Ophthalmia which have attained world-wide reputation. The international character given to this great Eye Specialist has been especially gratifying to the Parsi community.

Colonel Kaikhusru Shorabji Nariman (of Surat) I.M.S.

(1851—1905)

Eminent Surgeon, and

Mrs. Khurshedbai Nariman



Colonel K. S. Nariman was the first to qualify for the I.M.S. from the priestly class of Surat. After his early career and graduation in Bombay he was trained in England. He was perhaps the first Indian to hold charge of the post of Civil Surgeon at Government Hospitals in Dohad, Broach, Surat, etc. He was eminently successful in his profession and once when he was under orders of transfer (1887), a mass meeting under the Nawab, and attended by leaders of the Hindu and Bohra

sects, unanimously petitioned the Government to retain him at Surat. A monster petition signed by twelve thousand citizens was sent to the Governor who granted it. He participated in the Kabul and Burma Wars as well as in the Abyssinian Expedition as Medical Officer and was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal by Government. He was a Trustee of the Surat Panchayet Board and being very religious, he regularly attended sacred places. His loving nature ever helped his poor relations. Surat owes to him the Water-works for which he was a great advocate in order to combat the recurring epidemic of cholera (caused by wells contaminated by cess-pools) and scourges of fire (spreading fast in the absence of adequate water-supply). His courageous fight—officially as well as personally—in the interest of the citizens went on for years till he achieved success in securing the Works in 1897. To-day Surat is saved from the ravaging factors due to his efforts.

Colonel Nariman was remarkably devoted to ancient tenets of his faith so that even on the point of death his thoughts went out to a *manchi* offering of incense to the Surat Atashbeheram and got this order wired. He was opposed to burial or any other unorthodox method of disposal of the dead body, and had enjoined in his last will that his body should be consigned to the Dukhma. So as he died in Nasik where there was no such facility a special train was arranged to carry his remains to Bombay with great difficulty. Western materialism failed to affect his devotion to religion.

Mrs. Nariman shared her noble husband's zeal and trials so well that the Government granted her a pension after the Colonel's death. She was a daughter of Dastur Noshirwan, the High Priest of the Shanshais of Surat, and as such inherited deep devotion to her faith so that a large part of the pension was spent on religious celebrations and for needy and poor relations. Her faith in religion was deep and inspired the Colonel to a great extent. Being a champion of higher education, all his sons were helped to attain a high degree of culture. His eldest son, Dr. Bahadur, carried off Medals and won distinction in England; "G.K.N." was an eminent Orientalist; Prof. Rustom is a great Engineer; Major Jehangir is in the I.M.S. These sons have donated large sums in charity and founded the Home for Parsi Invalids at Surat.

Lt.-Col. Rustom Hormusji Cama, I.M.S.

(1857—1931)

A Distinguished Medical Officer



Lt.-Col. Rustom Hormusji Cama was the only son of Mr. Hormusji Pestonji Cama and a grandson of Mr. Pestonji Hormusji Cama, C.I.E., the founder of the Cama Hospital, Bombay. He received his education at the Bombay Proprietary School and after matriculating joined the Grant Medical College where he had a brilliant career. He passed out 1st class, was first in the L.M. & S., gaining a Gold Medal and many Scholarships. He then went to England for further studies and passed out into the Indian Medical Service in 1880. On arrival in India he was posted to the 9th Madras Infantry. He served with distinction in the Burma War and Chin Lushai Expedition. Most of his service was spent in the Madras Presidency and the Punjab. When the 9th Madras Infantry was disbanded, Colonel Cama, together with Colonel (afterwards General) Sir Herbert Vaughan Cox toured the Punjab and recruited the 69th Punjabis, now known as the 2/2nd Punjab Regiment. He was made Brigade Surgeon in 1908 and was sometime afterwards appointed Principal Medical Officer at Aden, but he preferred to retire from service.

Captain Kaikhasru Hormasil Contractor, I.M.S.

(1889—1920)



He passed his M.B.B.S. examination in 1913 and immediately on the outbreak of the Great War he became a Transport Officer and held responsible posts at Marseilles with the Indian troops and with the Australian troops at the Dardanelles. He was for 15 months in East Africa and then went to Mesopotamia where he remained even after the War. He died there in July 1920 by the accidental fall of a Wireless pole. He was the recipient of War, Mercantile Marine and Victory Medals.

He was the brother of Mr. S. H. Contractor, F.S.Sc. (London), etc., the well-known Scientist and Artist of Bombay.

Khan Bahadur Dr. Dossabhoy Pestonjee Cooper, G.G.M.C.
(1838—1928)



Dr. Ardeshir Dossabhoy Cooper



After obtaining his G.G.M.C. degree in April 1860 Dr. Dossabhoy joined Government Service, practised in Surat, rose to be the Civil Surgeon and was an active member of the Surat Municipality for 50 years from 1867 to 1917. For his civic service he received the title of Khan Bahadur and the Kaisar-I-Hind Silver Medal. He was a Fellow of the Bombay University and Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy of India. He was the owner of the English Factory Building originally built in 1618 which had withstood the siege by the Mahrattas under Shivaji in 1664 and which was again attacked by the Mahrattas in 1703. In 1800, when Surat was annexed by the British, it ceased to be used for its original purpose.

On the right is Dr. Ardeshir Dossabhoy Cooper, the present owner of the English Factory at Surat.



The old English Factory at Surat, the birth-place of British rule in India, now in possession of a Parsi, whose portrait appears on the opposite page.

Dr. Nusserwanjee Fakirjee Surveyor
M.D. (Bom.)

(1864—1921)

A Most Successful Medical Practitioner in Bombay



Dr. Surveyor passed his M.D. examination in 1891 and soon made his name in his profession. He was a Chancellor Medallist, Fellow, Syndic and a Dean of the Bombay University, a Professor in the Grant Medical College and University Examiner for a number of years.

Dr. Rustomjee Maneckjee Mistry

(1886—1930)

An Able Physician, Civic Worker and a True Friend of the Poor



Dr. Rustomjee Maneckjee Mistry passed his L.M. & S. Examination in 1911 and within a few years commanded an extensive practice and acquired the reputation of being an able Physician. He was a true and sincere friend of the people, being kind, unselfish, obliging and always anxious to do good to all without any distinction of caste or creed. Not only did he treat his poor patients gratis but supplied them with the wherewithal to buy tonics, medicine and nourishment, his loving heart always having a sympathetic corner for the poor, the sick and the unfortunate. He was a member of the Bombay Corporation for seven years and its Standing Committee for three years and as such took great interest in the welfare of the city. Government also recognized his services by creating him a J.P. and an Honorary Presidency Magistrate. He died at the age of 44 years bemoaned by a very large circle of friends and admirers.

Dr. Bhikhaji Edaljee Ghasvala, L.M.&S.

(1861—1928)

The First Indian Chemical Analyser (Acting), Bombay



Dr. B. E. Ghasvala passed his L.M. & S. examination in 1885 and after a few years of private practice entered Government service. In 1892 he was selected for the Chemical Analyser's Department of Bombay, and served there for 25 years, twice acting as Chemical Analyser, an honour which fell to an Indian for the first time. In 1914 he filled the dual posts of Chemical Analyser for Sind and Port Health Officer for Karachi and again was the first Indian appointed to this post.

Dr. Ghasvala was a Fellow and a Dean of the Bombay University and member of two Faculties (Medicine and Science) at the same time. He was University Examiner not only for the Bombay University but also for the Lahore Medical College, Hyderabad Medical College and the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute of Bombay for over 25 years. He was a Justice of the Peace, Bombay, Fellow of the Chemical Society, London, and also Fellow of the Society of Arts, London. He was a Director of the Empire of India Life Assurance Co., Ltd.

Dr. Rustomji Bomanji Billimoria
B.A., M.D., J.P.

Founder, Bel-Air Sanitarium, Panchgani

Gold Medallist in Surgery, prizeman in Midwifery, Reay Lecturer, Grant Medical College, 1910-13. Worked as Honorary Consulting Physician to Dr. Bahadurji's Sanitarium at Deolali, Honorary Pathologist and Bacteriologist, Parsi General Hospital and as Honorary Physician, G. T. Hospital, Bombay. Examiner in Bacteriology and Medicine, Bombay University. Honorary Physician, Parsi General Hospital. Founder, Bel-Air Sanitarium for Consumptives at Panchgani (capacity 130 beds) in 1912. Awarded in 1936, Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal.

Mrs. Gulestan Rustom B. Billimoria, M.A.

(*nee Miss Gulestan J. Bahadurji*)

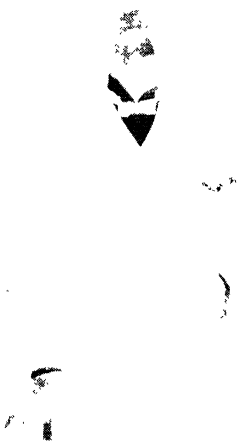
Who Represented India at the International Federation of University Women at Geneva in 1929

Licentiate, Trinity College of Music, London. For over ten years Principal, Alexandra Girls' English Institution, one of the premier high schools in Bombay. Fellow of the Bombay University, representing the Registered Graduates. Member of the Academic Council, University of Bombay. President, Graduates' Union, 1933-35. President, Bombay Women's Association, 1933 and 1937; Honorary Treasurer, All-India Women's Conference, University Examiner. Awarded prizes for Painting at Art Society's Exhibitions in Bombay and elsewhere. Member of the "Committee of Hundred of the Parsi Panchayet." Represented India at the International Federation of University Women at Geneva in 1929; gave evidence before the Lothian Committee on Franchise, Hesketh Committee on Education and University Reforms Commission.

Dr. Rustom Manekjee Kalapesi, M.B. (Lond.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.T.M. (Lond.), L.M. & S. (Bom.)

(1870—1906)

The First Indian to obtain the Diploma of the Doctor of Tropical Medicine of the London University



Dr. Kalapesi belonged to the well-known Kalapesi (a contraction of two names, Kalabhai and Pestanji) family of Surat which carried on a flourishing business during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in manufacturing the famous Surat silk. On matriculating in 1888 he joined the Grant Medical College and graduated in 1893. During his College career he was awarded Scholarships every year without a break and also got two prizes, one in Pathology and Morbid Anatomy and the other in Public Health and Hygiene, as well as two Silver Medals, one in Surgery and the other in Midwifery. He was highly spoken of by his professors and some of the famous physicians like Dr. R. Manser, M.D., Dr. C. H. L. Meyer, and Col. Dhanjibhoy N. Parekh who described him as a conscientious, painstaking student of more than average ability, and a genius and gem of the Medical Profession. He worked for nearly 8 years as an Honorary Physician at the J. J. Hospital and as a Lecturer in Pathology. In 1896 when

the Plague broke out, he was selected by Dr. Haffkine as his assistant in the research work to find out the famous Haffkine Anti-Plague Serum. In the same year he wrote a Thesis on the advantages and disadvantages of ways of disposal of the dead and was awarded the Dossabhai Hormasji Cama Prize of Rs. 250 by the University of Bombay. In 1902, he proceeded to England for higher studies and passed the L.R.C.P. (Lond.) and M.R.C.S. (Eng.) in January 1903. He then joined the Bartholomew Hospital and in less than two years, passed the Preliminary Scientific, Intermediate M.B. of the London University. He passed the final M.B. in 1904 within three months of his passing the Intermediate M.B. and it was recorded by the Registrar of the London University as a unique instance. In 1905 he obtained with distinction the Diploma of the Doctor of Tropical Medicine of the London University, and he was the first Indian and a Parsi to get this Diploma. During his stay in England, he specialized in Insanity and diseases of the Lung. After this strain of studies, he went to South-End-on-Sea to recuperate his health, but unfortunately, contracted there a chill which developed into pleurisy and tuberculosis. This prevented him from appearing for his final M.D. and he was compelled on medical advice to return to Bombay in May 1906.

His death on the 16th July 1906 cut short a brilliant, promising and illustrious career; to quote the words of Dr. Parekh, " A gem is lost by the Medical Profession."

Dr. Kaikhushru Maneckjee Dubash
L.M.&.S., F.R.C.S.

(1869—1923)

A Well-known Obstetrician and the Founder of the Infants and Public Milk Supply Co., Ltd.



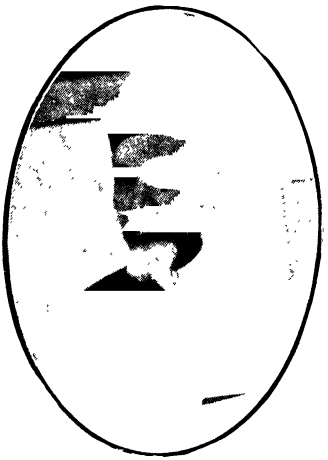
Son of Mr. Maneckjee Framjee Dubash of Navsari, Dr. Kaikhushru passed the L. M. & S. in 1888 and was appointed Honorary Assistant Surgeon of the Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital in 1889. Seven years later he was appointed Lecturer in Midwifery and subsequently Honorary Physician and Surgeon of the Bai Motlibai and Sir Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Women and Children. Within a short time he established for himself a great reputation as an Obstetrician. In the beginning of the century he went to Edinburgh and passed the F.R.C.S. Examination. He was elected President of the Bombay Medical Union in 1912.

In 1910 Dr. Dubash read a Paper at the Zoroastrian Conference on the necessity of giving pure milk to children and started a company in 1913 for the supply of pure hygienic milk to the people of Bombay:

Dr. Dubash was a Freemason of high rank in English and Scottish Constitutions and was Grand Lodge Officer in the Bombay District as well as of All Scottish Freemasonry in India. He was also Founder and Past Master of Lodge "Beaman," Bombay. He died in London in 1923.

Dr. Nusserwanjee Navrojee Khambatta, L.M.

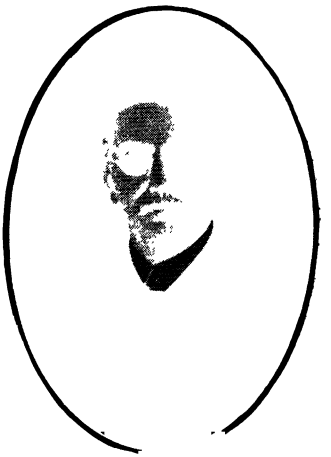
(1847—1928)



Dr. Khambatta was a contemporary of Dr. Sir Temuljee Nariman and the late Dr. Sir Bhalchandra Krishna and practised in Surat as a physician for more than half a century. It was through his initiative that the "Bage Parsa" Aderyan, and the Bai Pirojbai Patel Parsi High School at Surat came into existence. He was a staunch Zoroastrian and possessed a sound knowledge of the Persian language. He also studied the Avesta literature and was able to explain the true spirit of the Zoroastrian religion to his co-religionists.

Dr. Jamshedji Framji Lashkari L.M.&S.

(Born 1872)



A leading Surat Medical Practitioner. At present Managing Trustee of the "Bage Parsa" Aderyan, Surat, and Bai Pirojbai Patel Parsi Girls' High School, Surat. A veritable friend of the poor, who is constantly in demand for his great medical ability, so that he hardly gets a few hours' sleep. He is a Trustee of the Surat Parsi Panchayet. He is the son-in-law of Dr. Khambatta.

Dr. Sohrabjee Hormasjee Mody

(1861—1926)

An Ardent Social Worker and Philanthropist



Dr. Mody was born in Bombay and after completing his early education in the Proprietary High School, Bombay, he graduated in 1890 by taking the L. M. & S. Degree. After a few years' medical practice in Belgaum, he finally settled in Poona, and within a short time became a leading medical practitioner of that city.

Always very sympathetically inclined towards the poor and being very generous-hearted he rendered great services to all communities, and especially the Parsis of Poona are deeply indebted to him for his ever-willing services, both professional and otherwise.

At the first outbreak of plague in Poona in 1898, Dr. Mody started a Plague Hospital for Parsis where he, at considerable risk to his own life, rendered invaluable services. At a fresh outbreak of plague in 1899, he started another Parsi Hospital at Wanowri. For these free and voluntary services the Parsi community of Poona publicly presented him with a Silver Casket and an Address in 1901.



Always an ardent social worker and a friend of the poor, he realized the dire need for helping the poorer members of his community and started a Fund in 1907 for helping poor Parsis and awarding Scholarships to poor Parsi students. To-day, 30 years after its founding, from "The Poona Parsi Students' Fund" amounting to over a lakh of rupees held in trust, numerous Parsi boys and girls receive the benefit of an eductaion, entirely due to its help.

In 1922 Dr. Mody started a Building Fund to solve the housing problem of the poor Parsis of Poona, and it was chiefly due to his

efforts and munificence that there are to-day six buildings in a plot of land belonging to the Poona Poor Parsi Building Fund and which colony has been named by the Trustees of the Fund as the Dr. Sohrabjee Hormasjee Mody Parsi Colony in recognition of his services to the Fund.

Dr. Mody was also connected with many social organizations and was Vice-President of the Sir D. M. Petit Parsi Gymkhana, the Depressed Classes Mission and the King Edward Memorial Hospital, and a Trustee of the Poona Engineering College Parsi Hostel, and a member of the Committees of the Khan Bahadur Pudumji Pestonji Charitable Dispensary, the Lady Dufferin Medical Fund, and the Sirdar Dastur Boys and Girls Schools.

After his death a public meeting was called to pay tribute to his memory and a subscription was raised, known as " The Dr. Sohrabjee Hormasjee Mody Medical Relief Fund, " as a fit memorial to this esteemed and loved citizen who was ever ready to do all that lay in his power to ameliorate the sufferings of the poor.

Dr. Jehanbux Rustomjee Thanawalla

(1867—1912)



His ancestors were residents of Thana and were farmers and liquor merchants, his father Rustomjee being employed in the Thana Collectorate.

Dr. Jehanbux himself passed his L.M. & S. examination in 1891, obtaining the Sir Jamshedji Jejeebhoy Gold Medal for being first in Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology. He began his career by being appointed in the Haj steamers and thereafter acted as State Physician to several Native States such as Wankaner, Rajkot, Porbander, etc. He subsequently returned to Bombay as Physician-in-charge to five of the Wadia Mills and made himself very popular with the labouring class. He died of a riding accident in July 1912.

Dr. Pherozeshah Muncherjee Mehta, L.M.&S.

(Born 1878)



Mr. Mehta was educated at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, and was appointed Chief Medical Officer of the Parsi Lying-in-Hospital, Navsari. He has been President of the Zoroastrian Physical Culture and Health League, Navsari, since 1922 and Secretary and President of the Navsari Medical Union and a Trustee of the Poor Parsi Fund, Navsari, member of the Committee of the Udwada Mehta Maternity Hospital. In appreciation of his services to Parsi womanhood in Navsari, he was presented with an illuminated Address in a silver casket and a purse on 4th June 1936.

Dr. Jehangir Behramji Dordi
L.M. & S. (Bombay), F.R.C.S. (Ireland)

(BORN 1879)

A Successful Surgeon of Navsari



Dr. Jehangir Behramji Dordi was born in Navsari. After becoming L. M. & S. of the Bombay University, Dr. Dordi wanted to join the Indian Medical Service but he was debarred from joining it as having been born in His Highness the Gaekwar's Dominions. Dr. Dordi became F.R.C.S. (Ireland) in 1909. He was the Chief Medical Officer of the R. F. Daboo Parsi General Hospital in Navsari from 1916 to 1921 and was the first *Local* medical man to perform major operations both in the Hospital and in private practice in Navsari.

Dr. Dordi was an Executor and Trustee to the estate of the late Bai Ratanbai Edulji Bamji (Tata), the estate of Bai Dosibai A. Kotwal and the Navsari Atesh Behram Fund. He takes a very active part in public life and has presented a full-size bronze statue of his kinsman, Dadabhai Naoroji, to the town of Navsari, which was unveiled by H. H. the Maharaja Sayajirao, Gaekwar of Baroda.

Naozer Ruttanshaw Dastoor, F.S.M.C., F.I.O. F.N.A.O., F.C.L. (Lond.)

(Born 1903)

Late of Refraction Eye Hospital, London

Mr. Dastoor received his early education at St. Xavier's College, Bombay, and went to England for higher studies. He spent several years in England, passed the examination in Visual and Ophthalmic Optics, received special training in the Refraction Eye Hospital, London, and underwent a special course of training under Dr. Lionel Lawrence, an authority on all matters pertaining to Ophthalmic Optics.

He holds many Diplomas and is a Fellow of various Ophthalmic Institutions. On the death of his father he became a partner of his business "Dinshaw M. Dastoor & Co." a longstanding firm of Opticians and Occulists in Bombay whose reputation of more than 50 years has already extended far and wide and who hold the honour of being appointed special Occulists and Opticians to H.E.H. The Nizam, H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore and several other Ruling Chiefs and Nobles of India. H. H. the Rt. Hon. the Aga Khan has also honoured Mr. Dastoor by appointing him his Ophthalmic Optolo.

Mr. Dastoor had lately (1936) the honour of attending to H. E. Sir Robert Bell, the acting Governor of Bombay, for glasses.

A branch of this firm has now been opened at 7, Arsenal Road, Poona, and under the personal care of Mr. Dastoor, himself an able and expert Optician, it is bearing fruit in increased business.

Mr. Dastoor is a Freeman of the City of London.

Mr. Edulji Pestonji Hakim

(1835—1911)

A Reputed Parsi "Hakim" of the Past



An unassuming but talented "Hakim" of Bombay, reputed for his miraculous ointments and plasters—founder of Unani Art in his family—had the honour of curing, without operation, Sir Charles Pritchard, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., the then Excise Commissioner and Member of the Viceroy's Council, whose leg was so seriously diseased as to necessitate amputation according to expert surgical opinions.

Pranacharya Dr. Rustomji Edulji Hakim, F.P.A.C.

(BORN 1861)

The first Parsi Unani Physician to obtain the Honorary Degree of Pranacharya (F.P.A.C.) of the University of Ayurved (F.P.A.C.)



The eminent Parsi Unani Physician of Bombay, and the first and the only Indian Physician to be invited to the Continent to render treatment.

Dr. Hakim is a well-known practitioner of 50 years' standing, reputed for his non-operative treatment of Piles, Fistula, Carbuncles and various chronic and so-called incurable diseases, his new Anti-diabetic remedy "The Bazana Tablets" being highly acclaimed. He has the honour of treating Rajas, Maharajas and eminent citizens—his marked achievement being in the successful non-operative treatment of His Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior who suffered from a grave diabetic carbuncle in 1915. For his ailment the Maharaja consulted local medical authorities for a non-operative remedy, even the Royal medical experts were referred to, but they all declined for a non-operative measure. Dr. Rustomji was ultimately called in, and his treatment proved a success. Another unique distinction with which he was honoured was an invitation to Paris in 1925 to treat the Maharaja Scindia who remained uncured and precarious even under the treatment of expert medical faculties of Europe. This was indeed a great honour, and a unique event for a Parsi physician to be called to Europe to render medical aid to an Indian Ruling Prince. Besides, he has been a member of the Ayurvedic Conference at which he had also the honour to preside. He has also been awarded Merit Certificates and Medals for his medicinal patents in the Ayurvedic Exhibition

in the Bombay Presidency. The last of his unique achievements is the exceptional honour of Pranacharyaship fellowship of the Dr. Popat University of Ayurved, conferred on him by the Dr. Popat Prabhuram University of Ayurved at the Convocation held under the presidentship of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, B.A., L.L.B., the Mayor of Bombay, on the 3rd October 1936. This is the highest award of the Ayurvedic University equivalent to the M.D. Degree of the English University, and has been given to him in appreciation of his exceptional medical career of 50 years about which words of appreciation were spoken by His Worship the Mayor.

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Dr. Dara has been made a life member of the Vaid Sabha Union, is an honorary auditor of the above organization and is an enthusiastic and the first leading Parsi qualified member of the Society delivering instructive medical lectures under the auspices of the Society and having had the unique honour of presiding over the public meeting organized by veteran Pranacharya Dr. Popat Parbhuram, L.M.&S., J.P., in support of the question raised in the Bombay Municipal Corporation of encouraging and introducing the science of Ayurved in the current system of allopathic medical education when the oldest member of the gathering, Dr. Popat, was the speaker, and the youngest, Dr. Dara, the President—indeed a unique compliment to the talent of this young Parsi doctor and perhaps a rare event of enjoying presidentship at such an important function at such a young age.

Dr. Dara's activities are also directed to the welfare of the community and he has been doing appreciable work as a medical adviser to the Parsi Panchayet Relief Committee of Bombay. He is also a lecturer in the Jewish division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Dr. Dara Rustomji Hakim, B.Sc., L.C.P.S. M.B.B.S., F.R.M.S. (Lond.)

(BORN 1904)

The first Indian Medico to obtain the B.Sc. Degree of the Bombay University in Micro-biology



A promising young doctor of Bombay—the son of a well-known Parsi Unani Physician—an honorary lecturer of medical Micro-biology for Senior B.Sc. in the St. Xavier's College and Professor in Bacteriology in Bai Yamunabai L. Nair Dental Hospital and College—reputed for his unique and original equipment of his clinic. He had the honour of a special invitation to Newcastle-on-Tyne in June 1935 from Dr. J. F. Briscoe, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.P.S. (Hon. Edin.), F.R.G.S., etc., the former Medical Consultant to Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria. Dr. Dara is also a noted allopath, well versed in his ancestral traits of Unani practice—a combination rarely found amongst members of the medical profession.

Besides, Dr. Dara is a talented writer—the preface of his future publication entitled "Microbial Mischief" written in verse for the medical profession, being highly appreciated by the author's club in London, which is indeed a great honour and a unique event as the renowned author's club at Whitehall Court, London, holding eminent authors of the world and Royalties on the list of members, has commended the talent of this young and enterprising Parsi doctor of India.

His radio broadcast entitled "Ideals in medical profession" on 5th June 1936 has also been highly spoken of.

Another of his achievements with the pen is as the author of the Indo-Iranian play entitled "Pervez-Paricher or Auladé-Iran" which has passed the test of the veteran critics as the best piece of work.

(*Continued on previous page*)

Mr. Pestonjee Bomanjee

(Born 1851)

The First Parsi Artist and Painter

(Pupil of Lockwood Kipling, father of the famous Poet)



Pestonjee Bomanjee was the first Parsi Artist and Painter. Whilst studying at the Elphinstone High School he attended the Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy School of Art. In 1864 he became a day scholar when the School was under the superintendence of

Mr. G. W. Terry and always obtained a high rank amongst his fellow students. He was then transferred to the Decoration Painting class, but being ambitious of becoming a sculptor, he joined the Modelling class conducted by Mr. J. L. Kipling, the poet's father, who was so pleased with the model of a rosette the young pupil executed, that he thought of making him a perfect sculptor. But having been transferred to Lahore in 1875, young Pestonjee joined the Painting class. In December 1872 Mr. G. Griffiths had been entrusted with the task of reproducing the fresco paintings on the Ajanta Caves and he took Pestonjee as his assistant and both worked there for some years. After 1877 Pestonjee left the school and painted many pictures, several of which were exhibited throughout India. In 1876 Mr. Val Prinsep, the celebrated Painter, came out to paint the Delhi Durbar picture for the Queen and Pestonjee, on the recommendation of Mr. Griffiths, was appointed his assistant for two months during which time he had the opportunity of studying under the great master.

From 1880 to 1884 Pestonjee was again busy at the Ajanta Caves as Head Draughtsman and for a time lived in Hyderabad. He was appointed officiating Vice-Principal of the Sir J. J. School of Art in 1894. In 1905 he painted in oil the portraits of the then Prince and Princess of Wales (King George V and Queen Mary), Viceroys, Governors and Indian Princes, for publication in the *Times of India* Album. He was the recipient of the Viceroy's Gold Medal in 1879 and 1893.

[Mr. Pestonjee died in 1938 while this book was being printed.]

Manchershaw Fakirjee Pithavala, F.N.B.A.

(1872—1937)

Artist and Portrait Painter

Who Had the Honour of Painting a set of Water-Colours Which was Presented to Her Majesty Queen Mary (the Then Princess of Wales)



Mr. Pithavala was born in village Pitha in Surat District on 26th October 1872. He was the son of a farmer but from his childhood had a great natural aptitude for fine art. He came to Bombay in June 1888 when he was 16 years old. He joined the Sir J. J. School of Art and studied for 7 years under Mr. John Griffiths, the Principal. His progress under his highly efficient teacher, Mr. Chiranjilal, was quite marvellous. In 1894 he exhibited at the Bombay Fine Arts Exhibition for the first time several portraits in painting and was awarded a Silver Medal and Rs. 70 cash prize. From this year to 1911 he had been a constant contributor at Simla, Darjeeling, Poona, Madras, Bombay and several other Exhibitions in India and had procured altogether 24 Gold and Silver Medals and forty-five money

prizes. He was awarded Gold Medals for three years in succession —a unique achievement which then created a profound sensation among the artists. He was thus a self-made man who asserted a high place in his profession simply through his talents without the adventitious aid of family influence or riches. Working on Western lines he was anxious to see the masterpieces of the Western world and with that object he left Bombay in March 1911 and after visiting Italy, arrived in London in June. He had no idea when he left India of exhibiting his works in England but in the short space of three months during which he had been in London he painted no fewer than twenty-six pictures in oil, water and pastel colours. These were exhibited at the Dore Gallery in London, when Sir M. M. Bhownaggree held a reception for the purpose of introducing Mr. Pithavala and his collection of paintings to a circle of critics and friends in London. This was described as the first "One-man's show" by an Indian painter in England and during the three weeks the exhibition was open he had the rare and unrivalled distinction of receiving high praise and eulogies from distinguished masters in the artist world. Such a well-known connoisseur and critic as Sir George Birdwood put him in the forefront of British artists and expressed very flatteringly that excepting Briton, Riviere and Sir Hubert Von Herkomer he would rather have his head painted by Mr. Pithavala than any other artist in the United Kingdom. He further said that he was fairly amazed and at once captured by his reproductions of the portraits by the "old masters" shown by him and that when slightly aged it would be hard to distinguish them from the originals and that they might pass for the "old masters" own replicas of the originals. Sir James Linton, President of the Royal Institute of Water Colours, who also visited the show, said that for rapidity of execution Mr. Pithavala surely could not be excelled by even the most famous of living portrait painters in England whose quickness was proverbial. Sir M. M. Bhownaggree who held a reception dwelt on the highly remarkable degree of excellence attained by Mr. Pithavala without having opportunities of training as European artists and praised copies made by him of some of the masterpieces in English Galleries and also original sketches and portraits from life models which were remarkable as evidence of talent and power of speedy execution. Among his best works at the Dore Galleries are a portrait of the late K. R. Cama, Esq., a white-bearded old Parsi Orientalist clad in a violet robe and turban, and a bust portrait of A. W. Logan, Esq., I.C.S., late Commissioner in India as also a number of copies of well-known pictures including the "North-West Passage" by Sir John Millais, "Head of an Old Man" by Rembrandt and of Phillip IV by Velasquez deserving special praise as most faithful to the original. In 1905, in commemoration of the visit of Queen Mary (then Princess of Wales) to India, Mr. Pithavala did a series of fourteen interesting water-colour pictures of Indian women, forming a book which was

presented to Her Royal Highness by the ladies of India. These pictures were of ladies of distinguished Indian families and showed the dress worn by different women in various parts of India. Mr. Pithavala's versatility and great energy and talent are admirably shown in his beautiful and characteristic representations of Mussulman Parsi and Hindu ladies of many castes including the highly interesting contrast of the fine old Irani dress of the Parsi lady with the somewhat westernised modern style. During his extensive study Mr. Pithavala has painted portraits of many notable persons including the Duke of Connaught, Governors, High Court Judges, Industrialists and Merchant Princes. He was a member of the Committee appointed by the Government of India under the presidentship of Sir John Marshall, Kt., C.I.E., to carry out the Delhi decoration scheme to paint pictures of Indian art at the Imperial Secretariat. The Bombay Presidency artists through his efforts got a major portion of the work. He had close connection with the Bombay Art Society being a committee member for thirty years. He was the Vice-President of the Art Society of India and committee member of six different Societies working for the benefit of his community.



Mr. Sorab M. Pithavala, the second son of the late Mr. Pithavala, Artist, has studied for a period of ten years the art of portrait painting at the hands of his distinguished father, and has achieved unique proficiency in representing the exact living likeness on the canvas.

He has won several prizes in various Arts Exhibitions. His recent portrait of the late Sir Sorabji Pochkhanavalla, Kt., the well-known Parsi banker, unveiled in the Head Office of the Central Bank of India, Ltd., in Bombay, has won the encomiums of the Press and the public.

It is highly gratifying to find the son keeping green the name and fame of his revered father as a great artist.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of England and the Mahakumari of Burdwan admiring the portrait of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, the First Baronet, executed by Mr. M. F. Pithawalla, Artist, and exhibited at the New Burlington Gallery, London.

Mr. Erach A. Bhiwandiwala, F.R.S.A.

(Born 1898)

The "Orpen of India"



Mr. Bhiwandiwala is the eighth son of his poor parents and acquired very little education. He had a great love and aptitude for Art and even before he knew how to read and write he knew how to draw and paint. He began life as an assistant at Messrs. J. F. Madan & Co., in Calcutta on a meagre salary of Rs. 10 per month and devoted his spare hours to the cultivation of his gifted art, and availed himself of the privilege of admission to the studio of the great Bengali master, Mr. J. P. Ganguli. As an amateur he executed the portraits of several Bengal notables and gained great popularity as an artist. When he was employed in the Calcutta Branch of the Central Bank, he obtained the Sir Ratan Tata Scholarship, went to England and studied for a number of years under such world-renowned masters as Sir John Lavery, R.A., Mr. Henry Massey, Mons Alfred Praga, R.B.A., Signor Dumini and others. He studied at the Chelsea Studios, the London University College (Slade School)

and at the Academic de la Cluse in Paris. In London he obtained a scholarship from the Northbrook Society and distinguished himself as an F. R. S. A. He had the honour of executing the portraits of the Countess of Howe (Curzon), the Rt. Hon. Mr. George Lansbury, Sir F.S. Jackson, M.P., Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree, M.P. Lady Chelmsford, Mr. Shapurjee Saklatwalla, M.P., Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart., the Prince and Princess Kaya of Japan, and others. Mr. Bhiwandiwala has extensively travelled round the world to study the Art Galleries of different nations. Art critics and journalists of Europe have characterized him as the "Orpen of India." In the opinion of experts Mr. Bhiwandiwala has re-discovered the colour and the oil processes of the old masters, and is one of the eminent sons of India who have shown the outer world the excellence of Indian Art.



"Love the Conqueror," size: 38 × 18 inches, the picture painted by Mrs. Cumi Hormazdiar N. Dallas, G.D. Art. (inset), which was successfully exhibited at Simla in 1937 and purchased by H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala for Rs. 1,000.

Mr. Hormazdiar Naushirwan Dallas,
A.R.I.B.A., A.I.I.A.,G.D. Arch.

Chartered Architect

(Born 1905)

The First Parsi Scholar to be Awarded the Wittet Memorial Scholarship in 1936 in Architecture



Mr. Dallas has been a member of the Council of the Indian Institute of Architects for three successive years and also worked on several important Committees. He was awarded a Silver Medal by the Bombay Art Society in Architecture in 1930 and Studentship of Indian Institute of Architects in 1931.

Mrs. Cumi Dallas, G.D. Art., who is the daughter of Mr. Rustom D. Siodia, a Bombay Artist, is a talented young artist and has won several Gold and Silver Medals in Painting at the Bombay, Simla, Mysore and other Exhibitions and also Prizes for the last five successive years at the Bombay Art Exhibition.

Jamsetjee Dorabjee Naegamwalla

(1804—1882)

" Native Pioneer of Railway Construction in India "



Jamsetjee Dorabjee Naegamwalla, the well-known pioneer Parsi Contractor, left Surat, his native place, for Bombay when he was only 12 and took service in the house of Jamsetjee Bomanjee, the Master-Builder, and then was employed for 4 years as a carpenter in the Government Dockyard. Here he won the favour of Colonel Cowper of the Bombay Engineers, who sent him to Kaira on a salary of Rs. 30 a month, and on returning to Bombay was taken to Cochin by Dhunjibhoy Rustomjee for the purpose of building ships.

Jamsetjee who had been a humble employee but had the ability to command, then undertook small contracts, his first work being the construction of the Salt-pans near Sewree belonging to Dadabhoy Pestonji Wadia. Not long afterwards Jamsetjee assisted Mr. John Macleod of the Customs in his arboricultural undertakings at Naigaum where he formed the friendship of Mr. Ramos, a Portuguese gentleman, who greatly influenced the enterprising spirit of Jamsetjee.

The rising contractor then constructed the Mansion House and arranged the grounds, and formed the Salt-pans of the Goregam Estate, then belonging to Seth Cursetjee Cowasjee and which afterwards came into the possession of Seth Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, C.S.I. He was next entrusted with the construction of the Lady Jamsetji Causeway between Mahim and Bandra which he executed at a cost of Rs. 1,80,000. His subsequent works consisted of:—

	Rs.
The Musjid Bunder	70,000
The Apollo Cotton Press Co.'s Buildings	80,000
The Victoria Bunder	65,000
The Arch of the Town Main Drain	2,00,000
The Railway from Parsik to Kalyan	2,80,000
The Railway from Kalyan to Neral	5,20,000
The Railway from Neral to Khapoli	3,65,000
The Railway from Kalyan to Wassind	7,60,000
The Railway from Wassind to Kassara	21,00,000

In the words of Mr. H. G. Briggs, who wrote his memoir, " Trained in a household which supplied the leading shipwrights on the European system in Western India, one is hardly surprised to find that Jamsetjee Dorabjee should have become imbued with the emulative spirit of his chiefs ; the wonder, however, is not that he became the first of shipwrights, but after being shipwright, cooper, house-builder, he should open a new mine of enterprise, and work that mine with such success as to earn for himself the reputation of the Native Pioneer of Railway Construction in India, and the father of native application and skill to the development of the race of the iron-horse in Hindostan."

Seth Kaikobad Cursedji Mody

(1850—1919)

A Well-known Building Contractor



In his early days education was scarce at Navsari but being enterprising and energetic and having a tendency for Engineering he took up his profession as a Building Contractor. With his partners he carried out contracts worth more than a crore of rupees. He was fond of travelling and took great interest in public affairs. In appreciation of the services rendered by him to his community he was presented with shawls and purses by Parsi Anjumans of many places.

Pestonjee Nusserwanjee Godiwalla

(1834—1909)

Who Rose from a Carpenter and Became the Owner of a Dock in Bombay



Pestonjee was born of very poor parents at Billimora. He came to Bombay when young, and earned his living first as a carpenter and then as a Building Contractor and in the latter capacity he once repaired the Mazagon Dry Dock, of which he became the owner several years afterwards. He managed it for a long period with great ability and finally it went in the possession of Messrs. Killick Nixon & Co.

Pestonjee was a prominent figure in the naval circles and yards of Bombay for a number of years and a Director of the Bombay Persia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. In his business he amassed a large fortune from which he built a Widows' Home at Mazagon, a building for the Langdana Agiary in the Fort and also liberally subscribed to the funds of the B. D. Petit Parsi General Hospital.

To rise from a humble carpenter to be the owner of a Dock is not an easy task and the phenomenal achievement of Pestonjee speaks volumes for his skill, industry and enterprise.

Mr. Nusserwanjee Chandabhoy

(1824—1884)

The First Practising Parsi Civil Engineer in Bombay



Mr. Nusserwanjee received his early training in the Government English School at Surat, and being elected to a Clare Scholarship, joined the class of Civil Engineers in the Elphinstone College, Bombay, where he won the good opinions of his Professors for his proficiency in Mathematics. He passed the Civil Engineering Examination and joined Government service in 1849 and was appointed teacher in the Engineering class opened in Bombay. In 1854 he qualified for promotion to the rank of 1st class Assistant Engineer. He was given charge of the Engineering School at Poona where he conducted his duties in a very efficient manner, training up young men at a time when there was a great demand for them, and for this service he was warmly thanked by the

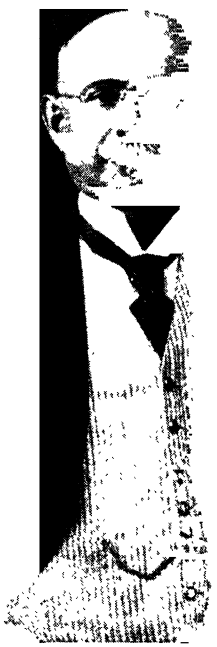
Government. He left Government service and started private practice in 1863. During his stay in Poona he was appointed a Municipal Commissioner for Poona and as such rendered very important service to that body in connection with the Katruj Water Works.

On returning to Bombay in 1868 he built up an extensive practice, having designed and carried out many mill buildings, bungalows and edifices. His report on the railway bridge of the G. I. P. Railway at Nimbora, near Bhusawal, in connection with a railway accident was highly admired by Mr. Thomas Ormiston, M.I.C.E., of the Port Trust, one of the then leading Civil Engineers in India. He took a keen interest in the civic affairs of Bombay as a member of the Bench of Justices and latterly as a member of the Municipal Corporation. He died in Bombay on 12th May 1884.

Mr. Shapoorjee Nusserwanjee Chandabhoy
F.R.I.B.A., M.S.A., M.S.E. (London)

(1850—1920)

A Bombay Architect of Repute



Mr. Nusserwanjee's eldest son, Mr. Shapoorjee, after finishing his education joined his father from whom he received thorough and practical training and in 1880 became a partner in the firm with his younger brother Mr. Munchershaw. After the death of his father in 1884, the two brothers continued the business in partnership uptil 1900 when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Shapoorjee continued the business on his own account. Later on in 1907 he was joined by Messrs Vicajee A. Taraporewalla, M.S.A., Sohrab F. Bharoocha, M.S.A., and Burjor S. J. Aga, L.C.E., the former two of whom after some time separated and started a firm under their own names.

In 1890 Mr. Shapoorjee was elected a member of the Society of Architects, London, and in 1896 a member of the Society of Arts by the Council in London. In 1904 he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, he being the first Parsi practising Architect to attain that distinction. He was Architect to H. H. The Maharajasaheb of Gwalior for whom he built a temple at Wanorie, Poona. He had also erected many buildings in Bombay and mofussil including Alice Buildings, The Framjee Petit Parsee Sanatorium, the block of Great Western Hotel and Hospital at Rajpipla. He had also designed and built Spinning and Weaving Mills. He was a Director of the Zoroastrian Building Society, Ltd. He ably dealt with arbitration matters referred to him as arbitrator or umpire or as Commissioner appointed by the Court. He continued his architectural profession for which he had made a name to the last and died in harness on 13th September 1920. Mr. Shapoorjee was Past Master of Lodge "Rising Sun," No. 506, S.C., P.D.J.D. of the Grand Lodge and Founder of Lodge "Sir Lawrence Jenkins," No. 3275, E.C., and Lodge "Universal Brotherhood." No. 3835 E.C.

Mr. Burjor Sorabshaw Jamshedji Aga

F.R.I.B.A. (Lond.), M.I. Struct. E. (Lond.), F.I.I.A., L.C.E., M.I.E. (India), J.P.

(BORN 1879)

The First Indian President of the Indian Institute of Achitects and the First Indian who served on the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects (Lond.)



Mr. Burjor S. J. Aga, Chartered Architect, Chartered Structural Engineer and Chartered Engineer (India), was born in Bombay on 29th November 1879. He is the grandson of Mr. Jamshedji Rustomji Irani (Aga). Mr. Nusserwanjee Chandabhoy was his maternal grandfather.

He joined the firm of his maternal uncle, Mr. Shapoorjee N. Chandabhoy, as a partner in 1907 after having qualified as a Civil Engineer

by passing the L.C.E. Examination of the Bombay University in 1902. In 1912 he was elected a Licentiate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (London) and a Member of the Society of Architects (London). After the demise of Mr Shapoorjee in 1920, the business of the firm of Shapoorjee N. Chandabhoy & Co. has been continued by Mr. Burjor Aga, the surviving partner.

Mr. Burjor S. J. Aga, Justice of the Peace (Bombay), Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (London), Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers (London), Licentiate of Civil Engineering of Bombay University, Member of the Institution of Engineers (India), Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects, and Member of the Bombay Engineering Congress, was the first Indian President of the Indian Institute of Architects which is affiliated to the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the first Indian who served on the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects (London) in 1931. He was Chairman of the Institution of Engineers (India), Bombay Centre in 1936 (being the first practising Architect to receive this honour), and Vice-President of that institution which body has been granted a Royal Charter by the King-Emperor, George V, this being the first institution in India on which this honour has been conferred. For some years he has been a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects Examination Board in India and its Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. He has also been an Examiner of the R.I.B.A. Special and Final Examinations held in India. He is a Director of the Zoroastrian Building Society, Ltd., a Trustee of the Zoroastrian Building Fund, a Trustee of the Indian Institute of Architects, and a Trustee of the Association of Bombay Civil Engineers, Architects and Surveyors. He is serving on the Managing Committees of the Parsi Central Association Co-operative Housing Society, Ltd., the Bai Avabai Framjee Petit Parsee Girls' Orphanage, Dr. Bahadurji Sanatorium at Devlali, the Iran League, and the Iranian Women's Educational Fund (Bombay). He was also a member of the King George V Silver Jubilee Fund Committee.

As an Architect to Gwalior, Rajpipla and Devgadh-Baria States, Mr. Burjor Aga has been responsible for the design and supervision of various works belonging to those States.

For the Gwalior State he designed and carried out the work of the Polytechnic Institute at Lashkar, Gwalior. He also designed the Secretariat, School and Hospital buildings for the State and Chhattree Building in memory of Sakya Raja Saheb Scindia at Shivpuri.

In the Rajpipla State he was responsible for the design and execution of the extension to the Vijaya Palace, new School building, new Guest House and residential building for the Yuvraj Saheb. He has now in hand the Indrajit Padmani Mahal work at Rajpipla.

He carried out various works for the Royal Western India Turf Club, Ltd., both on the Bombay and Poona Race-courses. He is Architect to the Trustees of the Sir Dinshaw Petit (2nd Bart.) Trust Settlement. He has also executed various architectural buildings for several institutions and leading citizens. Besides, he has designed and carried out the work of extensive additions to about 15 mills in Bombay. In 1925 about 50 millowners in Ahmedabad engaged the services of Mr. Burjor for inspecting and preparing reports on their mill buildings for submission to Government, and his reports carried much weight. He designed and attended to the construction of the Vithoba Temple at Sanquelim, Goa, for Her Highness the Maharani Saheba Gajra Raja Scindia of Gwalior. His services were also requisitioned by the Millowners' Association of Bombay in 1928 in respect of the dispute with the Bombay Municipality for the rateable value of the mills for assessment purposes. He is also acting as an Honorary Architect to several Charitable Institutions in Bombay and elsewhere and has saved them large sums of money in the shape of professional fees. He has often been appointed Arbitrator, Umpire or Commissioner by Courts of Law as well as by private individuals and has built for himself a very high reputation in the profession.

Mr. Burjor Aga is a Freemason and Founder of several Lodges. He is a Past Master of Lodge "Sir Lawrence Jenkins" and Lodge "Universal Brotherhood." He is a Founder of Lodge "Universal Brotherhood" No. 3835 E.C.; Lodge "Leslie Wilson" No. 4800 E.C.; Lodge "Cornwallis" No. 5062 E.C.; Lodge "Justice and Peace" No. 5442 E.C. and "Rustom Cama Conclave" No. 60, E.C. He holds the rank of Past Chaplain and Superintendent of Works of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, and Past Director of Ceremonies of District Grand Chapter, Bombay He is Past Supreme Ruler of "Rustom Cama Conclave" and Past Steward of Grand Conclave of England.

In 1932 he visited Iran and stayed in Teheran as State guest.

Along with Dr. Tagore, Mr. Dinshaw Irani, Mr. Rustom Masani, Dr. Sorab Meher Homji and Mr Kaikhosru Fitter, he had the honour of being granted an interview by His Imperial Majesty Rezashaha Pehelvi of Iran.

Mr. Jamshed Burjor Aga, A.I.A.A. (Lond.), A.I.I.A., G.D. Arch., Incorporated Architect

(Born 1916)

Bombay's Youngest Qualified Architect



Mr. Jamshed Burjor Aga matriculated from the Bombay University at the early age of 14½ years. He then took up the architectural course of the Bombay Government and obtained a Government Diploma in Architecture, being the youngest to obtain this distinction. He was elected an Associate of the Indian Institute of Architects and an Associate of the Association of Incorporated Architects of London. He is privileged to style himself as "Incorporated Architect." He is working in his father's firm of Shapoorjee N. Chandabhoy & Co., Architects, Engineers and Surveyors. At the first "Ideal Home Exhibition" held at the Town Hall in 1937 under the auspices of the Indian Institute of Architects, he was a member of the Entertainment Committee, due to the exertions of which the Exhibition proved to be a great success.

Mr. Jamsetjee Pestonjee Mistri, B.A. L.C.E., J.P.

Co-Founder of the Firm of Mistri and Bhedwar, Architects and Civil Engineers



Born in Bombay, Jamsetjee passed his Matriculation Examination from the Fort High School in 1882, passed his B.A., and became an L.C.E. in 1890 from the Poona College of Science. It may practically be said that he was born an architect for his father and grandfather were in the same business. Beginning his practice in 1891, he was joined by Mr. D. P. Bhedwar as a partner and owing to the shrewdness and abilities of the two partners and above all by dint of honesty and hard work, the firm became prominent in a very short time. For ability in design and construction it secured many works of value and importance.

Mr. Jamsetjee is an architect of immense originality. Besides designing buildings, he has particularly distinguished himself in the

designing and building of many Mills in Bombay and throughout India and also Theatres, Schools, Fire Temples, Churches, Temples, Mosques and works of various kinds.

Mr. Jamsetjee's advice is always sought for and readily given on matters affecting Architecture and Engineering. He was appointed a member of the Advisory Committee for the Poona College of Engineering which post he held for ten years from 1921 to 1931 and was also appointed by Government a member of the Neilson Committee for the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme in 1926. He has dedicated his services to the Zoroastrian Building Association, the Tardeo-Murzban chawls, etc. He is a J. P. appointed in 1919, and a Fellow of the Bombay University elected in 1930. All buildings belonging to the Bombay University have been under his charge since 1924. From 1914 to 1919 and in 1926 and 1930 he was appointed Examiner in Engineering by the Bombay University.

The firm of Mistry and Bhedwar opened a Branch at Karachi in 1916.



Mr. Sohrab F. Bharoocha

M.S.A., F.S.Sc., F.R.S.B.A. (Lond.)

(1877—1928)

A Noted Bombay Architect

Mr. Bharoocha was born in 1877. His father, the late Mr. Framji Sohrabji Bharoocha, was Chief Justice, Judicial Councillor, and Dewan of Jamnagar State, Kathiawar. His granduncle, Mr. Navroji Fardoonji, C.I.E., was regarded as the "Tribune of the People," while his own uncle, Sir M. M. Bhawnaggree K.C.I.E., represented North-East Bethnal Green in Parliament for ten years. The late Mr. Sohrab married Miss Coomi Doctor, daughter of the late Dr. Merwanji Cooverji, who was Physician to the late Sultan of Zanzibar.

Mr. Bharoocha received his education at the Elphinstone High School, Bombay, and displayed considerable aptitude for drawing, art, and mechanics. He took up this course of studies at the Technical Institute and passed the London City and Guilds Examinations with credit.

He then took up the study of architecture for which he had a natural bent, and was articled to the late Mr. Shapurji N. Chandabhoy, F.R.I.B.A., in 1899. Here Mr. Bharoocha took up an architectural course for S.A. and R.I.B.A. He was elected a member of the Society of Architects in 1904.

With his talents and aptitude it was not long before he was taken into partnership with others and then the firm was known by the name of Messrs. Shapurji N. Chandabhoy & Co.

About the year 1914, when the firm of Messrs. S. N. Chandabhoy was dissolved, the late Mr. Bharoocha and Mr. Vicaji A. Taraporewalla started practice on their own in the name of Messrs. Taraporewalla and Bharoocha.

During his practice of 28 years, Mr. Bharoocha had designed over 30 buildings—palatial, commercial, and residential—costing over a crore of rupees, amongst which "Mount Nepean" and "Darab Manor," at Nepean Sea Road, "Chothia Manor" at Warden Road, "Mon Desire" at Cumballa Hill Road, "Pratt's Building" at Hughes Road, "Sohrab Palamkote Hall" at Dadar, "Bombay Cycle and Motor Agency" Building at New Queen's Road and many others are worthy additions to the architectural features of Bombay. His services were on many occasions requisitioned by several Indian States.

He designed and carried out about a dozen mill buildings, costing over seventy lakhs of rupees, and was architect of all the mills under the agency of Messrs. W. H. Brady & Co., Ltd., Messrs.

H. M. Mehta and many other concerns in Bombay and the mofussil. He also carried out the works of the Kassara Power House and the principal Esplanade Sub-Station of the B. E. S. T. Co., Ltd.

For exquisite designs and in laying out schemes Mr. Baroocha was at his best, the Parsi Panchayat Housing Scheme, the Dubash Estate at Nepean Sea Road and the Development Housing Scheme of the Colaba Land and Mill Co.'s Estate at Colaba being successful examples of his work in this line.

He was an expert Valuer and Arbitrator, and was well known amongst Insurance Companies as an able Assessor, and his awards and decisions were always accepted with great satisfaction by the Court counsel and all parties concerned.

He was a well-known Freemason and a Past Master of several Lodges, and he held offices in the Grand Lodge. He was also one of the Founders of some of the newer Lodges and Chapters.

He was a Trustee and Chairman of the Seth Pestonjee Kerawalla Charity Trust, which he managed ably with his co-trustees, and was also one of the Founders of the Parsi Engineers' and Architects' Union in which he took keen and active interest, having been a member of its Managing Committee and one of the Trustees of the Union's Fund.

Mr. Bharoocha was elected a member of the Society of Science in 1901 and a Fellow of the North British Academy in 1909.

He was the first Indian President of the Bombay Architects' Association for 1927-28, and he laboured hard to raise the status of the Architects in India and to found the "Indian Institute of Architects" affiliated to the R. I. B. A. (Royal Institute of British Architecture). He was kind and courteous, chivalrous and always obliging, and possessed an extremely cheerful and genial disposition; a friend of the students, and a friend of the poor. Liked and loved by all, Europeans and Indians, young and old, he won for himself a number of valued friendships, and passed into eternal peace, leaving behind a large circle of friends and admirers to mourn with his family his untimely death.

Mr. Vicajee Ardeshir Taraporvala,

F.R.I.B.A., F.I.I.A.

(Born 1876)

The Well-known Chartered Architect of Bombay



Mr. Vicajee is the Senior Member of the firm of Messrs. Taraporvala & Co., Architects, Engineers and Surveyors of Bombay. He was born in Surat and is connected with the well-known family of Vicajee Meherjee of Tarapore in the District of Thana in Bombay Presidency which is his ancestral place. The said Vicajee Meherjee was a merchant prince and philanthropist and had opened his business along with his brother Peshotanji in Hyderabad (Deccan) also, where they had the honour of being financiers of this important big Dominion. They enjoyed such great confidence of the Rulers that they were even permitted to have their own mint where "Peshotan Sahi" Rupees, named after the said Mr. Peshotanjee, were minted

in A.D. 1840 and which were in circulation for some time side by side with the Nizam's currency.

After passing his Matriculation examination Mr. Taraporvala joined St. Xavier's College, Bombay, but having a pronounced aptitude for architecture which he had manifested while young, he left the College to join his father, Mr. Ardeshir Dorabji Taraporvala, who was a well-known Building Contractor. He soon after took up the Architectural course by correspondence and in 1898 articled himself to the late Mr. Shapoorji N. Chandabhoy, F.R.I.B.A., a well-known Architect of Bombay, and subsequently joined him as a partner along with Mr. Sohrab F. Bharoocha, F.R.I.B.A. This firm having been dissolved in 1915, Mr. Taraporvala and the late Mr. Bharoocha started in Bombay their own firm of architects under the name and style of Taraporvala Bharoocha. This firm carried on business till 1925 when they started a new firm known as Taraporvala, Bharoocha & Co., they having taken into partnership the late Mr. Merwanji Pallonji Katgara, L.C.E., M.R. San. I., and Mr. Eruch Ardeshir Tarapore, B.A., B.E., A.M.I.E. This firm also having dissolved at the end of 1929, Mr. Taraporvala alone carried on his business under the same name until 1937, when he started with his nephew Mr. Kersasp Bhiccaji Taraporvala, L.R.I.B.A., A.M.I.S.E., A.I.I.A., and his son Mr. Dorabji V. Tarapore, G.D. Arch., A.I.I.A., the present firm of Taraporvala & Co.

During his articleship Mr. Taraporvala had the opportunity of displaying his abilities in carrying out the work of the Framji Dinshaw Petit Parsi Sanatorium, a magnificent pile of buildings on Cumballa Hill, Bombay. He also carried out the work of the Petit Hall, a beautiful palace on Malabar Hill, Bombay, for Sir Dinshaw M. Petit, second Baronet, and prepared designs of palaces and other buildings for the Maharajas of Dhrangadra, Bhavnagar and Rewa and the Chiefs of Sangli, Jamkhandi, Miraj (Junior) and Raja of Sandur, etc. Further to the credit of Mr. Taraporvala is the Bomanji Dinshaw Petit Parsi General Hospital, a magnificent cluster of buildings, which in its simple grandeur and vastness of proportions is a standing memorial to his powers of designing, displayed in the minutest details. Mr. Taraporvala has designed and carried out many other buildings of various descriptions and styles which are a fitting addition to the beautiful buildings of the city. He has also prepared several development schemes for laying out large areas of ground into building plots. His firm of Messrs. Taraporvala & Co. has carried out many building works and are Architects to several cotton mills in Bombay. They also act as Surveyors, Appraisers and Adjusters on behalf of Fire Insurance Companies and undertake works of Valuation, Arbitration and Light and Air cases.

Mr. Taraporvala was elected a Member of the Society of Arts, and Fellow of the Society of Science (London) in 1901 and Member of the Society of Architects (London) in 1904, of which he became

a Fellow in 1925 and thereafter in the same year he became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (London). He is also a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects of which he was the first Vice-President elected in the year 1931.

Mr. Taraporvala is a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court at Bombay since 1911. He is the President of the Grant Road Parsi Association of Bombay and of the Tarapor Zoroastrian Anjuman and a Vice-President of the Iran League. He is one of the Trustees of the Mehella Patel Daremcher (Fire Temple), Sir Dinshaw Petit Gymnasium, Dadar Parsi Colony Gymkhana, Pestonji Noshirwanji Keravala Charity Funds, Young Ladies' High School, and Sohrab F. Bharoocha Architectural Library founded in memory of his late partner of that name. He is on the Committee of several Associations and Institutions including the Bomanji D. Petit Parsi General Hospital, the Persian Zoroastrian Amelioration Fund and the Bombay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Bai Sakerbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals to which he served as Honorary Architect for several years.

In 1927 Mr. Taraporvala had been to Europe for his health where he had ample opportunity to increase his professional knowledge. In 1932 he travelled in Iran with a view to study Iranian Architecture and to acquaint himself with the conditions of the Zoroastrians residing in the country. After his return he prepared designs for the Municipal Buildings for the City of Yezd at the desire of its then Governor, His Excellency A. M. Oveicy, which were highly approved by the authorities. Mr. Taraporvala had also prepared designs for the statue of the Poet Firdausi Tusi for the City of Teheran under instructions from the Iran League and of Atesh-e-Behram of Yezd for the Persian Zoroastrian Amelioration Funds, the buildings whereof are now almost completed.

Mr. Taraporvala is an enthusiastic Freemason and a Past Master in Craft and Mark Masonries. He is one of the founders of several Masonic Lodges and other Craft bodies in Bombay and mofussil including Lodge "Sohrab Bharoocha" No. 1363 S.C., founded to perpetuate the memory of his late partner Mr. Sohrab F. Bharoocha.

Mr. Meherwanji Palonji Katgara, L.C.E.

(1881—1929)

Partner, Messrs. Taraporewalla Bharucha & Co.
Architects and Engineers



After passing his L.C.E. at the Poona Engineering College, Mr. Katgara joined the above firm and by his ability and integrity soon made a name for himself but unfortunately his death at the early age of 48 years deprived the firm of his very valuable assistance.

Mr. Framji Jamshedji Bilia

A. Inst. C.E. (Ireland), L.C.E. (Bombay)

(Born 1865)



Mr. Framji was educated in St. Vincent's School, Poona, and then in the Government Poona High School from where he matriculated in the year 1884. In the College of Science, Poona, he received his further education in Engineering and was classed at the degree examination of Civil Engineering in the year 1892. Side by side, he joined the Agricultural class attached to the College and filled in the terms, but an attack of typhoid fever prevented him from appearing for the Diploma Examination.

Those were the days when educated members of high families were in demand, and Mr. Bilia received a number of offers of high posts. He made his choice and decided to join the Municipality of Bombay in the year 1893. Then followed a long service of 32 years with only a break of a couple of months' leave. He worked in all the branches of the Engineering Department, viz., Roads, Buildings, Drainage, Construction, Repairs and Architecture. His experience in Civil Engineering was so extensive and varied that in the year 1908 the Diploma of Associate Membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland was conferred upon him.

In 1898-99 experiments for the treatment of sewage biologically were carried out by Mr. C. C. James, M.I.C.E., the then Drainage Engineer of the Bombay Municipality, Mr. Bilia being then working under him as Head Surveyor. Mr. James appreciated the valuable help of his assistant, Mr. Bilia, and mentioned it in his book "Notes on Sewage Disposal for the use of the Drainage Engineers in India."

On a request to the Municipality by Mr. Playford Reynolds, M.I.C.E., the first Chief Engineer of the City Improvement Trust, for the services of a competent engineer for the preparation of designs of drains, the Municipal Executive authorities requested Mr. Framji J. Bilia to assist the City Improvement Trust. The first drainage scheme of the Trust was of the Nagpada district prepared by Mr. Bilia. His scheme was approved *in toto* by the

Committee of Engineers specially appointed by the Trust. Then followed three other Trust Schemes designed by Mr. Bilia and these were also approved of by the Trust. For the Poona Sewage Scheme, prepared by Mr. E. Pottinger, M.I.C.E.. Sanitary Engineer to the Government and recast by Mr. Santo Crimp, M.I.C.E., the well-known drainage expert, the Government asked for the help of an experienced engineer in drainage matters to prepare detailed plans and estimates on the lines suggested by the expert. The Municipal Drainage Engineer, Mr. James, strongly recommended Mr. Bilia but the Municipal Commissioner did not like to disturb the administration and replied to the Government that the services of the Municipal Engineer could not be spared. By this time Mr. Framji Bilia became a known figure as an expert in drainage matters, and his services were in demand by outside bodies. His career in the Municipality was very bright. Starting from the post of Surveyor, Mr. Bilia soon rose to the posts of Inspector, Head Surveyor, Drainage Superintendent of Streets and Buildings, Assistant Drainage Engineer, and finally to the post of Senior Assistant Executive Engineer (Architecture) which he held till his retirement.

Mr. Bilia started his public activities in 1902 and took a keen interest in housing problems. At the time of the development of the Malcolm Baug Estate at Amboli (Andheri), the Trustees of the N.M. Wadia (C.I.E.) Charities were in need of an expert's advice regarding the disposal of the sewage of the residents consisting of no less than 2,000 persons. Mr. Framji Bilia was requested to assist the Trustees to which he acceded. He worked as an Honorary Engineer, designed the scheme and carried it out. The present sanitary condition of the estate speaks well of the skill of the designer and executor. The Trustees thanked Mr. Bilia for his honorary duties and opined that they were fortunate in securing the services of such an individual. H. E. The Governor of Bombay who presided at the opening ceremony also thanked him for the work done for the good of the community.

Mr. Bilia's religious inclinations soon brought him in the limelight as Trustee and Honorary Engineer of several Fire Temples and it was mainly due to his indefatigable energy that the beautiful edifice that enshrines the sacred fire at Navsari, owes its existence. His tolerant views on equality of religion soon led to his association with the Theosophical Society, whose Bombay Branch owes a lot to him. He was President of the Blavatsky Lodge of Bombay for over 12 years and also a Freemason, being affiliated to the co-Masonic order for over 30 years.

He is connected with nearly 24 Institutions to which he is ungrudgingly devoting his honorary services.

Mr. Munchershah N. Chandabhoy, F.R.I.B.A. M.S.E. (Lond.)

(BORN 1856)

An Architect of Repute



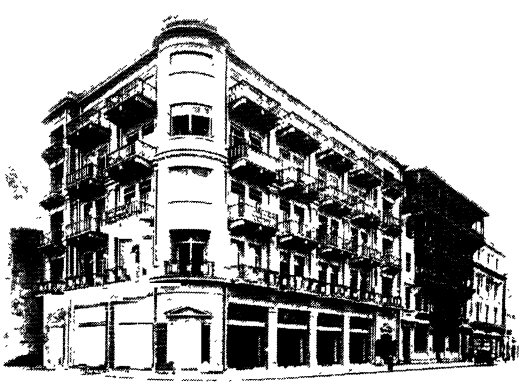
In that magnificent compilation, "The Bombay Presidency," by Somerset Playne, F.R.G.S., the following high praise is accorded to the subject of this sketch :—

"Among the numerous successful Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, and Assessors of Loss and Damage resulting from fires there is no one in Bombay—one might probably say in the East—who has received a greater measure of confidence from those who are in the position of clients than Mr. Munchershah N. Chandabhoy, M.S.A., M.S.E. (London)."

Mr. Chandabhoy was born at Surat on 12th May 1856. His father, the late Mr. Nusserwanji, was a well-known Civil Engineer and Architect of his day and held the responsible position

of Professor at the Government Engineering College, Poona. Mr. Munchershah joined his father's firm as a partner in 1879, and at a later date, after the death of his father, he started his own firm in 1884. Mr. Munchershah's great engineering abilities were requisitioned by several leading millowners, commercial men and other leading citizens. He is responsible for the erection of more than 30 Cotton Mills, several commercial and residential buildings in Bombay and elsewhere, such as the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable Institution at New Queen's Road, Bombay, Jeejeebhoy Castle at Poona, and other remarkable fine bungalows and residential quarters in Bombay City, and also in country districts. One of the latest buildings erected is the Rustom Building at Churchgate Street, Fort, for the late Mr. Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy. Panday House at Cumbala Hill was also erected by Mr. Chandabhoy for the late Mr. Framji Dorabji Panday. We again take the liberty of quoting from the well-known book mentioned at the beginning of this sketch:

"Mr. Chandabhoy's great skill as an Architect is only equalled by the thoroughness with which he supervises the carrying out of his designs, and the buildings erected by him will remain as a fitting tribute to one who is so intimately connected with the material progress and the social life of the city of his adoption."



Rustom Building, Churchgate Street, Fort, Bombay

Besides occupying a front rank as an Architect, Mr. Chandabhoy did extensive business as Fire Loss Assessor and Adjuster, and has had unique experience as a Valuer of Land and Buildings and as Adjudicator in disputes of different kinds—Mr. Chandabhoy made a great name for himself as Assessor of Losses through fires.

Edaljee Cooverjee Patel

(BORN 1862)

An Enterprising Business Man and a Successful Architect



Going to Aden in 1876 at the age of 14, Edaljee acquired a smattering of English at the Government School and then obtained charge of a coffee shop. Thereafter he picked up the rudiments of business organization at the firm of Messrs. Sopariwalla, and then entered the mercantile line by establishing a small coffee shop for the Aden Artillery. Emboldened by success he achieved in this venture he opened a shop dealing in European goods and by dint of labour, honesty and enterprise, soon made a name in this business. He also took building contracts, although he had no knowledge of architecture and several large buildings were constructed by him in Aden to the entire satisfaction of his patrons. Mr. Edaljee's education was limited but he has left us an example of how labour and honesty could overcome obstacles and lead one to success in spite of several other adverse circumstances.

Mr. Rustom Ardeshir Irani
B.Sc., A.M.S.E., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.

An Expert Engineer



Mr. R. A. Irani, the senior partner and founder of the well-known firm of Consulting Engineers, Messrs. R. A. Irani & Co., is a specialist in reinforced cement concrete. He is an excellent designer of bridges and public buildings as well as R.C.C. structures. He has gained his experience in England and in India and intends designing earthquake-proof buildings in 'quake affected areas of Bihar, Orissa and Quetta.

He is not only a Consulting Civil Engineer but also a Mining Engineer, and is helping and guiding many mine-owners in India, being an expert in the latest geo-physical methods.

Mr. Irani is a self-made man and has risen by mere hard work and pluck, and has begun to take an interest in the affairs relating to the Irani Zoroastrian Anjuman. Mr. Irani is a member of the Parsi Charity Organisation Society.

Khan Bahadur Bomanji Sorabji

(1841—1901)

Noted Parsi Engineer



Khan Bahadur Bomanji Sorabji died at Bombay on the 14th June 1901, aged 60. Born in the same city on the 22nd May 1841, he was educated there at the Elphinstone Institution and in the Engineering Department of the Poona College of Science. In 1861 he was appointed an Overseer in the Public Works Department of the Government of Bombay, in which he subsequently rose to the rank of Assistant Engineer. In 1874 he graduated in Civil Engineering at the University of Bombay, obtaining the James Berkley Gold Medal and several prizes, and at the Delhi Durbar of 1877 the distinction of Khan Bahadur was conferred on him by the Government of India. He retired from the Public Works Department in 1880, and in the following year was appointed Acting Professor of Mathematics and Civil Engineering at the Poona College of Science. From 1888 to 1892 he served the Rajpipla State as an Engineer, but was compelled by ill health to resign that post. Mr. Sorabji was well acquainted with German and Portuguese, as well as with many Indian dialects. For a time he acted as Examiner in Mathematics, Engineering, and Science at the Higher Examinations of Bombay University. During the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867-68, in which he took a prominent part, he received a bullet wound in the foot. In 1884 the Bavarian University of Wurzburg, to which he had presented a thesis on " Some of the New Molecular Parafins," conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Mr. Sorabji was elected an Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, on 7th February, 1882.

Dhanjishaw Motabhoy Darukhanawala

(1855—1902)

The Author's Father who was a Civil and Marine Engineer



Mr. Darukhanawala was the descendant of the well-known Muncherjee Mana Jogi who first came to Bombay from Mandroi, near Surat, in about 1721. Having sought service under a Portuguese manufacturer of gunpowder, he became adept in the line and assumed the title of Darukhanawalla. His descendants followed their ancestral profession for a long period until the Powder Works were removed from Mazagaon to Khirki in the sixties of the last century.

Mr. Dhanjishaw, who was a Mechanical Engineer with Messrs. Harvey & Sabapathy, went to Zanzibar in his early years as a Mechanical Engineer to the Sultan Ice Factory and, returning to India, went to sea with H. H. the Sultan of Zanzibar's steam ship as a Marine Engineer. In 1893 he opened his ironworks and iron and brass foundries at Arthur Road and exhibited such ability in the conduct of the business that on his death in 1902 his eldest son Motabhoy took over a concern which had been firmly established in the commercial world of Bombay.

Sorabjee Pestonjee Saugar, L.M.E., M.I.M.E. (Eng.)

A Marine Engineer of Note



Mr. Saugar began his maritime career at the age of 21 by joining the Bombay Persia Steam Navigation Company, and after a couple of years passed his 2nd Class Marine Engineer's Examination after which he proceeded to England and creditably passed his 1st class Marine Engineer's Examination in 1900. On his return to India he was appointed Chief Marine Engineer of the s.s. *Rahmani*. This steamer which latterly changed hands was torpedoed during the World War (1914-18) when Mr. Saugar saved a colleague's life at great personal risk.

After his retirement, he joined as a partner of the Eastern Iron Brass Foundry and Shipwrights Co., Bombay, of which he is now the sole proprietor.

Mr. Saugar is one of the first Parsis to make Lissa sugar and opened a factory in Bombay and at Santa Cruz. He holds a large estate in the Baroda State and is a keen agriculturist.

Mr. Saugar is a Freemason, a Founder and member of several Lodges. He is the recipient of several War Medals.

Jehanbux Vachhaji Sibina, L.M.E.

Alias

Jehanbux Ratanji Framji Vacha, L.M.E.

(1871—1915)

A Well-known Mechanical Engineer



Born in Bombay and matriculated from the Sir J. J. P. B. Institution, he joined the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute and passed his L.M.E. examination. His services were requisitioned by merchants and owners for whom he erected several factories in Gujarat and elsewhere. He joined the "Kala Bhuvan" Technical Institute, Baroda, as Assistant Manager for some years. Afterwards he was invited by the J. N. Tata Parsi Hunarshala at Navsari as the Principal, where he opened several new departments and brought the Hunarshala to a very conspicuous position. He died here in 1915 at the age of 44, in harness.

Ardesar Kaikobad Modi, A.M.I.E. (Ind.), (Eng.), L.M.E., A.I.E.E.

(BORN 1887)

Chartered Engineer



Mr. Modi is an Electrical and Mechanical Engineer who has opened his firm under the name of the Pioneering Electric Company, at Bombay and carries out business on a large scale. He is a patentee in India and England for improvement in electric casing, the Managing Director of the Navsari Electric Supply Co., Ltd. and in the beginning of the Great War was entrusted with the responsible work of the electrification of transport steamers at Bombay. From the Baroda Government he secured a licence for the supply of electricity, and the town of Navsari enjoys the advantages of electric lights and power mainly through his efforts. The latter city also owes its ice supply to him.

Mr. Modi is an enterprising, enthusiastic and energetic man, takes a leading part in all public affairs and is a Trustee, Secretary and member of the Managing Committee of more than a dozen Institutions.

Mr. Dossabhai Meherwanjee Engineer

(1852—1930)

A Railway Contractor of Repute

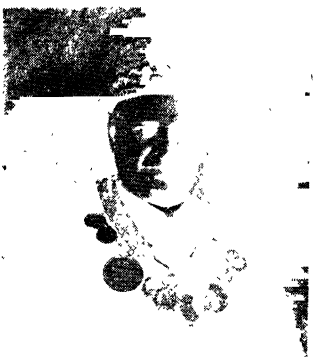


Dossabhai Meherwanjee Engineer (Bilimora) was born in Bilimora on the 17th July 1852. He studied at the Elphinstone High School. He worked in many Bombay firms before ultimately leaving Bombay for Badnera in the service of the G. I. P. Railway ; later he joined the Mofussil Ginning and Pressing Company as an Engineer and worked at Shegaon, Amraoti, Jalgaon, Khandesh and many other places as Engineer and Erector. During the period 1891 to 1901 he undertook contracts for laying lines and erecting bridges, &c., for the B. B. & C. I. Railway, on the Prantij and Tapti lines, working jointly with Mr. Burjorji Dhunjibhoy Contractor. From the year 1902 he worked with Mr. Behramsha Pestonji Aibara and Mr. Burjorji Dhunjibhoy Contractor as a partner of the Ahurmazd Cotton Press and erected gins and presses in different parts of the country. He retired from business when the partnership was dissolved in 1918, and led a peaceful and happy life, passing the rest of his days in reading religious books. He passed away on 2nd December, 1930.

Mr. Kharsedjee M. Baliwalla

(1853—1913)

"The Irving of India"



Mr. Kharsedjee M. Baliwalla, the great Parsi actor and Proprietor of the Victoria Theatre, started life as a compositor in the *Telegraph and Courier*, but being dissatisfied with his meagre wage and long hours he cast about for a means of supplementing his earnings. He obtained a job in an Indian Theatrical Company at Rs. 5 per month and soon convinced his employer that he was likely to make a success as a female impersonator. He then decided to devote his life to the theatrical profession and phenomenal success attended his efforts. In a few years he made himself famous as a comedian and joined a theatrical partnership consisting of Framjee Appoo, Dossabhoy Moghul and Dadabhoy Thoothee. The company had a most successful career in India and was then taken to England and the Continent and when in the former country, Mr. Baliwalla had the honour of playing by command before Her Majesty Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, who displayed a keen interest in this company. Mr. Baliwalla was the proud possessor of some 30 valuable Medals from Royalty and Nobility all over the world including one from the Sultan of Turkey. He raised the Indian stage to a high state of perfection and in 1895 influential leaders of Indian society in Bombay presented him with a purse of Rs. 6,000 in appreciation of his histrionic talents.

Miss Bhikhaiji L. Palamkote

(BORN 1867)

The Pioneer Lady Teacher of Music in the Parsi Community



Miss Bhikhaiji is a Life Academic Member of Trinity College of Music, London, amongst 50 European Musicians; a unique record not only for the Parsi community but for India as well.

Pianist and Musician from 1885, Professor of Music from 1890-1935. Taught music upto three generations. Organizer of 16 Concerts from 1912-1935 and thereby gave in charity Rs. 41,662. 218 of her pupils were successful in Trinity College of Music, London, Examinations from 1901-1935.

Miss Bhikhaiji is recipient of 8 Special Prizes, 3 General Prizes and John Jardine Scholarships from the Alexandra Girls' English Institution. Recipient of 4 Gold Medals in Venetian and Homiton Lace Work (an Italian art) from Calcutta, Bhavnagar, Nagpur and Allahabad Industrial Exhibitions.

Life Member of The Parsi Writers' Association.

Rs. 25,000 presented to the Trinity College of Music, London, to provide prizes (cash of £14/-) and Gold Medals for Diploma Examinations in India to Parsi Zoroastrian candidates gaining the highest marks in Diploma Examinations, viz., F.T.C.L., L.T.C.L. and A.T.C.L., for Pianoforte playing: also Rs. 10,000 for literary and sundry expenses.

Mr. Jehangirji Jeevanji Patel

(1861—1935)

Actor and Engineer



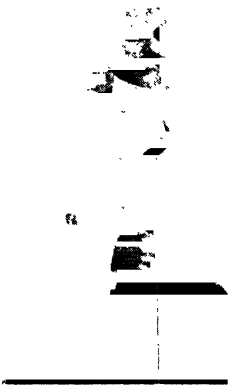
He was born of the Patel family of Illav. From his boyhood he was handsome. He had little of school education but had natural intelligence and was a good musician. At the age of 16 he left his father's home and joined the theatre where he played the part of lady characters. He toured the whole of India with his company and also paid visits to cities like Penang, Hongkong, Shanghai, Burma, etc. He was fond of luxury and was well able to afford it at that time. At the age of 35 he left his career as an actor and took up engineering. One day, one of his numerous friends said jokingly that upto that time he had made money only by dancing and singing, and feeling the truth of this, he left the stage and qualified himself as an Engineer and undertook the erection of several Ginning and Pressing Factories. In his after-life he suffered much from illness and died at the age of 74, leaving behind him his wife, three sons and three daughters.

A Well-known Musical Family

ARDESHIR MUNCHERJI KHODAIJI
(1864—1916)
Professor of Music



JEHANGIR ARDESHIR
KHODAIJI
Director of Music



Certified by Trinity College of Music, London, for Violin, Singing, etc.

JAL JEHANGIR KHODAIJI. (*Conductor : Khodaiji's Band.*)



Certified by Trinity College of Music, London.

Mr. Framroze Dhunjishaw Shroff

Principal: THE PARSEE MUSIC INSTITUTE

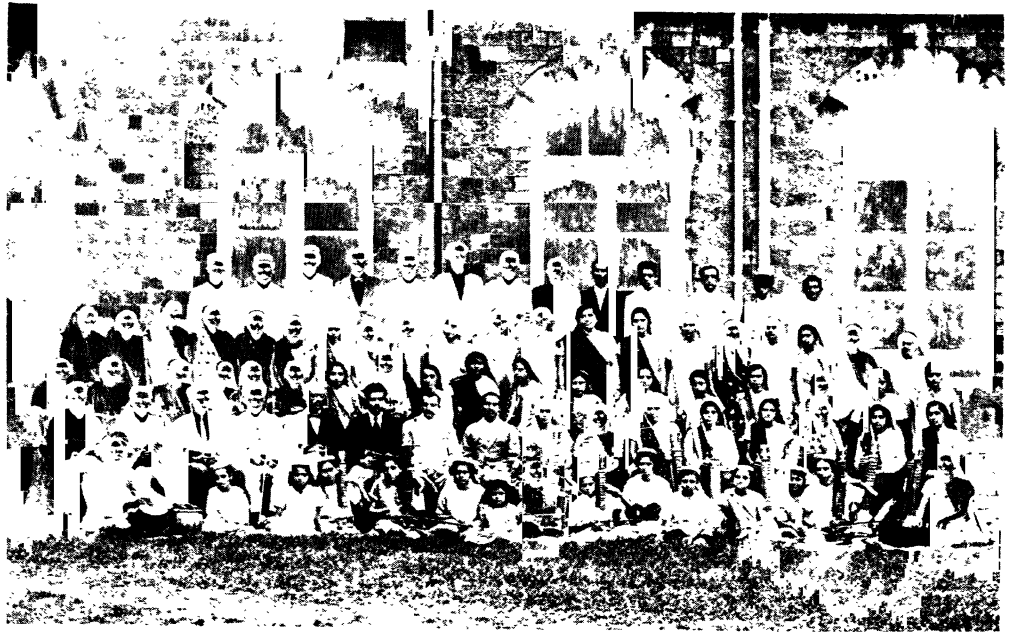


Born as he was with musical talents, he started his musical career on a mouth-organ at the tender age of six. In a short time he superseded all the members of his family, who also are good musicians, in playing various instruments such as the Harmonium, Violin, Dilruba, etc. Having noticed his gift for music, his uncle took him to a music club (The Coronation Music Club) which offered him a good opportunity to develop the art which finally made him a music teacher. His ambition was to impart his knowledge to his community, and he started a class in 1921 under the name of "The Parsee Music Institute" where hundreds of ladies and gentlemen have been trained so proficiently that many of them are now music teachers.

The yearly concerts of the Institute have always been a great success and are attended by a large number of lovers of music.

Mr. Shroff has recently published a book on Indian Music, the title of which is "The Universal Music Guide," which will be issued serially, this being the first of the series.

Mr. Shroff has also been conducting classes for ladies and gentlemen for about five years in Mr. Maneck Pardiwalla's Britannia Music Class at Lal Baug.



Group of some of the members of the Parsee Music Institute with their Principal, Mr. F. D. Shroff, ***sitting in the centre***

Messrs. Dady and Framroze C. Golwalla

Proprietors and Instructors of the VICTORIA SWIMMING BATH, BOMBAY



MR. DADY C. GOLWALLA
(1864—1934)



MR. FRAMROZE C. GOLWALLA
(1868—1937)

The Bath was opened by Messrs. Golwalla Brothers for Parsis only on 2nd July 1896, in the fresh-water tank of the Chanda Ramji Mill, at Colaba, Bombay, and it was removed to its present site at Back Bay, and opened by Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justice, on 21st March 1901. Within four years of its inception, the Bath was opened to members of all communities. During the last 35 years over 70,000 persons, including Parsis, Hindus, Mahomedans, Jews, Europeans, Japanese, etc., have taken advantage of this Bath which was the first cosmopolitan Sea Bath in India.

In 1902-03, as an experiment, under the supervision of the late Mrs. Goolcher Framroze Golwalla, a special class for Parsi ladies was opened but was soon discontinued. It was however, re-opened in April 1927 when there was a big rush of entries. The class is now open to ladies of all communities.

Mr. Framroze Golwalla holds the Indian record of having remained under water for 4 minutes 45 seconds on 17th September 1894, it being considered the second best endurance record of the world.

In 1894 he also swam continuously for 8 miles at the Lakhota Lake, Jamnagar, and dived 105 feet from the castle wall, for which he was awarded a purse and Silver Medal by His Highness the Jamsaheb.

In November 1905 when H.M. King George V came to Bombay as Prince of Wales, the Golwalla Brothers celebrated the occasion

by performing, on 12th November, a unique feat of endurance of swimming in the water for 10 hours continuously with one stroke, covering a distance of 30 miles. The conditions they imposed upon themselves were (*i*) to stay in the water for ten hours, (*ii*) to touch no food or liquid during the whole period, (*iii*) to keep up not less than thirty strokes to the minute, (*iv*) to use the breast-stroke throughout, (*v*) to have no rest during the ten hours, either by floating or treading water. For this swimming feat Gold Medals studded with Diamonds were presented at a dinner under the presidency of the late Mr. Justice Dinshaw Davar.

In 1910 Mr. Framroze saved a European boy from drowning and in 1924 a Hindu boy was saved under similar circumstances. For the latter deed, he was presented with a Gold Medal and a purse of Rs. 2,000 by the members of the Bath and the whole amount was presented by him to various cosmopolitan charities.

An Electric pump was provided in 1916 at great expense by the Proprietors. It was opened by the then Chief Presidency Magistrate. By its aid a lac of gallons of salt-water can be admitted to the Bath in an hour, enabling more frequent renewals of water.

Messrs. Golwalla Brothers have also held various Grand Swimming Entertainments in aid of charities.

The Golwala Family



The group herein shows the family of Messrs. Dady and Framroz C. Golwala, the Champion Swimmers, all of whom are also Professional Instructors.

Inset: Late Mrs. Goolcher Framroz C. Golwala (*died* 1926), an expert swimmer and one of the first (Indian) Parsi Swimming Instructresses who did much to advance this art amongst the women of Bombay.

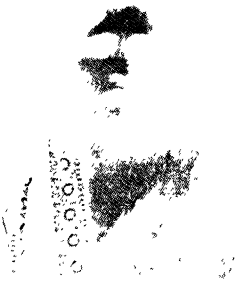
Reading from right to left:—Miss Homai F. Golwala; Mr. Rusy F. Golwala; Miss Nargesh F. Golwala (centre); Mr. Phirojshaw D. Golwala (standing); Mr. Khurshed F. Golwala and Miss Alu F. Golwala.

Mr. & Mrs. Khurshed Framroze Golwala

Mr. Khurshed Framroze Golwala who has passed Swimming Tests of five different countries.



Mrs. Khoorshed Framroze Golwala the first Indian lady to receive recognition from the Royal Life Saving Society.



Mr. Khurshed, joint Proprietor, Victoria Swimming Bath, has secured the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society and has successfully passed the tests demanded by five different countries, England, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy. He is a teacher in Life Saving, Swimming and Diving.

Mrs. Khoorshed who has visited Europe, is the first Indian and Parsi lady to receive the Bronze Medal of the Royal Life Saving Society, and the first lady member of the Life Guard Corps, a branch of the Royal Life Saving Society. She is also in possession of a Certificate of efficiency at Aquatics in Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Golwala are the first married couple amongst the Parsis who have qualified themselves as teachers of Swimming and Life-Saving.



In 1903 Water Polo was introduced in this Bath for the first time in India, when a team of Parsis carried away the Shield awarded by Prince Vajaisingji of Palitana.

The Golwalla Brothers presented a Shield which was competed for by several Parsi, Hindu, European and Zionist teams at the Quadrangular Match organized by the Golwalla Brothers and held under patronage of His Excellency Lord Brabourne, Governor of Bombay, and Lady Brabourne, on 11th and 12th April 1935, when the Parsi Team carried away the Trophy. This was the first time in India that such a Quadrangular Water Polo Tournament had taken place.

(*Concluded from next page*)

The Home is fully equipped with very costly appliances which are to be seen only in this fine institution in the Bombay Presidency.

Mr. Gazdar has been awarded several Gold and Silver Medals and Certificates from India, Europe and America for high proficiency in Gymnastics.

He ranks as one of the foremost Physical Culture Experts in Bombay.

Bomansha Cooverji Gazdar (Born 1876)

Well-known Physical Culture Instructor



Mr. Gazdar had been to Europe and America for special demonstration of Indian Exercises in the years 1894 and 1904. He served in the Government Educational Department as Physical Instructor for nearly 30 years and retired from service in 1928.

Since 1926 he has conducted his own Physical Culture Institute, known as Gazdar's Health Home, for ladies, gentlemen and children of all castes, colour and creed, just behind the Marine Lines station.

(*Continued on previous page*)

Mr. Purvezji Dadabhai
(1845—1909)
One of the Earliest Parsi Professional Photographers



Mr. Rustomji Purvezji
(1876—1919)
Proprietor of the "Eos" Photographic Co.



The art of photography is hardly a century old and one of the earliest persons to carry on the business of professional photography in Bombay was the late Mr. Purvezji Dadabhai, founder of the well-known firm of EOS STUDIOS.

Mr. Purvezji Dadabhai Vajifdar was an inhabitant of Navsari of the ancient family of Meherji Rana. Dastur Meherji Rana, the philosopher of the Court of Akbar, was presented with several acres of land known as *Vajifa* by the Emperor. Mr. Purvezji was the direct descendant of Dastur Meherji Rana. The family still holds a part of the same land or *Vajifa*. The family name of 'Vajifdar' is derived from this word *Vajifa*, meaning the holder of *Vajifa*.

In the middle of the last century, photography was in its infancy. Mr. Purvezji opened a small shop at Bhangwadi, Kalbadevi Road, in the year 1875, where he took photos by the old wet collodin process. He was doing business some time of the year in Bombay, and at other times at Navsari. In the year 1883 there came to Bombay a German artist of the name of Mr. Carl Koening, who

was also a civil engineer. Mr. Purvezji took him as a partner in the business and from that day the firm was known as Koening and Purvezji.

Later, Mr. Purvezji with the help of his German partner, Mr. Koening, built the new studio on the main road of Kalbadevi, where the present Elephant Building is situated. The firm was named "Eos" Photographic Co. (the word "Eos" is the Greek name for the Goddess of Morning or Dawn). From that day the business of the firm increased to a considerable extent, and many well-to-do families and Indian Princes patronized it.

In 1886 Mrs. Koening died and Mr. Koening left Bombay, and Mr. Purvezji from that year became the sole proprietor. Many a good European artist served under him thereafter.

In the year 1897, Mr. Rustomji, the only surviving son of Mr. Purvezji, who had then finished his College education, joined his father in the business. Mr. Rustomji, generally known as R. Purvez, was a very capable photographic artist and a staunch freemason. Mr. Purvezji died in 1909 at the age of 65, and Mr. Rustomji carried on this business capably till January 1919 when he passed away after a short illness at the young age of 43.

Mr. Phirozsha, the eldest son of Mr. Rustomji, managed the business after the death of his father. He has studied up to B.Sc., and of late, he went to Europe in 1930, to study modern photography in London. He passed his examinations in photography with Honours, and also passed the City& Guilds examinations in Scientific Photography in London in 1931. Later, he worked in the Studios of "Films Sonores Tobis" in both Paris and Berlin, and gained practical experience in modern Cinematography and Photography.

Returning to India in 1932, he continued his grandfather's profession as the Art Director and Proprietor of EOS STUDIOS.

The present position of the EOS Photographic Co., better known as EOS STUDIOS, is due to the high quality of the work done there, and to the appreciative patronage, earned by it, alike of the Indian Public and the Princes.

Parsi Children in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century

Parsi Ladies in 1880



Sitting :—Mrs. Maneckbai Ardeshir Ruttonji Wadia, 1855—1926.
Standing :—Mrs. Maneckbai Bomanji Framji Wadia, 1857—1890.

Parsi Lady and her Children in 1864

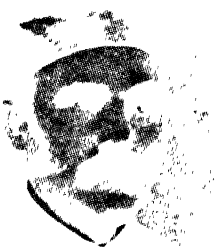


Sitting :—Mrs. Sunabai Dorabji Nanabhoy Wadia, 1838-1898.
Girl :—Maneckbai (Mrs. Ardeshir Ruttonji Lowji Wadia), 1855—1926.
Boy :—Nanabhoy Dorabji Wadia, 1856—1866.

Khan Bahadur Bomanjee Byramjee Patel, J.P.

(1849—1908)

The Author of the Parsi Prakash, a Record of Important Events in the Growth of the Parsi Community



He was the direct descendant of Dorabjee Nanabhoy Patel, the first Parsi immigrant who came to Bombay in 1640. He was educated at St. Xavier's High School and the Mulla Feroze Madrassa. His name is immortalized in his community as the author of the "Parsi Prakash," a monumental work which records all important events in the community right from the advent of the Parsis into India. According to the *Times of India*, he was so thoroughly acquainted with the past and present history of the Parsi community that he was regarded almost as a walking encyclopædia of events relating to Parsi affairs.

Mr. Bomanjee was a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court and for his services was rewarded with the title of Khan Bahadur.

A Distinguished Lawyer, Journalist and Publicist, and his Wife



Rustam Barjorji Paymaster, B.A., LL.B.

(Born 1870)



Mrs. Shirinbai Rustamji Paymaster

(Born 1881)

Mr. Paymaster was born in Bombay on 26th January 1870. His father, Mr. Barjorji Framji (1835—1909), was a Paymaster in the B. B. & C. I. Railway, who on his retirement in the beginning of this century was presented with an Address and a purse by the employees of the Railway, including several European officers, for the services he had rendered them and for his exceedingly kind and obliging nature.

Mr. Rustam was educated at Elphinstone College, Bombay. The lineaments of the man were early discerned in the boy, and the seeds of his public career were first sown when he founded the College Union of his *alma mater* known as " The Elphinstone College Union." While at College he joined in starting with Prof. Welinkar the " Poor Boys' Seminary " for the giving of primary education to the waifs and strays of the city. As a student, his taste for English poetry was cultivated by the inspiration he received from his revered *Guru*, Principal Wordsworth, of whose " Gleanings in Verse " Mr. Paymaster subsequently obtained a copyright for India.

Mr. Rustam passed his LL.B. examination in 1893 and was soon enrolled as a Pleader of the Bombay High Court. His practice was wide and varied, in Bombay as well as in the mofussil, but he made his mark as a Divorce Court lawyer. Upto 1933 he enjoyed

the most extensive practice in the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court at Bombay. His knowledge of Divorce Law was so great that even solicitors used to consult him before launching litigation. Apart from his legal activities, Mr. Paymaster has to his credit various and distinguished services to his community. In the course of his public career, extending over a period of 45 years, he has been taking an active part in social, religious and educational matters pertaining to his own community. After receiving journalistic experience in *The Rast Goftar* Anglo-Gujarati Weekly under the late Mr. Kan khushru N. Kabraji, he was sub-editor of the *Kaiser-i-Hind Weekly* for five years from 1903 to 1908. All his life he has been contributing to the public Press, both English and vernacular, on the burning topics of the day, as well as on a variety of literary and historical subjects.

But the most important service rendered by Mr. Paymaster to the Parsi community, and for which his name will always be remembered, is in connection with the editing and publication of *The Parsi Prakash* (or "Parsi Chronicle"). Since the death of the late Khan Bahadur Bomanji B. Patel in 1908, Mr. Paymaster has been carrying on this work, resulting in great benefit to the Parsi community and very little profit to himself. He has published the Chronicle from 1881 to 1930 in 26 parts covering a period of half a century. In 1933 he retired from his profession for completing the Chronicles and bringing them up-to-date.

Mr. Paymaster was a Member of the Managing Council of the Bombay Historical Society and is fond of research work. He has been associated with, and was the founder of, many other Societies in the city, and was lately a member of the Parsi Federal Council before which he introduced several resolutions on important questions and he also served on various sub-committees appointed by the Council.

During the Rent Act controversy he fought tooth and nail as a champion of the tenants and published in English a book containing Notes and Commentaries on the Bombay Rent Acts.

He is also a good scholar of Persian, having received training upto the M.A. in the language under the late distinguished Professor Mirza Hairat, and is a keen student of Firdausi's *Shah Nameh.*

He is a reviewer of books in several newspapers. His books and pamphlets cover a wide range of subjects from history to sports. His publications include:—Biographical Sketches of Well-known Parsis, "The Kisseh-i-Sanjan" (in Persian, Gujarati and English), "Sanjan Memorial Column Movement," "The Parsees of Yore," "The Ancient Parsi Colonies of Variav and Vankaner," "The Edicts of Asokh in Sopara," "The Firman of Emperor Jehangir to the Ancestors of Dadabhoy Novroji,"

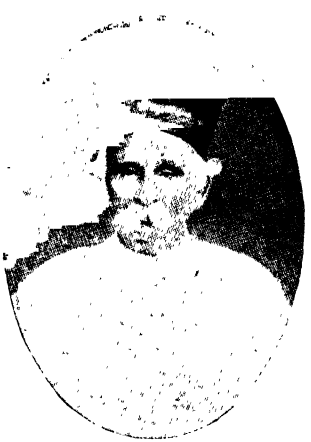
" Life of Dr. William Wordsworth," " Gleanings in Verse " by Dr. Wordsworth, " Voice of the East on the Great War " (Series Nos. 1 & 2), " The Nazarana " (Coronation Ode), " Navroziana," " Poems on Dadabhoy Navroji," " Children's Day " (*re.* Bomb Outrage on Lord Hardinge), the last five being poetical works in English.

Mrs. Paymaster is a daughter of the late Dr. Muncherji Sorabji Postwala (1851—1902), who was for some time a Civil Surgeon. She received her education in Gujarati and English in the Empress High School, Bombay. She has a son and four daughters, one of the latter having died. Her youngest daughter, Miss Arnavaz, is an M.A., of the Bombay University, and has the distinction of being the first lady to pass the examination in the Avesta and Pahelavi languages with English as her optional subject. Mrs. Shirin Paymaster is a frequent contributor to the newspapers, chiefly on Parsi social and religious subjects. She was specially co-opted as a member of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Parsi Federal Council on the question of " Celebacy among the Parsis, its extent, causes and remedies "

Ratanjee Framjee Wacha

(1815—1893)

Author of " Mumbai-no-Bahar " which gives the Account of Well-known Parsi Families

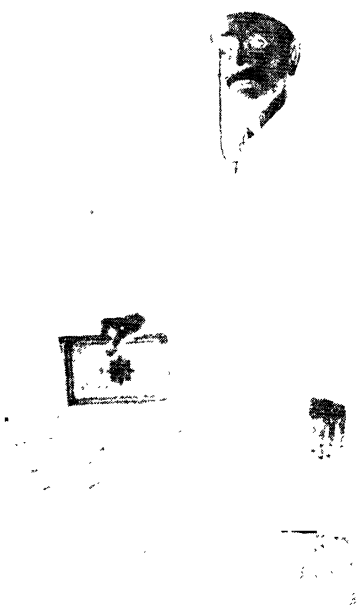


He was an old-time China merchant and carried on business with that country for well-nigh forty years. He retired to Bombay and devoted his time in preparing and publishing by patient and industrious research, the *Mumbai-no-Bahar*, a laborious and monumental compilation containing the history and genealogical trees of almost all well-known Parsi and some Hindu families of Bombay, a book which has rescued from oblivion many important and interesting facts which ought to be read with advantage by members of the present and future generations.

Jamsetjee Pallonjee Kapadia

(1837—1912)

An Iranian Scholar and Historian



He was educated at the Elphinstone Institute and was sent to England as a Partner in a Firm founded by his father. He was for a long number of years a member of the Bombay Corporation and also a Fellow of the Bombay University. On account of his scholarship in the Iranian literature he was appointed an examiner in that language in the Bombay University. He has written many works on the ancient history of Iran.

Hormusji Dhunjishaw Motabhoy Darukhanawala

Author, " Parsis and Sports " and " Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil" the Descendant of a Jaghirdar Family, and Proprietor, Bombay Skating Class



Mr. Hormusji is the youngest son of Dhunjishaw Motabhoy Darukhanawala, the descendant of the well-known family of Mana-Jogi of Surat. In the first quarter of the nineteenth century the Darukhanawalas were the proprietors of Vehar and other estates and it will be interesting to know that just as the Jeejeebhoys, Wadias and Banajis were prominent jaghirdars about a hundred years ago so were some of the members of the Darukhanawala family.

Hormusji Darukhanawala, the subject of this sketch, has inherited the enterprising spirit of his late father. His life hitherto has been of a chequered career, and in whatever sphere he has plunged he has made himself conspicuous. He received his primary education at the Bharda New High School, and being a mischievous boy was transferred to Mr. E. D. Talati's Zoroastrian Boarding School at Deolali. After finishing his school education he joined his father's firm in 1913, known as Messrs. D. M. Darukhanawala & Co., Shipchandlers and Mill Gin Store Suppliers, but severed his connection with it within a few months. In the meantime the Great World War of 1914 broke out and he went to Suez and Mesopotamia as an Assistant to the Senior Medical Officer on board the H.M.H.S. " Sicilia."

In recognition of his valuable services for his King and Country he was awarded three War Medals. He is also the recipient of a Volunteer Long Service Medal.

At the close of the War in 1918 he joined the firm of Mr. Rustomji A. Dubash of Kabul as a General Assistant but had to leave it within a short time to better his prospects elsewhere. His next service was at Messrs. S C. Clubwalla & Co. as Salesman where he was employed for several years, after which he joined the International Trade Developer, a world-wide American Organization having thirty head offices and a hundred branches all over the world. He was taken on by this firm as a Salesman and by his ability and talent soon rose to be the Manager of their branch in Bombay. This concern having closed down, Darukhanawala was again out of job. In the meantime he read an advertisement in the *Times of India* of a firm wanting an energetic and ambitious salesman and he applied for the post. This job was in the firm of Messrs. D. Gestetner & Co. In response to his application he was asked to see the Manager on a certain day when other applicants were also present. Then by turn all the candidates were individually examined. When Darukhanawala was asked whether he could do the particular job his reply was " Why not ? "—whereas to the same question the reply of the other applicants was " I shall try."

His confident assurance marked him out as the most suitable applicant and he was selected for the post. He was employed on the grade usually assigned to Indian employees with the assurance that should his skill and talent prove equal to the occasion and advantageous to the firm he would be raised to the European grade which meant cent. per cent. increase in pay. Fortunately for the astute Parsi Salesman he came up to the mark and in a few months' time was promoted to the European grade, that is, his salary was raised to Rs. 400 per month including commission.

He served here for some time and when reduction in staff was made he was one of the victims. Having been now fed up with service Darukhanawala determined to start a concern of his own and so in 1930 he opened a Skating Class at Gowalia Tank, called " Bombay Skating Class," which he ran for four years. The members of this Class had the honour of receiving tuition from the World Champion Skater, Mr. A. S. Tony (Vienna), whose services were engaged by the Proprietor on a big salary.

Mr. Darukhanawala next turned his attention to literary pursuits. He thought of publishing a book on Sports with the object of popularising his Skating Class, and by collecting a decent amount to erect a building of his own for the Class. Eventually he brought out a book called " Parsis and Sports " in which he succeeded in his first aim, namely, to popularise his Class, but unfortunately financially the venture proved a failure. He then turned his attention to

publishing another volume and it is this very book which is now in the hands of the reader. There is no doubt that both of these works, "Parsis and Sports" and "Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil," are very useful publications and should be in the hands of every Parsi as they recount the past glory of their enterprising community.

Rustomjee Pestonjee Karkaria, B.A.

(1869—1919)

A Bombay Litterateur of European Reputation



He graduated in 1888 and was appointed Assistant Professor of English and History at the St. Xavier's College. He was Fellow, Royal Historical Society, and M.R.A.S. of Bombay and Great Britain. He used to contribute *Papers* to Journals of Societies of Europe and India on Indian subjects. His discovery and publication of Carlyle's Lectures on European Literature brought him into great prominence in the literary world.

He was also the author of works on Indian History and Politics, Shivaji and Akbar. H.E. Lord Willingdon has written the Introduction to his *Charms of Bombay*. Karkaria possessed an excellent library of rare books on Indian subjects which was dispersed after his death.

Sorabjee Mancherjee Desai

(1865—1937)

An Antiquarian of Repute



Mr. Sorabjee joined the Gaekwar's service in 1890 and retired on pension in 1928 as an Accountant of the District Panchayat when he received a gratuity of Rs. 1,500. During all these years, in addition to his duties, he acted as Honorary Secretary to several charitable institutions. He was a journalist and author, having published in all 99 books and pamphlets, and was a frequent contributor to several newspapers. He was the proud possessor of a library containing many old books and manuscripts. He had also collected some rare and valuable old coins and other curios which were inspected by Maharaja Sir Shiaji Rao, Gaekwar of Baroda, some time ago.

Bai Dosibai Dasturna

(Wife of Dastur Rustomji Mobedji Kumana of Surat)

(1817—1900)

A Learned Woman of Her Time



This learned lady was a prominent figure among the Parsis of Surat in her days, being proficient in the history of religion and traditions. She was actually consulted even by elderly priests on matters of faith. She was a descendant of the great Dastur Darab Kumana, the leader of the Kadimis in Surat. In 1865 Sheth Khurshedji R. Cama lectured at Surat and this lady had the rare courage to express her views openly at the meeting! This unprecedented event created a great impression upon the Parsis present. Even the great Parsi chronicler, Khan Bahadur Bomanji Behramji Patel, author of "Parsi Prakash," complimented her by saying that she was an authority on matters of ancient history of her town. Hearing her fame Miss

(*Continued on next page*)

Bai Navajbai Behmanji Dastur Kumana

(1861—1909)

Well Learned in Iranian History



This lady had a commanding personality radiating unselfish love all around her and ever present in the midst of weal or woe. Being always straightforward her opinion was sought by many who valued her magical sympathy and powers to discriminate at sight a good soul from a bad one. Miss Mennant, the French Orientalist, visited her in 1901 and had a long chat on religious topics (Mr. Dosabhai Hakim acting as an interpreter). She was impressed by the knowledge that Bai Navajbai displayed on matters of Iranian history and Zoroastrian tenets. She acted as arbitrator in many cases brought to her and her innate judicial powers were admired by those who benefited by the same. Like her husband she had plain living but a high ideal of life of service.

(*Concluded from previous page*)

Mennant, the Oriental savant, had to record in her book ("Anquetil du Perron") her fine capacity which had impressed other European scholars as well. In the portrait on page 255 Miss Mennant writes in her own handwriting: "*Dosibai descendante de Darab,*" i.e., "Dosibai, the descendant of Darab."

Mulla Pheroze bin Mulla Kaus

(1758—1830)

A Persian Scholar of Repute and Author of the Grand Epic, George Nameh



A native of Broach, a priest of the Kadmi sect, a great Oriental scholar, author of *George Nameh*, a grand epic of the British conquest in India which was the first book to be dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He was a great collector of Persian and Arabic manuscripts and was the author of *Desatir*, an ancient religious Persian Work. He led an ascetic life, devoted to his studies, and was much sought by scholars, both European and Asiatic.

(*Concluded from page* 258)

the names of Warden, Simpson, Le Geyt, Reeves, W. E. Frere, Hebbert, Bellasis, Sir Bartle Frere, James Gibbs, Sir Barrow Ellis, etc. Dossabhoy was a poet as well as a prose writer, having published a number of verses on various subjects in Persian and Hindustani, as well as translations of several Persian works in Gujrati which greatly increased his reputation as a profound scholar.

Mr. Dossabhoy Sorabjee Munshi, J.P.

(1786—1870)

A Profound Persian Scholar



Mr. Dossabhoy Sorabjee Munshi, J.P. (1786-1870), a man of learning and considerable literary talent, came to Bombay from Gujrat in 1798 and was educated at a Persian seminary, and for about seven years pursued his studies with unwearied assiduity. In 1803 he was employed as a Persian teacher by Hormasjee Bomanjee Wadia and several young gentlemen of his family were placed under his tuition, and it was from this family that he obtained the title of *Moonshee*. Dossabhoy thereafter soon acquired fame as a first-rate Oriental teacher and several British officers availed themselves of his tuition for the study of the native languages, in which they had to undergo an examination. Amongst his pupils may be mentioned

(*Continued on page* 257)

Pioneer Parsee Zend and Avestic Scholars—Mr. K. R. Kama and his Pupils

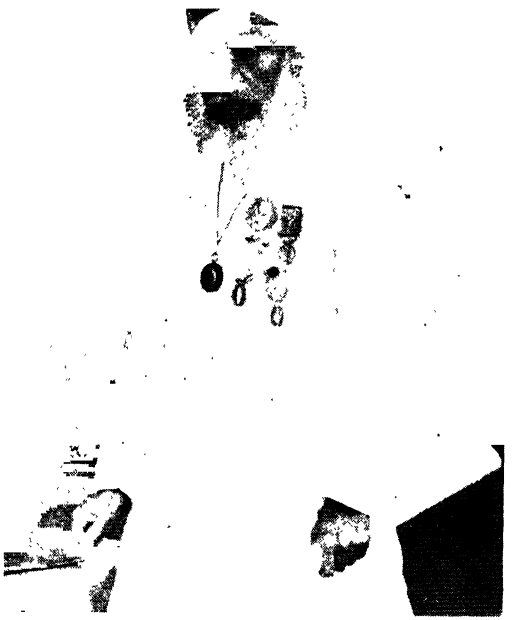


Sitting, left to right :—(1) Ervud Tehmurus Dinshaw Anklesaria, 1840–1903 ; (2) Ervud Sheriarji Dadabhoy Bharucha, 1843–1915 ; (3) Mr. Khurshedji Rustomji Kama, 1831–1909 ; (4) Ervud Kavasji Edulji Kanga, 1829–1904 ; (5) Ervud Edulji Kershaspji Antia, 1842–1913.

Standing :—(1) Ervud Jamsetji Dadabhoy Nadirshaw ; 1846-1931 (2) Ervud Khurshedji Minocherji Kateli, 1826–1902.

Shams-ul-Ulama Dr. Sir Jivanji Jamshedji Modi, Kt., etc. (1854—1933)

An Athornan of High Literary Attainments and a Profound Scholar of Oriental Languages



B.A. (Bombay University 1876); Ph.D. (Honoris Causa, Heidelberg, 1912); C.I.E. (1917); Fellow of the University of Bombay (1887); Dipl. Litteris et Artibus (Sweden, 1889); Shams-ul-Ulama (Government of India, 1893); Officier d'Academie (France, 1898); Officier de l'Instruction Publique (France, 1902); Honorary Correspondent of the Archæological Department of the Government of India (1914); Campbell Medallist, B. B. Royal Asiatic Society (1923); Honorary Member of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (1923); Chevalier de Legion d'Honneur (France, 1925); Officier de Croix de Merit (Hungary 1925).

For 38 years Secretary of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet, managing estates and funds valued at crores. Was an eminent author, speaker, and traveller besides being an efficient Priest. Seldom has a priest secured such high distinctions as he.

Sorabjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy

(1825—1882)

A Scholar and Philanthropist



Sorabjee was the youngest son of the first Baronet, and at the early age of 11 years married the daughter of Seth Merwanjee Jeejeebhoy. In 1849 he joined the firm of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Sons & Co. He made a special study of the Persian language and published several books which reveal his deep erudition. He was a Justice of the Peace and a Fellow of the Bombay University. During the famine at Orissa he endowed the sum of Rs. 20,000 for the relief of the poor and also gave liberally to the Lancashire and Bengal Famine Funds. He founded a Dharamsala at Ahmedabad, a Hospital at Broach and a High School at Surat.

Dastur Mahiar Navroji Kutar
Dastur Darab Pahlan

(BORN 1866)

Head Priest, Maneckji Seth's Agiary, Bombay



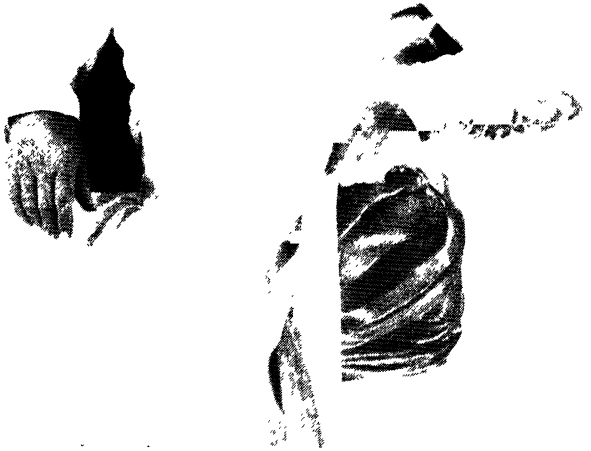
Joint author of the complete translation with transliteration in Gujarati of Firdausi's "Shah Nameh" (in ten volumes) which is properly known as Kutar Brothers' "Shah Nameh."

Dastur Framroz Navroji Kutar
Dastur Darab Pahlan

(BORN 1868)

High Priest of the Bhagarsath Sect of Surat





Joint author of the complete translation with transliteration in Gujarati of Firdausi's "Shah Nameh" (in ten volumes) which is popularly known as Kutar Brothers' "Shah Nameh."

Cowasjee Edaljee Khambatta

(1830—1916)

A Profound English Scholar



He was educated at the Elphinstone Institute and obtained the Normal Scholarship in 1850, a rare distinction in those days. He began life as a teacher in the above Institute and was Honorary Secretary of the Students' Library and Scientific Society under the auspices of which he had given several public lectures.

Mr. Khambatta was a born journalist and had edited the *Bombay Samachar* in his younger days. He contributed to the English columns of the *Rast Goftar* and *Parsi Mitar*, and his writings were read and admired all round. When he went on business to China in the fifties of the last century, he became the Editor of the *Friend of India*, a journal published in that country. On his return from China he went to England in 1858 in the firm of the Camas and on his return to Bombay, joined another Parsi firm. He acted as Agent of the Port Canning and Land Company from 1872 to 1887 and during that period had to live in Calcutta. He was very well conversant with commercial matters and used to contribute freely to the papers on mercantile subjects. On one occasion Mr. Robert Knight of the *Times of India* called him the best English writer amongst Indians.

Mr. Khambatta's command over the English language was superb and his contributions were read universally with great admiration by all classes of the community.



Mancherjee Kavasjee Mansukh

(1828—1902)

Literary Scholar, Speaker, Poet, Author and Journalist

Gifted with versatile talents, he had composed thirty large works on history, moral philosophy and fiction. His high poetical powers are well displayed in his accurate transliteration of the poems of Firdausi, the great epic poet. His language was superb and his History of the Share Speculation of 1864-65 is considered a monumental work even to the present day.

Camajee B. N. Cama, M.A., LL.M., I.C.S, Bar-at-Law

(1878—1915)

A Brilliant Scholar and Wrangler



Born on November 13th, 1878, the late Mr. C. B. N. Cama, M.A., LL.M., I.C.S., Bar-at-Law, was barely 37 when he passed away. He belonged to the well-known Cama family of Bombay, his grandfather being the late Mr. Pestonjee Hormusjee Cama, C.I.E., the donor of Cama Hospital.

The late Mr. Camajee was one of the twin Cama brothers who evoked such universal applause by their brilliant scholastic careers. He and his brother Byramjee studied together, both passed examinations together. He appeared for the B.A. and M.A. examinations together with his late brother who went up for his M.A. at the time. He not only got a double first class in both degrees but a Government Scholarship to go to England and prosecute his studies further and the Chancellor's Medal which had not been awarded the preceding three or four years.

It is, of course, well known that they were both Wranglers (sixth and seventh). Both studied and thought alike, very often amazing the

examiners with their great similarity in thought. As it often caused comment as well as surprise, the twins themselves asked to be separated when sitting for their examinations. Mr. Camajee once amusingly related how they had both answered a botany paper. They were separated by the length of a vast hall when answering it. When they came out they were amazed to find that both had dissected a flower wrongly; both had called the petals by a wrong name and both had answered the other questions correctly. The correct as well as the incorrect answers were identical. Mr. Cama took the Mathematical Tripos in both parts as well as the Law Tripos.

When that sad and tragic accident deprived him of his beloved twin brother Byramjee in 1902—an accident which Bombay and Cambridge have not yet forgotten—the late Mr. Camajee was overwhelmed with grief.

After coming out to India and joining the Indian Civil Service, in the first years of comparative leisurely life, rather than sit idle, he turned his attention to Oriental Languages. It is well known how many languages he tackled and how he passed examinations in their different grades. He was awarded large Government money prizes, but that was a secondary consideration with him. He did these things for pure love of the vast and deep oriental literature. "If I live," he would often say, "I will sift all these books and find and show to the world the fund of hidden treasure that is lying buried in Asiatic literature." His method of learning languages was his own. Though sending for tutors from distant places for the various languages he undertook to study, it was often a matter of great amusement to those around him that it was he who took the dictatorial role and the teacher who accepted it—and yet the many teachers of various nationalities mourn his loss sincerely and truly. He read deeply and widely and had a fund of ancient lore and anecdotes at his command.

The late Mr. Cama was appointed Divisional and Sessions Judge in 1910. How well he discharged his duties, how fair-minded and upright he was, is shown by his extreme popularity amongst officials and non-officials, the legal world and all who came in contact with him. It was always a matter of grave anxiety and consideration to him when passing a death sentence, and when passing such a sentence on a woman his distress was great. He had to pass death sentence on women twice. In both judgments, he himself showed strongly and "ably" (as the Higher Court once said) all the different points, which he thought had induced the guilt, praying for Higher Court's intervention in the severity of the sentence. In both cases the sentences were commuted. His relief and pleasure were indescribable.

A brilliant scholar, a great and good man, a most lovable man has passed away in the late Mr. C. B. N. Cama. May his sweet and beloved soul rest in peace!

Parsi Students in England in 1838



Left to Right :—(1) Heerjeebhoy Meherwanjee Wadia (1817—1883); (2) Jehangir Navrojee Wadia (1821—1866); (3) Dorabjee Mancherjee Nanjivohra.

The two Wadia cousins left for England on 29th March, 1838 accompanied by Nanjivohra and two Parsi servants as their care-takers. The two boys were Assistants at the Bombay Docks and the object of their visit was to get instruction in the art of building ships at the Chatham Docks. Going to England was a novel thing in those days, and the guardian of the two boys sanctioned their departure under the conviction, to quote his own words, "that their religious sentiments would be preserved from the influence of strangers."

Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P. (1825—1917)

The Grand Old Man of India, the Father of Swaraj and the Pioneer of Indian Female Education in Western India



The first of the Indians to successfully contest a British Constituency and to enter the British House of Commons. He has a long and humble record both as regards his public and his private life, being one of the Founders of the Indian National Congress and the pioneer of Indian Female Education in Western India. He is regarded, and deservedly so, as the very first of Indian politicians, one who combined business talents of a high order with what are to the men of his class, the soundest of views on political topics, who united English energies to Eastern imagination, and who was gifted equally with great powers of expression. His success at the electoral campaign at Finsbury was certainly a political event of great importance and one unique in the history of both England and India.

Dr. Dadabhai belonged to the Dordi family of Naosari to which city a full-size statue of his was presented by his kinsman, Dr. Jehangir B. Dordi, F.R.C.S., to perpetuate the memory of this Grand Old Man of India.

Mr. Edalji Dorabji Talati, B.A., J.P.

(1849—1929)

A Reputed Parsi Educationist and the Founder of the First Public School for the Parsis



Mr. Talati with his grey flowing beard, khaki uniform and soft felt hat was a popular and respected figure of his time in Bombay. Born in Surat in the year A.D. 1849, he early realized the value of open-air exercise and discipline. From a very humble beginning he rose to be the Principal of the greatest school in the Presidency then, the Elphinstone High School, Bombay, and was for some time Principal of the Government High Schools at Surat, Ahmedabad and Karachi. It was by dint of sheer hard work coupled with honesty of purpose and clarity of intelligence that he was able to rise to such a position. In the method of his teaching the cane was sparingly used: persuasion and forceful stressing of the argument were the principal factors of his system. He was not a teacher by profession alone but teaching was, as it were, in his blood and he was like a father to his pupil, a guiding star. A word of encouragement to the disappointed, a signal of caution to the over-enthusiastic, a pat on the back to the deserving, a stick of reproach to the unruly—this was his simple but sure *modus operandi*. It was he who first opened a Public School for Parsis on the plan of the Public Schools of England which he visited, and made the manual-labour subjects as carpentry, gardening, etc., compulsory.

He was one of the torch-bearers of technical and industrial education and was a staunch advocate of forming associations for the

encouragement of industries. " Be prepared to take off your coats, tuck up your sleeves and work with your own hands " was his frequent advice to the young. He was fond of travelling and gave lectures at Surat, Broach, Nargol, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Karachi, Navsari, Bulsar, Bombay, Poona and various other places, always stressing the necessity of physical culture, exercise, education, and industrial and technical vocations and instruction and carried on vigorous propaganda in the Press for the same. He was one of the first to point out exactly the root-cause of unemployment and, what is more, its solution. In his very popular lecture on " What To Do With Our Sons ?" delivered in Poona so far back as in 1901, he declared with confidence, " we are all talking of regeneration of India and various individuals and bodies suggest various means but I am convinced that the material regeneration of India depends chiefly on the development of its resources " and not " by joining the already over-crowded professions and the liberal arts." What prophetic words !

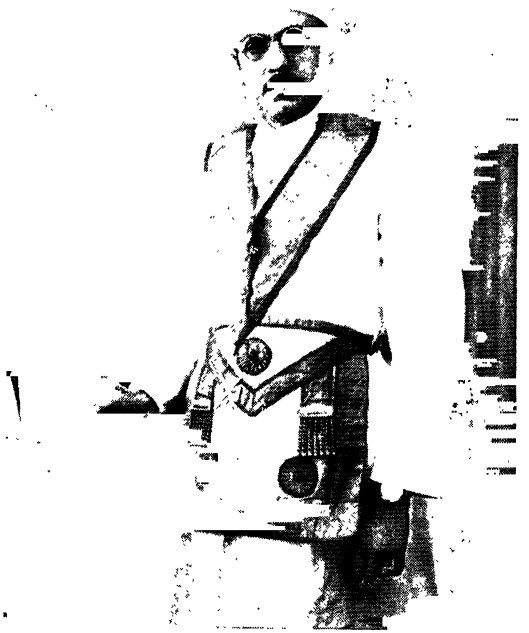
No wonder the Government and the people alike appreciated his services and showered on him honours and Addresses. He was presented at St. James' Palace in 1890, decorated with the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal in 1904, on his retirement, a special Government Resolution was published recording his services ; was given a Sanad for Census in 1901 and a special Sanad for the same in 1911. He was a Fellow of the Bombay University, a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Poona Volunteer Corps.

A strict disciplinarian, thorough educationist and Zarthusti in the true sense of the word, Edulji Talati was the cynosure of all eyes in his time and a model for the present. He died at Bombay in 1929 deeply lamented by a large circle of friends and relatives.

Ervad Khurshed S. Dabu, M.A.

(BORN 1889)

A Successful Parsi Educationist



Ervad Khurshed S. Dabu, M.A., had a successful school career and passed his Matriculation in 1906, standing twenty-ninth amongst the successful candidates at the University. He is a Maratab of Navsari, and has practised extensively as a Priest at Navsari and elsewhere.

After gaining several scholarships at the University, he graduated in 1910 and was appointed a Dakshina Fellow at the Wilson College. He passed his M.A. (Hons.) two years later, and in the meantime acted as Religious Instructor at the Sir J. J. Schools in Bombay and Lecturer at Wilson College. He also completed his course of the Sir Jamsetjee Madressa, with Avesta and Pehlavi with First Class

throughout, and carried away two gold medals. In 1913 he acted as Assistant Professor of English at the Fergusson College.

Ed. Dabu then transferred his activities temporarily to Adyar, Madras, where he acted as Manager of *Commonweal*, under Dr. Mrs. Annie Besant. He then worked for 2½ years as Headmaster of the Cawnpore Theosophical High School from where he was transferred as Head of the Dharma Samaj High School (600 boys) at Aligarh where he worked for four years and organized the "Students' Brotherhood," "Temperance Union," and School Scout troops.

The year 1919 brought Ed. Dabu to Surat as Principal of the Parsi Orphanage and in the following year he also took charge of the Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy High School. He still holds both these appointments.

Ed. Dabu has lectured in many parts of Gujarat, Deccan, the U.P. and Delhi, and in 1911 carried off the First Prize at a public Elocution Competition in English.

Ed. Dabu is a journalist, having been Editor of *Cherag* for many years, and still contributes to it and several other papers. He has also published booklets on Zoroastrianism and has translated parts of the *Gathas*.

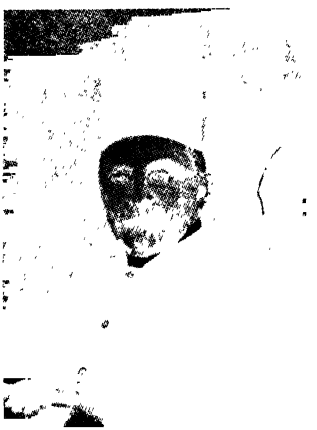
Ed. Dabu has been an active member of the Theosophical Society and also a P. M. of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry (*Le Droit Humaine, Paris*).

He has been a member of the Civic Guard as an officer in 1918 at Aligarh and was a University Examiner for some years.

Jalbhoy Dorabjee Bharda, B.A.

(1864—1921)

A Great Educationist and Scientist



After graduation Mr. Bharda opened, in partnership with Mr. Kaikobad B. Marzban, the New High School which began to flourish within the space of a year, and is now recognized as one of the greatest educational institutions in the British Empire. His favourite subject was Astronomy of which he continued to be a student till the day of his death.

Mr. Bharda was a member of the Bombay University Senate and was connected with several educational institutions in Bombay.

Mr. Kaikobad Behramji Marzban, B.A., J.P.

(1867—1933)

A Bombay Educationist of Repute



The late Mr. Kaikobad Behramji Marzban came of a well-known literary family, his father, the late Mr. Behramji Fardunji Marzban, being an Urdu scholar of repute and proprietor of the *Rast Goftar*, and his grandfather, the late Mr. Fardunji Marzbanjee, being a great Persian scholar with a number of literary works to his credit.

Immediately after his graduation in 1890 Mr. Marzban founded, on 1st January 1891, in conjunction with the late Mr. J. D. Bharda, the well-known educational institution, which for over thirty years was known as the New High School and since the death of Mr. Bharda in 1921, was re-named the Bharda New High School and which a quarter of a century later rose to be the biggest private-owned educational institution in the British Empire, at one time having over 2,600 students on its rolls.

Mr. Marzban was a Fellow of the Bombay University, member of the Academic Council, Chairman of the Board of Studies in English Literature, and was elected on almost every Committee appointed in connection with the Matriculation Examination.

He served for some time on the Film Censor Board and was a member of the High School Athletic Association. He was on the managing committee of the J. N. Petit Institute, the Avanbai Petit Parsi Girls' School Orphanage, the Bengali School, the Gamadia School, the Alexandra School, the Young Ladies' High School, the Princess School, the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Institution, etc.

Mr. Marzban took keen and intimate interest in the many side activities such as Scouting, Boxing, Music, Sports, Physical Drill, Gymnastics, etc., along with the educational progress of his School, as witnessed by the uniformly good results at the Matriculation Examination. He died on 4th August 1933, without a day's holiday or even illness, with a determination and oneness of purpose, cheerfulness of outlook, and a selflessness that was almost unique.

Dorabji Edulji Gimi, B.A.

(1847—1921)

Well-known Educationist



In March 1921 there passed away from us, one, who belonged to the generation that was the first to receive the benefit of liberal education amongst Parsis. Dorabji Gimi, after having graduated himself in 1871 and obtaining the Maneckji Limji Gold Medal, spent his life in the work of education as Headmaster of the High Schools at Surat, Nadiad and Rajkot. Clear-headed and balanced in his judgment, he proved a sympathetic superior to those who were brought under him. He was eminent as a teacher but his interests and visions joined to a temperament that delighted in studies always made him look beyond the school. In 1888 he was appointed Educational Inspector, Northern Division. In communal matters, he was an ardent reformer, tolerant in his views of men and manners, eager to help every movement for social amelioration. Honest, unselfish, upright, fearless in the expression of his views, he never cared to win popular favour by trimming. Modest and retiring by disposition, his sterling worth was known only to the few.

Dossabhoy Bejonjee Kharas, B.A.

(1867—1931)

A Bombay Educationist



Mr. Dossabhoy passed his matriculation in 1884 and became a graduate five years later. In later years he became Proprietor and Principal of the Proprietary High School situated at Gowalia Tank Road,and soon made himself very popular with his students. After his death the institution was managed by his widow, Bai Meherbai (1873-1937), and his two sons, Messrs. Jehangir who is an M.A. and Mr. Hormasjee, a Bachelor of Commerce. Bai Meherbai passed away in 1937 and the school is now efficiently managed by the above two gentlemen, the former of whom has gone to England for his M.Sc. studies.

This is one of the oldest educational institutions of Bombay and is patronized by a good number of students.

Mr. F. D. Master, B.A.

(1869—1915)

Founder, Tutorial High School for Boys and Girls



Framjee Dadabhoy Master passed his B.A. in 1890. He then opened a private Tutorial Class which was very largely patronized. The success he achieved in this venture induced him to establish the Tutorial High School at Grant Road and in a few years' time it achieved phenomenal success. This was the finest institution in Bombay in which boy and girl students were accommodated and taught in a common class-room and in which lady teachers were engaged.

Mr. Framjee had published many books for the use of the students. After his death his friends and admirers held a memorial meeting at the Town Hall where his services to the cause of education were eulogized by different speakers.

" Thou wert so meek and reverent,
So resolute of will,
So bold to hear the uppermost,
And yet so calm and still.
Thou wert a daily lesson
Of courage, hope and faith ;
We wondered at thee living,
We envy thee thy death."

Mr. Maneck Sorabji Banaji, F.C.R.A., F.N.F.A. (London)

Corporate Registered Accountant, Prizeman and Honoursman



Mr. Banaji is a prominent figure in the circle of Educationists. Ever since the death of Mr. F. D. Master, he has been Joint Proprietor and Joint Principal of Master's Tutorial High Schools for Boys and Girls.

For 32 years Principal Maneck Banaji has been conducting his well-known Institution, *Banaji's Tutorial Commercial Classes*, in which more than 3,000 students were trained for Senior Commercial Examinations of London. Some of his students are employed as Departmental Heads of Lloyd's, Central and Imperial Banks, Examiners of Accounts in the Income Tax Office, Chief Accountants and Acting Secretaries of the Bombay Electric Company and as Departmental Heads of Audit Firms, the Bombay Municipality and Insurance and Limited Companies.

His pupils stood *Second in the World* in the 1932 and 1934 Advanced London Examinations and *First in the World* in the 1935 Examinations.

Khan Saheb Manchersha Palonjee Kikobad

(1856—1935)

An Educationist of Surat



Khan Saheb Manchersha passed in 1873 his Matriculation test from the Irish Presbyterian Mission Boys' High School, Surat, and was appointed Assistant Master in the same school. From the very beginning he set to work with untiring zeal and energy and always identified his own interests with those of the institution and took a deep interest in the welfare of his students.

In 1879 he was appointed Head Master under the late Mr. Jervis who had succeeded the Rev. Dr. Taylor as Principal and he soon became famous as a highly efficient teacher and scholar of English, declining the offers of several Native States of Western India for Headmastership in their schools at very high salaries.

In 1914 the Khan Saheb retired from his post of Head Master after a meritorious service of 42 years on account of throat trouble, but after a lapse of some time, when he had completely recovered, he took up the post of Principal of "Bai Perojbai M. Patel Parsi Girls' High School" at the request of the founder of that institution which he served for almost 20 years, i.e., till the end of his life. He died in the school while teaching his students.

Besides being an Educationist and public speaker, the Khan Saheb was the author of a number of learned works. His Grammar of the Gujrati tongue and his Histories of England and India were found highly useful by the student world.

The title of Khan Saheb was awarded to him about five years before his death in appreciation of his upright character and his exemplary services in the cause of Education.

Bahadurjee Meherwanjee Bahadurjee, B.A.

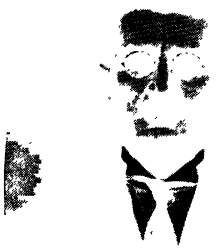
An Educationist



Born in Bombay, he took primary education at the Proprietary High School, matriculated from the Fort High School at the age of 16 and graduated from St. Xavier's College at the age of 21. He then joined the Sir Jamsetjee Zend and Pehalvi Madressa and studied these languages for five years. He came first in the M.A. Class and received Scholarships and Prizes. He was appointed Assistant Master at the Elphinstone High School, became, in course of time, Head Master of the Elphinstone Middle School, and later Principal of the Elphinstone High School. He retired from the Government Educational Department after serving for 22 years. Mr. Bahadurjee now passes his time in reading books on religion and philosophy.

Kaikhushru P. Sinor, M.A., B.Sc. (Bom.), A.R.C.Sc., A.R.S.M., D.C. (London)

A Well-known Mining Engineer



Mr. K. P. Sinor passed his B.Sc. and M.A. examinations with Honours from the Wilson College, Bombay, in the years 1908 and 1909. In 1910 he proceeded to England as Bhavnagar State Scholar to study Geology and Mining Engineering. After studying at the Royal College of Science and the Royal School of Mines, London, for four years he was awarded the A.R.C.Sc. in Geology, A.R.S.M. in Mining and was given the Diploma of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, for advanced work in Mining Engineering.

On his return from England Mr. Sinor was appointed State Geologist to the Bhavnagar State. In 1917 he joined Rewa State in Central India as State Geologist and worked there till 1922. He then worked in Chanda, Central Provinces, as Agent, Mahakali Colliery, and was later appointed Mining Engineer in Panna State, Central India. In 1930-31 Mr. Sinor was again appointed State Geologist, Rewa State.

The following books were written by Mr. Sinor as the result of his work in Bhavnagar, Rewa and Panna States :—

1. "The Igneous and Sedimentary Rocks of the Bhavnagar Territory."
2. "The Mineral Resources of Rewa State in Baghelkhund."
3. "The Diamond Mines of Panna State in Central India."

Mr. Sinor is at present working as Head Master of the J. N. Petit Parsi Orphanage.

Ervad Dorabji Barjorji Kanga ("Dadabhoy Master")

(1860—1932)

A Bombay Educationist



Ervad Dorabji (Dadabhai Master) Barjorji Kanga was a Scholar of repute, and the Damla Medallist. He founded "The New Mazagon Boys' and Girls' School" in 1879 and conducted it for an unbroken period of 53 years. Ervad Dadabhai Master moulded the character of more than two generations of boys and girls who have been occupying prominent positions in the public life of the city. He loved his institution to such an extent that he gave his all for its betterment and died a poor man, but he reaped his reward in that he succeeded in fulfilling his life's noble mission. Bombay has had more brilliant educationists but few perhaps who combined in a greater degree the sense of the high responsibility of his office with perfect honesty and self-abnegation than Ervad Dadabhai Master of revered memory.

Khan Sahib Jalejar Dorabji Kanga

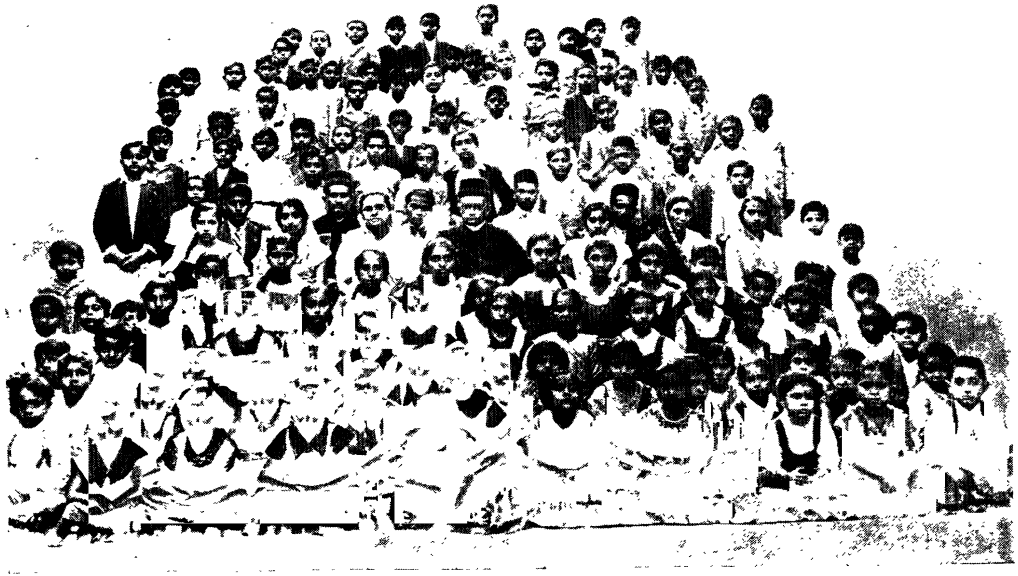
(BORN 1890)

Educationist



Khan Sahib Jalejar Dorabji Kanga, B.Sc. (Econ.), Universitè Philotechnique (Brussels), F.R.Econ.S., F.C.T.S., F.C.I., P.C.T. The Khan Saheb started his career in very humble circumstances. There are few men among Parsis with his perseverance and enterprise. Rising, through sheer self-effort to the post of Principal (New Mazagon) Boys' and Girls' School, he encourages all whom he finds needy and helpless by serving them in a thousand and one ways. A man of, indefatigable energy, he served his father's (New Mazagon) Boys' and Girls' School as an honorary teacher since 1909, besides pursuing his various studies and earning his livelihood. On the death of his father, he became Principal and Proprietor of the School (in 1932). Within a short time he re-modelled the Institution by introducing reforms which won appreciation from all concerned.

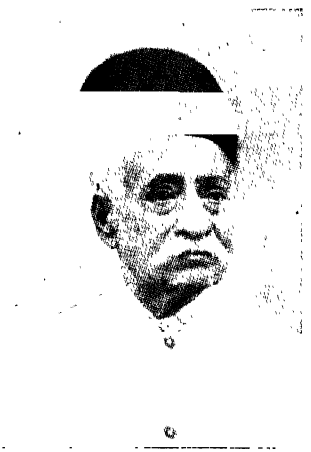
Khan Sahib Kanga is the moving spirit of Mazagon and its vicinity and a man of sterling character, caring neither for favour nor frown. Unassuming in his behaviour, no one from his outward appearance can recognize his great worth as an organizer and a selfless public servant. Government, recognizing his services to the cause of Education, conferred upon him the title of "Khan Sahib" as a personal distinction in 1936. Khan Sahib Kanga, in spite of his manifold duties, finds time to write books which have proved to be of merit and originality.



THE NEW MAZAGON BOYS' AND GIRLS' SCHOOL, 140A, Mount Road, Mazagon.

Founded in 1879. Government registered it in 1891. Conducted on sound, modern educational principles. A boon to poor and middle class students of Mazagon and its vicinity.

Founder-Proprietors-Principals of the Young Ladies' High School



MR. DADABHOY PESTONJI
Founder



MISS AIMAI HIRJIBHOY PATEL
The Proprietress and Principal



MISS SOONABAI D. DESAI
The Proprietress and Principal



DR. JAMSHED D. DESAI, M.B.B.S.
The Proprietor and Principal

Mr. Jehangir K. Wadia **Mrs. Jer Jamshed Desai**

Proprietors and Principals, Young Ladies' High School





The school was founded in 1889 by the distinguished educationist, the late Mr. Dadabhoy Pestonji. For twenty years Mr. Dadabhoy took a keen interest in it, after which he retired. On his retirement Miss Aimai Hirjibhoy Patel took over charge of the school as Principal and Proprietress with Miss Hamabai R. Colah as Head Mistress. Miss Patel, during her fourteen years of able management, turned this Institution into a model girls' school. Her charming simplicity, extreme modesty and amiable character endeared her to her pupils and their parents. Her death in 1922 was a grievous loss to the school. On her death the school became the property of her niece, Miss Soonabai D. Desai, and her nephew, Dr. Jamshed D. Desai, M.B.,B.S. Miss Desai died in 1929 and in another five years her brother, Dr. Desai, followed her. On his death, his wife, Mrs. Jer Jamshed Desai, took over the management of the school and she is at present running it with the help and co-operation of her father, Mr. J. K. Wadia and Miss M. R. Fenivala, M.A., the Head Mistress, who looks after the academic side and the general supervision of the school. The school admits girls of all nationalities.

The school entered its Golden Jubilee Year on 6th March 1938.

Dr. Ardesar Sorabjee Kalapesi, B.A., B.Sc. (Bom.), D.I.C., Ph.D. (Lond.), F.R.G.S., F.G.S. (Lond.)

Professor of Geology, St. Xavier's College, Bombay



Passed the Matriculation examination from the Sir J. J. P. B. Institution and joined St. Xavier's College in 1911. After passing the B.A. examination worked as a College Fellow in Physics till 1917. After taking his B.Sc. he worked as a Demonstrator in Chemistry as well as in Biology. Later on he was made an Assistant Professor of Geology. He was also Assistant Superintendent of the College Hostel from 1916 to 1935.

During his school and college days he took part in the Cricket Shield matches and in tennis tournaments. He was a member of the College Gymkhana Committees. Soon after joining the College he revived the College Jashan and Dinner and later founded the St. Xavier's College Parsi Association.

In 1928 he went to the Continent for higher studies : got the Diploma of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and in 1930 the Ph.D. (Geology) Degree of the London University was conferred on him. Then he went to the Zurich Politechnique and returned to Bombay in 1931 to resume his duties as Professor of Geology. In 1932 he again went to Germany to work in regional Geography at the Berlin University and returned after a few months to the College where he is still working. He has put in about twenty years' work in the Educational line.

Mr. Rustom Sorabji Patuck

B.A. (Bom.), B.A. (Cantab), A.M.M. (Lond.)

(BORN 1884)

A Mining Engineer and Educationist



Mr. R. S. Patuck was educated at the New High School and passed the Matriculation in 1900. Joined the Elphinstone College, passed B.A. in 1905 and was appointed Dakshina Fellow. He then went to Cambridge in 1905 and joined St. John's College and passed Natural Science Tripos in 1908. Thereafter he joined the School of Metalliferous Mining at Camborne, Cornwall, and obtained 1st class 1st Diploma in 1910. Appointed Assistant Engineer at Hafan Mining Co. of London. In 1912 obtained appointment as an Assistant Engineer in India of the Vizianagram Mining Co., Ltd., of London. In 1915 he was appointed sole Manager and Agent in India, and retained that position till 1927, when he left India for England. In 1934 he was appointed Principal of the J. N. Petit Parsi Orphanage, Bombay, from which post he retired in 1936.

Mr. Sorab Adarji Marshall, M.A.



Mr. Sorab Adarji Marshall, M.A., was born at Broach in 1892. Matriculating from the R. S. Dalal High School there in 1908, he came to Bombay for higher studies and graduated from the Wilson College in 1913. He obtained his M.A. degree in 1915, and founded the Tutorial Cambridge Classes in 1916. In 1918 he started the Imperial High School at Grant Road, Bombay, with Mr. Shamrao Dadaji Kothare, M.A., as partner. He was elected Hon. Secretary of the Bombay High School Athletic Association from 1931 to 1935 and President of the same Association in 1935.

(*Concluded from next page*)

interested and commendable zeal she won deep affection and respect of her numerous pupils and of those who came in contact with her.

After Miss Patel's death in 1922, Miss Colah was appointed Principal and she did her best to walk in the footsteps of her revered friend and head to maintain the School on a high level of proficiency and excellence. Unfortunately Miss Colah's useful life was cut short on 2nd June 1924. Her passing away was universally deplored in Bombay educational circles.

Numerous young ladies have matriculated under Miss Colah, many of whom have become Doctors and Graduates in Arts.

Miss Colah had a great command of the English and French languages and was an examiner in these subjects in the Matriculation examination of the Bombay University.

Miss Hamabai Ratanji Colah, M.A., S.T.C.

(1886—1924)

Head Mistress of the Young Ladies' High School



Miss Hamabai R. Colah, after receiving her education in the Girton High School and passing the Matriculation Examination with a high rank, joined the Wilson College. There she had a brilliant career, passing in all the examinations upto M.A. creditably and getting scholarships throughout.

Miss Colah joined the Young Ladies' High School as Head-mistress in 1910, and from the beginning proved herself the right-hand of Miss Aimai Patel, the then Principal and Proprietress of the School. Miss Colah worked conscientiously and with whole-hearted devotion to duty and introduced many improvements in the Institution. By her amiability, simplicity, intelligence and dis-

(*Continued on previous page*)

Pestonji Nusserwanji Wadia, J.P.

(1848—1923)

A Pioneer of Commercial Education in Western India



"Mr. P. N. Wadia whose death took place on March 1st, 1923, was a prominent member of the Parsi community and one of the early pioneers of commercial education in the Presidency."

"*Indian Textile Journal*," *April* 1923.

His lectures and brochures on commercial education were both eloquent and full of useful data, and Calcutta, Allahabad and Lahore made inquiries of him as to the scope and manner of making that education relevant to the training of the youth of India. Lord Lloyd, the Governor of Bombay, made the following remarks at a public gathering :—"Not only your community (the Parsis) but the whole "business community of Bombay in general, have very good cause

" to be grateful to Mr. Pestonji Wadia for his foresight and energy in " making the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable Institution a " Commercial High School. Indeed, Mr. Wadia provided against " conditions, which even he could hardly have foreseen, for I do " not think that 20 years ago anyone here could have foretold that " commercial competition would be so very keen and the need for " commercial education so absolutely imperative as it is to-day."

At the age of 16 Mr. Wadia had to leave his birth-place, Poona, for Bombay, and owing to financial stringency his school-days came to an end. The vocation of a pedagogue was his only choice and he accepted it in a Bombay school (lower forms). Six years later he became the private tutor of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy family on a salary short of half-a-hundred. He served his master's family for 51 years, till his death, and had the satisfaction of being highly esteemed, beloved and respected for his many qualities of head and heart.

Being useful to others was akin to a hobby of his, and well he played his part. He gave a donation to the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable School to found a Provident Fund for the teachers, and it was the very first of its kind to help teachers in their old age.

Mr. Wadia was actively concerned with the civic life of the City, whose moto " *Urbs Prima in Indis*" was adopted to his suggestion, and for many years he was a member of the Municipal Corporation. He was a Justice of the Peace, an Honorary Magistrate, Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court (*see* photo on page 146). He was the Secretary and Agent of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Trust Settlement (1872) and had the management of large estates in the City and of seven villages of Salsette (North of Bandra) belonging to the Trust Estate.

On 1st January 1877 Lord Lytton held the very first Durbar in India—the Proclamation Durbar—and having accompanied Mr. Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, C.S.I., to it, he took up journalistic work of reporting events and functions in connection with it from there, to the Bombay Vernacular and English papers. Throughout his life he was writing to the Press or identifying himself with journalistic work.

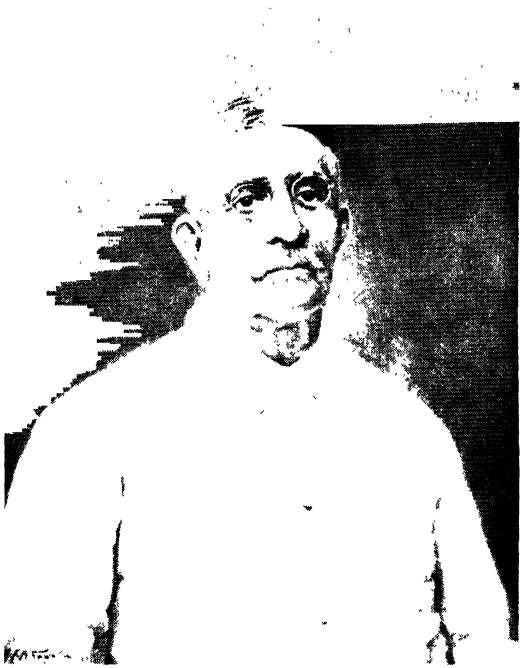
Mr. Wadia was a Freemason. He entered the Lodge " Rising Sun " 6 years after its birth in 1871, and rank by rank rose to be Master Mason, and Grand Master Depute of the Grand Lodge A.S.F.I. He was appointed Honorary Senior Grand Deacon of Scotland and Honorary Life Member of some sister Lodges. He consecrated Lodges in Lonavla, Surat and Sholapur. His brother Masons presented an oil-painting of him on the occasion of his holding for 25 years the post of Grand Master Depute and the Golden Jubilee of Lodge " Rising Sun." A discourse on Freemasonry was an easy matter with him and he printed several brochures on the Masonic cult.

Senior and Junior Members, 1900, F.R. *Papa Accountancy Institute*

Mr. Framroz Rustom Papa

(BORN 1861)

A Pioneer of Commercial Education in Bombay



Mr. Papa received his education at the Alfred and Parsi High School conducted by Mr. Nusserwanjee Hirjibhoy Patel, the well-known Parsi educationist. He studied upto the VII standard and then joined the Oriental Spinning and Weaving Company as an Assistant Timekeeper. In 1886 he opened, at the Modibay Gymnasium, the First Accountancy Class in Bombay and thus laid, in a modest form, the foundation of commercial education in this city. The institution was known as the "F. R. Papa Accountancy Class."

Mr. Papa was an ardent advocate of Physical Culture and in 1896 collected nearly Rs. 12,000 for the construction of a building to lodge the Modibay Gymnasium of Mr. Maneckjee Hormasjee Mehenti, which institution was the means of imparting physical training to the members of his community.

Mr. Papa in his younger days was a man of multifarious occupations. From Accountancy he turned his attention to business and in 1898 started an Indent Office known as "F. R. Papa & Co., Bombay and Calcutta." In 1914 unfortunately he lost his eye-sight and had to retire from business but his pristine vigour still remained in him and in spite of this inherent defect continued to take part in communal affairs and started in 1918 a fund called "Hama Aso Faroher" for the performance of the religious ceremonies of departed Parsis. The fund uptil now has reached the decent figure of about Rs. 90,000.

Rustomjee Framjee Nanjee

Superintendent, Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy School, Bombay



Mr. Nanjee joined the Sir J. J. School as a teacher in October 1899. In the year 1904 he took charge of the Rustomjee Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Branch School, Princess Street, as Head Master and served for 15 years, during which period the School made good progress and the Educational Inspectors were much pleased with his work.

In 1911 he served as a Head Master in H. H. Aga Khan School at Zanzibar, East Africa, but owing to the loss of an only child he returned to Bombay after a year.

In the year 1917 on the recommendation of the late Principal D.N. Wadia, he was appointed a private tutor in the family of Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bart., and gave entire satisfaction to his employers.

Since 1919 he has been Superintendent of the Sir J. J. Parsi Benevolent Institution.

Mobed Furdoonjee Marzbanjee

(1787—1847)

The Caxton of Gujarati Printing Press and the Founder of the First Vernacular Newspaper in Western India



He was a great Persian scholar and came to Bombay in 1805. In 1808 he opened a bookbinder's shop. He was the father of the Gujarati Printing Press in Western India and published the first Gujarati Calendar in 1814. On 1st July 1822 he published the *Bombay Samachar*, the first Gujarati newspaper in India. He was the author of several Oriental works and the great explainer of their laws on religious matters to the Parsi community.

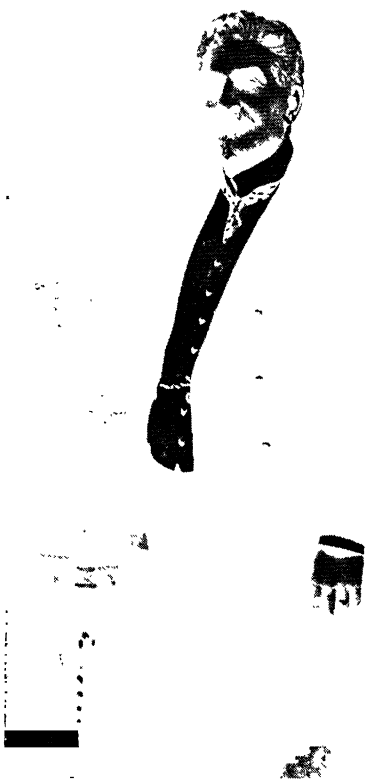
[This portrait is an idealized picture of Seth Furdoonjee taken after his death and is said to be a faithful reproduction of his likeness.]

Jehangir Byramjee Marzban

C.I.E., J.P.

(1848—1928)

A Noted Journalist and Humourist, the "Mark Twain" of the Parsis



Jehangir Marzban was descended from a family of authors and journalists. After finishing his College studies he joined the ancestral profession as a humble proof-reader. From this lowly position he rose to be the proprietor of a flourishing press, the editor of a great journal, the *Jam-e-Jamshed*, and the leader and master of Parsi

Journalism. As a writer of Gujerati he had a most facile pen and in his case it might truly be said that the "pen was mightier than the sword." Many a good and worthy cause had he espoused and a fine article from the hand of this unique master of the pen attracted heaps of money from the Parsi community and thus he was the means of supporting many a good and worthy cause.

Though Mr. Marzban wrote in his paper with his highly facile pen the mark of his literary genius was to be noticed in the more than two dozen books which he published. His language was simple, homely and pulsating with a sparkling vein of wit and humour. Even when he was preaching a sermon, his bitter pill was coated with sugar. His innate humour pervaded every line of his writing and he was justly called "The Mark Twain of the Parsis."

A lover of female education, he was at the same time what may be called an orthodox Parsi. *Festina lente* in social reform was his motto and the policy of his paper.

By his death the Parsi poor, the Masina Hospital, the Bahadurji Sanatorium at Devlali and the Khandala Sanatorium, in the foundation of all of which he had taken a leading part, lost their true friend and guide.

Mr. Marzban took part in civic affairs, in his early days. He was a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation, and was actively engaged in many directions ; but his heart was in journalism to which he gave his best years and devoted attention till nearly the end of his life. Government honoured him with a C.I.E., he being the first Parsi journalist to be so publicly honoured.

Firojsha Jehangir Marzban (Pijam)

(1876—1933)

Veteran Journalist and Civic Worker



A descendant of the father of Parsi Journalism, Pijam's ability as a writer and journalist became known when he emerged from the Elphinstone College as a graduate. He took his M.A. Degree and was soon engaged in journalistic activities. In the early years of this century he became the Editor of the *Jam-e-Jamshed* and as such was ever seen in the vanguard of many a struggle which the Parsi community waged for the preservation of the pristine purity of the

Zoroastrian religion. During these years the pen-name "Pijam" was universalized as a hall-mark of literary contributions which ranged from the fiery criticism of the supporters of the Zoroastrian Conference to the light writings appearing in the *Gup-Sup* [Indian Tit-Bits], of which also he was, for some time, the Editor.

As an author, "Pijam" has to his credit fifteen volumes of fiction and comic writings and some seven dramas. In these writings, he revealed himself as a master of Gujrati language which in his hands was a pliable weapon used deftly to extract tears or provoke mirth from his readers.

Side by side with his activities as a journalist, Mr. Marzban was an elected Member of the Municipal Corporation and Chairman of its Standing Committee. He took a keen interest in civic affairs for several years. He was also a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council for three years, took a leading part in many of its deliberations and was distinguished as an extempore speaker. His services were duly recognized by Government, who made him a Justice of the Peace and decorated him with the Kaisar-I-Hind Silver Medal. Later, the insignia of the C.I.E. was conferred on him and he was appointed Sheriff of Bombay. He was also the President of the Bombay Honorary Magistrates' Association.

A journalist, author, dramatist, speaker, civic father, all rolled into one, Mr. Marzban's untimely death was a blow to the Parsi community and with his passing away, there disappeared a prominent figure, a virile writer, a notable playwright and a zealous servant of the public.

His journalistic mantle has now fallen upon his talented sons Ardeshir and Rustomji who are worthily treading the path chalked out by their revered grandfather and father.

Mr. Dinshah Ardesir Taleyarkhan

(1842—1906)

The Founder of the "Gujrat Mitra," and a Famous Journalist



Mr. Dinshah was a member of the well-known Taleyarkhan family of Surat and was educated at the Surat High School. In 1863 he started life in Surat as a writer on public questions and edited a periodical named *Sere Dehla*. He then started the *Gujrat Mitra*, an Anglo-Vernacular paper which soon became a great power in Gujarat and Kathiawar. Mr. Digby, Editor of the *Calcutta Review*, speaking of Mr. Dinshah's services in 1877, said, "The *Gujrat Mitra*, which is the property of and edited by Dinshah Ardesir, a Parsi of much ability, is a journal of acknowledged influence." "Mr. Dinshah's persistent and manly exposure of the Native States of Sachin, Dharampore, Kathiawar and even Baroda, has resulted in much public good; and his waging war single-handed against such fearful odds is in itself indicative of the moral stamina he possesses" (*The Bombay Review*, 25th October 1879). Mr. Dinshah was a constant contributor on political questions to the columns of the *Times of India*, the *Bombay Gazette* and the *Calcutta Review*. He was chiefly instrumental in exposing the maladministration of Gaekwar Malhar Rao by bringing to light the abuses of his Government. He was a voluminous writer on political subjects. His publications include (1) Travels in Southern India, 1871, (2) A Review of the Parsi Social

Question of 1870, (3) A Review of the Bombay Taxation Discussion of 1871, (4) A Review of Baroda Affairs, (5) The True History and Philosophy of the Bombay Riots, (6) The Forces of the Native States of India in relation to the Defence of the British Empire, (7) Letters on Afghan Affairs, (8) Selections from my Recent Notes on the Indian Empire, (9) How to Introduce National Technical Education in India, (10) The Science of Gold and Silver Currency, (11) Practical Plague Measures for India, (12) Note on Probable Discovery of Snake-bite and Cholera Cure, and others.

Kaikhasru Navrojee Kabrajee

(1842—1904)

Journalist, Author and Social Reformer



Mr. Kabrajee took to journalism when in his teens, became Editor of the *Parsi Mitra*, and then the *Rast Goftar* which he made the instrument for social reform in the whole Indian community. He became a Fellow of the Bombay University in 1882, Member, Bombay Municipal Corporation, and a Member of the British Institute of Journalists. He supported female education and was a warm champion of British rule in India. He also wrote a number of novels dealing mostly with Parsi social life.

Mr. Sorab L. Palamkote, M.J.I. (Lond.)

(1865—1909)

Poet, Journalist and Author



Founder and Secretary of the Parsi Writers' Association, 24th May 1898.

Member of the Journalists' Institution, London.

Member of " Gayan Ootejen Mandli."

Secretary, Ripon Music Club.

Founder, Proprietor and Editor of *Masik Majah* from 1890-1906; and from 1907-1909, Proprietor and Editor of *Hindi Graphi* and *Varta Sangrah*, also Proprietor of Helena Printing Press upto 1909.

The Sorab Palamkote Hall at the Parsi Colony, Dadar, Bombay, was founded in his memory and opened to the public in November 1928.

Mr. Rustom N. Vatchaghandy
(1865—1930)



Mr. Jamshedjee N. Vatchaghandy
(1869—1935)



Rustom Vatchaghandy, the distinguished journalist, was the Proprietor and Editor of the well-known paper *Sanj Vartaman*, founded on 1st May 1902. The first vernacular evening paper in the Bombay Presidency, it advocated the views of the Nationalist party and rendered the country great service by its sober and democratic policy. During Mr. Vatchaghandy's association with the paper for 28 years, "Nationalism" was its policy and "public service" its motto, at all times.

Mr. Jamshedji was the right hand of Mr. Rustom in the management of the paper and was a silent and a conscientious worker, whose untimely death was an irreparable loss to the paper. The patriotic policy of the *Sanj* is still wisely continued under the present Editor, Mr. Jehangir.

Kawasjee Merwanjee Shroff, J.P.

(1852—1903)

The Indefatigable Secretary of the S.P.C.A., Lecturer, Corporator, Theosophist and Sportsman



Few details are at hand of the early life of Kawasjee Merwanjee Shroff. He was born in 1852, and after receiving some preliminary training studied under Khan Bahadur Kersaspjee Rustomjee Dadachanji, the then future Dewan of Baroda. He joined the Elphinstone High School in 1864 and matriculated in 1869. While attending the Elphinstone College he took private instruction in French and Persian and even devoted some of his time to the study of law.

In 1874 with very meagre means he toured through Europe and America and delivered a series of lectures at New York, Chicago and Philadelphia on the Religion and History of the Parsis and on Education and Social Reform in India. He also dwelt at length on the disastrous effect of Western ideas on the minds of the rising generation in India. Mr. Shroff was the first Parsi gentleman to have

lectured in that foreign country. He returned to India in 1875 and at the special request of Miss Mary Carpenter, the great educationist, opened a branch of the National Indian Association in Bombay, of which he was appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer He also co-operated with Miss Manning who took special interest in the education of Indians and especially of women. As a member of the Municipal Corporation for the City of Bombay since his election in 1885, he took an active part in discussing the pros and cons of every question that came before it. During the eighteen years of his membership, he fought with unending zeal and courage for the public cause and was held in great esteem by his colleagues for his good sense and judgment in dealing with several questions that came before that body.

It was not so much as a reformer but as an advocate of humanity in its many aspects that his name will be remembered. As Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, he strongly advocated the scheme of establishing a hospital for the care of sick horses and cattle and saw that it—viz., the Bai Sakarbai Dinsha Petit Hospital for Animals—was successfully carried through in 1884. He infused a great amount of energy and enthusiasm in the Society, and impressed as he was with the benefits of Veterinary Science during his travels in Europe and America, he to a very great extent became instrumental in assisting the establishment of the Veterinary College in Bombay in 1886, it being the first of its kind in India.

In 1897, during the Plague epidemic, Mr. Shroff offered himself as the first man to be inoculated with Professor Haffkine's prophylactic serum thereby proving the advantages of inoculation to the general public. They had entire confidence and faith in him, and when they saw him undergo the operation, they flocked by hundreds, men and women, to be inoculated in their turn.

As a journalist Mr. Shroff had been very prominent. He bought the *Jame-Jamshed* in 1883 and conducted it as a joint stock concern for four years when he voluntarily liquidated the company and became proprietor in partnership with Mr. Jehangir B. Marzban to whom he sold the concern in 1890. He also owned the *Advocate of India* for some time in conjunction with Mr. Marzban. He was a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court and took an active part in the establishment of the Golwalla Brothers' Victoria Swimming Bath situated in Back Bay, Bombay, in 1896. He was one of the Founder members of the Bombay Theosophical Society (1879-80) of which he was also the Vice-President.

A true friend of the people, Mr. Kawasji Shroff fought for the public good for over twenty-five years. A warm friend, an affectionate husband and parent, kind to the poor, a bold and fearless advocate, he lived and died a gentleman; and his memory will be ever cherished particularly in connection with the great work of his life—the amelioration of the suffering of the dumb and helpless animals.

Seth Rustom Manek

(1635—1721)

Broker to the East India Company



Seth Rustom Manek was the Shroff and Broker to the English Factory at Surat and had paid a visit to Delhi in 1660 in connection with the dispute between the English Factory and the Nawab of Surat and had also been to Goa on behalf of Usman Chalebi, a well-known Turkish merchant, whose sailing vessels had been confiscated by the Portuguese Government. He was a philanthropic gentleman and did much to remove the *zoolum* then inflicted on his defenceless brethren by the Moghul administrators. The suburb Rustompoora, at Surat, founded by him, perpetuates his memory.

Ardesir Dhanjishaw Kotwal Bahadur

(1796—1856)

Warden-General of Surat City under the E. I. Company



The account of this hero should read like romance if fully described. Born of a prominent Parsi officer under the British East India Company who was murdered, he was brought up under special protection of the British rule. His family was Beheramankhan with aristocratic traditions. He chose as his career the wardenship of the Surat Castle and the town, so that in time he was not only Chief of Police but a magistrate of great renown. He organized the citizens so as to resist the depredations of Bhil dacoits, and his ceaseless vigilance saved the city from this scourge besides saving the Company a lot of expense. In recognition of his services he was granted *jagirs* of eighteen villages, and in time he came to be looked upon as the Nawab of the Company's rule in Surat. He held several responsible positions, e.g., Political Agent to States and leader of expeditions

against robbers. He was decorated with medals and regalia by the Military authorities as well. He travelled about in a palanquin with 12 bearers, instituted the system of night-watchmen known even now as *dandyas*. His note of hand was as good as a cheque on any merchant and his word was law among his faithful guards. He was the first organizer of the "Surat Parsi Panchayet" with help from the first Sir Jamshedji. His was the boast that none need shut his gate as long as he was alive! He held a court every morning to hear complaints and acted as arbitrator in hundreds of cases among the Parsi as well as other citizens. It was said he slept hardly three hours. His great services during floods and fires in Surat are still remembered. His temperament was religious and giving indiscriminate alms was his weakness so that people misused his generosity which was boundless—till the man who was honoured at six special Durbars was penniless when he died, and a gift of *jagir* came too late to be announced to him. His gifts to temples and mosques were numerous. His uprightness was often tested as he accepted neither bribe nor presents from anyone. He helped to construct grand trunk roads and established a public library. Over and above Panchayet relief he was instrumental in restoring several sacred places of worship from his private purse. It is said he gave away at least 50 lakhs in charity to help those rendered destitute by calamities. The founder of the Swaminarayen sect paid him a special visit and in token of his regard left his turban with Ardeshir. This gift even to-day is an object of annual worship and pilgrimage by the Swaminarayen sect. Over 6½ feet in height he had a towering personality and keen intellect. He excelled in all feats of strength and agility. To some he was an incarnation of divinity as he laboured in love of suffering humanity. Many special ballads have been composed and sung with pride in his honour. One of these sings of: "brave and mighty man who was just as judicial officer—in charity he shone like the sun this glorious heroic Ardeshir!"

(*Concluded from next page*)

In September 1875 he graced the Baroda Bench as Chief Justice on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per month which was raised to Rs. 1,500 in 1879. He retired in 1890.

Kharshedjee had made a name as an upright and a capable administrator and his services were requisitioned by the Rutlam State in 1891 as Diwan which post he held until his death in 1903. He received the title of Khan Bahadhur in 1877 and C.I.E. in 1899.

The history of the life work of the Khan Bahadhur who so honourably graced the judicial and administrative chairs of two big Indian States indeed points a moral to the members of the present generation. It is this, that armed with ability and patience, no individual will be left behind in the race of life and that success will always crown the efforts of those who are graced with these excellent qualities.

Khan Bahadur Kharshedjee Rustomjee Thanawalla, C.I.E.

(1837—1903)

Who rose from a mere Clerk to the post of Chief Justice, Baroda, and Diwan, Ratlam State



Kharshedjee Thanawalla's ancestors settled at Thana from about the middle of the 18th century. His career is indeed a unique one. Joining service as a clerk in the office of the Collector of Thana on 1st July 1856 he rose by stages to be Translator, Sadar Adawlat (1858), English Writer (1860), and Assistant to the Translator and Interpreter at the High Court of Bombay (1863-67). He was then made a 2nd Class Sub-Judge at Kalyan (1869) and 1st Class Sub-Judge six years later.

During the trial of Malhar Rao, Gaikwad of Baroda, he had acted as interpreter to the Commission appointed to try the Maharaja.

(*Continued on previous page*)

Khan Bahadur Pestonji Jehangir Taleyarkhan, C.I.E.

(1831—1914)

A Scholar who rose to Eminence in British and Baroda Service



Khan Bahadur Pestonji Taleyarkhan, C.I.E., was born in Surat in 1831. His ancestors received the titles of Neksatkhan, Behremandkhan and Taleyarkhan from the Mogul Emperor of Delhi with *jaghirs* in the Surat District.

Pestonji was educated at the Elphinstone Institute. He obtained the Diploma of the Normal Scholar in 1853. On numerous occasions he was awarded prizes for proficiency in Literature, History, Logic and Philosophy. In the course of his career as a student, he received Sir Erskine Perry's Gold Medal for the best English essay on "The Moral and Social Causes of the Crusades and their Influence on Civilization."

In 1856 Pestonji joined Government service in the Educational Department, and was one of the first Assistant Professors of his *Alma Mater*. He was an early pioneer of female education and social reform in the community, and was for some time in sole charge of the English column of the *Rast Goftar*.

In 1857, he was appointed Sub-Assistant Inam Commissioner. He was then transferred as Assistant to the Commissioner, Northern Division. Here he acquitted himself so well that the Government of Sir Bartle Frere conferred upon him the office of Settlement Officer, Northern Division. The offices held by Pestonji involved a high degree of trust and responsibility, and numerous extracts can be cited from the despatches of various Secretaries of State for India, showing his invaluable services to the Bombay Presidency and especially to Gujerat.

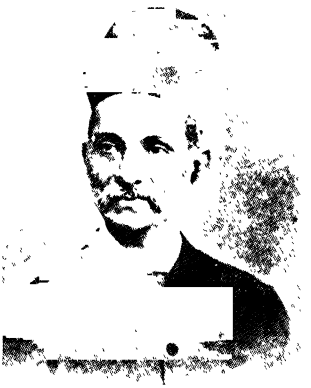
In 1874 the Government of Sir Philip Wodehouse lent the services of Pestonji Jehangir to the State of Baroda. He was nominated President of what was known as the Sirdars' Commission. In 1875 Raja Sir T. Madhavrao, Dewan of Baroda, conferred upon Pestonji the high office of Military Settlement and Political Minister. In 1877 he received the title of Khan Bahadur and the Durbar Medal. In 1882 he was created a Companion of the Indian Empire (C.I.E.). In 1883 he reverted to the Government service and was appointed Talukdari Settlement Officer of Gujarat, a post which was till then occupied by members of the Covenanted Civil Service. In 1890, Lord Reay sent him to the State of Cutch for settling a dispute that had arisen between the Rao and his *bhayats*.

Pestonji was from time to time invited by Government to give his opinion on important public questions. His name is still remembered with affectionate pride in Gujarat and especially in Baroda.

Khan Bahadur Bejonjee Merwanjee Damri

(1843—1919)

" The Grand Old Man of Kathiawar "



Mr. Bejonjee whose family had migrated to Kathiawar from Surat in 1825, was born of a good family and was without any collegiate education. He joined Government service in 1863 at the lowest rung of the ladder. In 1884 he was appointed Karbhari of Mangrol where he exhibited such remarkable aptitude for administration that he was soon selected by the young Ruler of Gondal as his Diwan. Here he made a name and fame not only for himself but for the Ruler as well who had the satisfaction of seeing his State brought to the forefront as a first class one in prosperity, progress and efficiency. His administration was marked by independence, integrity and ability and when he retired in 1903 the Thakore Saheb parted with him with great reluctance. He has left his mark in the province as an able and high-minded administrator and has left a name which will be cherished with great respect by all the Rulers of Kathiawar States.

After his retirement he devoted his time to helping people of all communities with his advice and mature experience and some Indian rulers even visited him in search of guidance on important State matters. He was known amongst his friends as the " G.O.M. of Kathiawar."

Sardar Framroze Burjorji Garda of Navsari

(Born 1878)

A Well-known Parsi Official of Gujarat



Educated at the Navsari High School and St. Xavier's College Bombay. A Jagirdar and a Landlord in the Surat District and Baroda territory. Commenced service in the office of the Commissioner, N. D. Appointed on special duty during the plague epidemic in 1896 and on famine duty in 1900-02. Appointed Mamlatdar in 1907, Deputy Political Agent in 1909, Administrator, Balasinor State, 1912-16. Dewan, Dharampur State, 1916-21. Assistant Political Agent and Sessions Judge, Palanpur, 1921-23. Retired from British service 1924. Created Sardar of Gujarat 1921, Adviser, Radhanpur State, 1928-29, and Administrator, Lunawada State, 1929-30. Member of the Surat District Local Board 1925-28. Worked as First Class Hon. Magistrate for Surat District for about 10 years. Dewan, Jhabua State, 1934. Dewan of Balasinor State, 1934-36. Awarded Coronation Medal 1911, Jubilee Medal 1935, H.H. the Gaekwar's Jubilee Medal in 1936. Helped Government during the Non-co-operation movement in Gujarat in 1929, and again in 1930-31. Purchased extensive areas of land in Bardoli Taluka in 1928 but restored them without any profit at the request of people although they had done a lot of mischief and put him to great loss. On account of this he purchased lands again in Bardoli and Jalalpore Talukas in 1931.

Seth Dossabhoy Merwanjee Wadia

(1807—1865)

Vice-Consul of the United States of America at Bombay
Whose Firm was the First to Introduce Business Connections between India and America



Seth Dossabhoy Merwanjee Wadia was a prominent citizen of Bombay in the middle of the last century. He was a great-great-grandson (Dossabhoy Merwanjee Hirjibhoy Maneckji Lowjee) of the late Seth Lowjee Nusserwanjee Wadia (1710—1774), the illustrious founder of the celebrated Wadia family which is a leading family in the Parsi community, several members of which having distinguished themselves in various walks of life, some of them endowing princely charities without distinction of caste, creed or colour.

Serving as a godown-keeper in his relative's firm of Messrs. B. & A. Hormarji & Co. for some time, Mr. Dossabhoy established the firm of Messrs. Dossabhoy Merwanjee & Co. in 1839, with his three brothers, Dhunjibhoy (1810-1867), Cursetjee (1813-1869) and Hirjibhoy (1817-1883) trading principally with the United States of America. The company is still in existence, being run at present by his grandsons, Mr. Ardeshir Framjee Dossabhoy Wadia (1871—) and Mr. Rustomji Maneckji Dossabhoy Wadia (1877—) and in its existence of 98 years it has been a very important link in introducing business connections between India and America. This firm was the pioneer of the Sewing Machine trade in India and was the first to introduce Kerosene Oil, "Painkiller," Pepperell Drills, Reed and Barton's Electro-plated Ware, and other articles of American manufacture, the imports of which in these days have multiplied a hundredfold and in some cases a thousandfold as compared to the quantities imported by the firm a century ago. All credit therefore is due to the founder of the firm who foresaw the possibilities of an

extensive trade with a country which in those days was separated from this continent by a voyage which extended to several months.

Mr. Dossabhoy was in active business in Bombay for thirty-five years and was distinguished for his courteous and polite demeanour. His urbanity and conciliatory disposition always created a deep impression on strangers and his strict and high-minded conscientiousness and sterling character caused him to be highly respected by his constituents, and all who had business connections with him.

Reposing special trust and confidence in his integrity and ability, the American Government did Mr. Dossabhoy the very rare and high honour (in those days) of appointing him in 1852 their Vice-Consul in Bombay,* and he had also the singular good fortune and proud privilege of even acting as their Consul in this country. So revered was his memory and so well known was his firm that President Ulysis Grant when on a tour in India in the seventies of the last century honoured his firm with a personal visit on 15th February 1879 at its place of business in 6, Parsi Bazar Street, in which building the firm carried on its business until it was destroyed by fire in 1933. The firm is now located at 118, Parsi Bazar Street.

Mr. Dossabhoy was very sagacious and enterprising. He did not rest content with establishing his firm of Dossabhoy Merwanjee & Co. and making it a household word and building for it a reputation all its own, but he also interested himself in establishing other companies and was a Director of the East India Spinning and Weaving Co. and of the Prince of Wales Spinning Co., and thus was instrumental in helping the Mill Industry in its infancy.

He gave freely to the poor, and died lamented at the age of fifty-eight. An *Agiary* and a School, bearing his name, founded after his death by his nephew Sorabjee Dhunjibhoy Merwanjee Wadia (1830-1901) and other relatives and friends, are standing monuments to his memory in Karachi.

The firm of Dossabhoy Merwanjee & Co. completes the ninety-eighth year of its existence this year (1937). We wish it every success and sincerely hope it will complete its century which event will be a unique one in the history of Parsi mercantile firms in Bombay.

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* CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Know all men, that reposing special trust and confidence in the ability and integrity of Dossabhoy Merwanjee of Bombay I have nominated, and by and with the advice and Consent of the President of the United States do appoint him "Vice Consul" of the United States of America at Bombay, and such other parts as shall be nearer thereto than to the residence of any other Consul or Vice Consul of the United States within the same allegiance, and do authorise him to have and to hold the said office and to exercise all the rights privileges and authorities thereto appertaining during my pleasure for the time being.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Consulate at Bombay this first day of June One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two and of the independence of the United States of America the Seventy-sixth.

(Sd.) EDWARD ELY,
Consul of the United States of America at Bombay.

Mr. Sorabji Shavaksha (Banaji), B.E.

(1860—1934)

The First Indian Superintending Engineer in the Irrigation Branch of the United Provinces



The late Mr. Sorabji Shavaksha (Banaji), B.E. (Bachelor of Engineering), Superintending Engineer in the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, was born in Bombay on 6th June 1860. He was educated at Seebpur College, Calcutta, whence he passed out in 1886, standing first in the final list of that year, and gaining the Gold Medal in Mathematics. He was the first Parsi gentleman to pass out from that College. He joined the Indian Service of Engineers in 1887, and was appointed Assistant Engineer and posted to the Calcutta Division. In 1892 he was transferred permanently to the North-West Provinces and Oudh, now the United Provinces, and in the same year he joined the Irrigation Branch and was posted to the Lower Ganges Canal. He served as Assistant Engineer in various stations till 1898, when he was appointed Executive Engineer, 3rd grade, attaining the 1st grade in the year 1905. As Executive Engineer he was in charge of the Cawnpore Division of the Lower Ganges Canal. In 1914 Mr. Shavaksha was nominated Chairman of the Board of Examiners appointed under the

North-West Province and Oudh Steam Boilers and Prime Mover Act, I of 1899.

In 1915 Mr. Shavaksha was promoted to the post of Superintending Engineer, he being the first Indian to be appointed to this post in the Irrigation Branch of the United Provinces. As Superintending Engineer he was in charge of the 2nd Circle, Irrigation Works, Agra.

On his retirement in 1915 the Indian officers of the United Provinces, Irrigation Branch, in the course of a Farewell Address to him said, "In the discharge of your duties as public servant, you worked hard doing your duty without fear or favour, and looked to the enlightened interests of the State as well as to the public weal, and thus were enabled to remove those prejudices which had, uptil now, barred the Indian Engineers from rising to Administrative rank in these Provinces. We consider that this is a great point which your personality has won for the Indian members of the Department."

With the consent of His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces, an enlarged photo of Mr. Shavaksha was presented to the 2nd Circle, Agra, to be hung in a suitable place.

Mr. Shavaksha passed away on the 20th November 1934.

Seth Cooverjee Dhanjibhoy Patel

(DIED 1871)



A very God-fearing and straightforward gentleman known in his village as the Dewan of Siganpur. His father was the well-known Patel of Siganpur for eleven years.

Framroze Rustomjee Joshi, J.P.

(1851—1927)

The First Indian Superintendent of the Government Central Printing Press, Bombay



After matriculating from the Elphinstone Institution Mr. Joshi entered the Secretariat in which his father was a Superintendent in the General Department. Here he was brought into daily touch with the work of the Government Central Press and he thus acquired a considerable knowledge of printing, and in 1887 was appointed by the Government of Lord Reay to act as Superintendent of the Press on the departure of the permanent incumbent. In this capacity he looked minutely into the working of all departments of the Press and he was thus able to offer certain suggestions in the direction of economy, which were accepted by Government. A question was soon afterwards raised by the Lord Bishop of Bombay on behalf of a private printing press for maintaining orphan children of Europeans and Eurasians in Bombay, as to whether the execution of Government printing work might not be advantageously entrusted by contract to private printing establishments. This led to the appointment of a Committee consisting of (Sir) Frank Forbes Adam, J. W. Orr and Mr. Framroze to report on the whole question. The two Europeans were in favour of the abolition of the Press, but Mr. Framroze in a minute of dissent made out such a strong case in favour of its retention that the Government had to follow his advice.

In 1888 Mr. Framroze was promoted as Senior Superintendent and was also appointed to act as Assistant Secretary to Government in the Revenue and General Departments. In May 1891 Mr. Framroze was appointed permanent Superintendent of the Central Press.

Mr. Framroze took a lively interest in all matters connected with the Parsi community. He was instrumental in starting the Parsi Death Benefit Fund of which he was a member of the Working and Managing Committees. He was Chairman of the Bombay Uncovenanted Service Family Pension Fund and was on the Managing Committee of the Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd. He was a Justice of the Peace, a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court and a distinguished Freemason. He died in 1927, lamented by a large circle of friends and admirers.

Pallonjee Nusserwanjee Frenchman (1828—1914)

A Well-known Figure in Poona



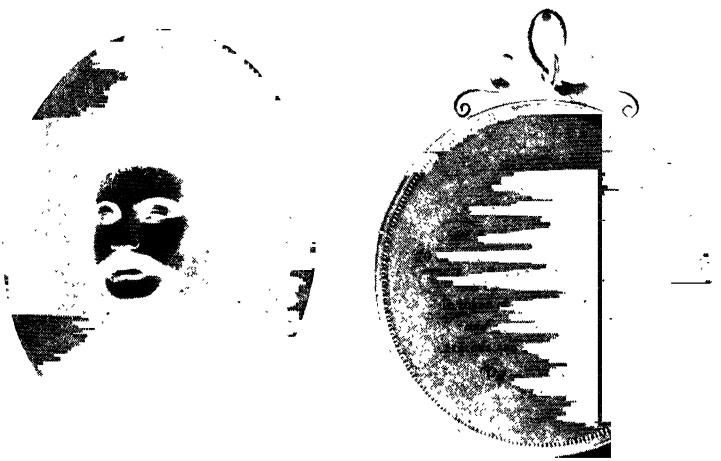
The Frenchman family originally came from Surat where they had business relations with the French and the Dutch, the latter of whom were so pleased with their dealings that they used to call them Frossman (nobleman) which word was corrupted into Frenchman by which this family is generally known.

Pallonjee was educated at the Soldier School at Ghorpuri, Poona, and at the beginning of his career joined the old Bank of Bombay and rose to be its Head Shroff. After about 25 years' service he left the Bank and joined the W.I.T.C. as Assistant Secretary and he so faithfully served his masters that when he retired in 1897 with 28 years' service to his credit he was presented with a Silver Cup and a cheque by H. E. Lord Sandhurst, Governor, on behalf of the Stewards and the members of the Club in commemoration of his long, active and honourable association with Racing in Bombay and Poona, and was also awarded a handsome pension.

(*Continued on next page*)

Nusserwanjee Fardoonjee Grant (Died 1879)

The only Indian and Parsi Steward of the Byculla Club



He was the Karbhari of Mr. Grant, Collector of Surat, and thereafter became the Steward of the Byculla Club, Bombay. He held this post for 10 years and in recognition of his faithful services he was rewarded with a Gold Medal which was presented to him by Mr. Ravenscroft, Member of Council, on behalf of the Club. After his retirement he was appointed a Trustee of the Surat Parsi Panchayat.

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Mr. Pallonjee was for many years a member of the Poona Cantonment Board and during the Plague epidemic he worked hard with the authorities to fight the disease by taking steps to improve the sanitation of the city. With the help of other philanthropists he also started a Hospital for the Parsis and a Segregation Camp at Wanouree and in recognition of his services he was presented with a Silver Casket and an Address by the Parsi community of Poona and Kirkee on 26th October 1901. He was known amongst his friends as " Old Pallonjee."

Mr. Pallonjee was an active Mason of both the English and Scottish constitutions and had the honour of being made a Deputy Grand Master of all the Scottish Freemasonry in India. His Oil-painting still adorns the Freemasons' Hall, Poona, and when this amiable gentleman died in 1914 he was accorded a Masonic funeral.

Maneckshah Cawashah Taleyarkhan

(1844—1923)

A Doyen of Municipal Service



A member of the well-known Taleyarkhan family of Surat, Mr. Maneckshah was born in 1844. He was educated at Surat High School. He commenced life as a clerk in P.W.D. at Surat in 1865, and subsequently joined the Bombay Municipality in the Executive Engineer's Department in 1869. He was then transferred to the Accounts Department, and by subsequent steps rose to be Deputy Chief Accountant in 1887. He twice acted as Controller of Accounts, and on nine occasions as Chief Accountant. He was the recipient of a Kaiser-I-Hind Medal of the 2nd Class in 1913. He served the Municipality for 46 years, received 15 extensions and retired at the age of 70 in 1915. He was highly respected for his industry, ability and integrity.

Sirdar Byramjee Padumjee

(1860—1935)

A Well-known Figure in Poona Social Circles



Sirdar Byramjee, the youngest son of Sirdar Padamjee Pestonjee of Poona, in his early life was appointed Registrar of the Court of Small Causes at Poona. Thereafter he held many appointments, having been for a number of years an Honorary Magistrate in the Cantonment, Vice-President of the Poona Suburban Municipality, President of the Poona Parsi Anjuman Fire Temple and a Trustee of various other Parsi Charity Funds. For his manifold public activities he was awarded the title of Sirdar by Government. Sirdar Byramjee worthily upheld the ancient traditions of his family and won a large number of friends by his genial and affable temperament.

Seth Muncherjee Barjorjee Desai

(1844—1906)

One of the Most Prominent and Notable Citizens of Naosari



Mr. Muncherjee Desai was the son of Mr. Barjorji Naoroji Desai, the Head Desai of Naosari. While quite a youth, Muncherjee accompanied his father to the different *katcheries* and very soon became conversant with the rules and regulations of the Gaekwar's courts. He was nominated *Vahiwatdar* of the Gaekwar's Palace and was appointed Superintendent of the Naosari Survey. He also served as Forest Officer for two years. Mr. Desai gave up Government service and commenced private business. He fought with the Gaekwar's Government to regain his ancestral rights and the indomitable courage with which he carried on the fight at last resulted in the realization of his long-cherished hopes and Lord Curzon granted him his request on the eve of his retirement.

Mr. Desai was successful in securing Local Self-Government for the ryots of Naosari and was elected President of the Municipality of that town. He was Secretary of the Gaurakshak Committee and Vice-President of the Gaekwar's first Agricultural Exhibition. In consideration of his numerous services the Gaekwar conferred on him the title of *Daragdar*. He was very popular with the Maharaja's family and was frequently consulted by the Maharani, the British Residents and Raja Sir T. Madhava Row, Dewan, on State matters.

The high rank he attained will be considered as exceptionally fortunate. Fortune gave him his opportunities, but the capacity of seizing and utilizing them to the best advantage were all his own.

Mr. Cowasjee Mancherjee Mehta

(1866—1926)

An Influential Mombasa Official



Mr. Cowasjee Mehta, a member of the well-known Mehta family of Navsari, went to Mombasa about the year 1896 as an official of the National Bank of India and soon made himself indispensable to this institution. By his influence and wide acquaintance he procured service for many of his co-religionists in that distant part and took a keen interest in the affairs of his community. He was also a Trustee of the Mombasa Anjuman. He retired, after many years' service, to India and passed away within four months of his arrival in his native land. For his various services his friends raised a subscription and his portrait was hung in a public place to preserve his memory.

Khan Saheb Rana Kaikhosru Dastur Meherji Rana, B.A.

(BORN 1879)

A Faithful and Loyal Servant of the Bombay Government



Khan Saheb Rana is a graduate of the Bombay University and is employed in the P.W.D., Bombay, since 1905. The title of Khan

Saheb was bestowed on him in 1925 and the King George VI Coronation Medal in 1937, as a special mark of appreciation of the valuable and meritorious services rendered by him to the Bombay Government for more than 33 years.

He worked for many years as Honorary Treasurer of the Tata A. V. School, Sir C. J. High School and the J. N. Tata Hoonarshalla (Art and Industrial School) at Navsari and is still connected with all these institutions as a member of their Managing Committees. He is the Honorary Secretary of the First Dastur Meherji Rana Library at Navsari and a trustee of the Parsi Orphanage and of the sacred Fire Temple and other religious institutions belonging to the Bhagarsath Anjuman at that place.

He is one of the leading members of the well-known historical family of Dastur Meherji Rana and takes active part in almost all communal affairs. He has especially rendered excellent services to the First Dastur Meherji Rana *Gadi* by endeavouring to preserve and maintain its traditions and cementing its time-worn rights and prerogatives and thus enhancing the prestige and reputation of the present Dasturji Saheb Kaikobad in the Parsi community.

Khan Saheb Dastur was twice elected from the Graduates' register as a member of the "Committee of Hundred" constituted in pursuance of the High Court's Order for the selection of Trustees for the Parsi Panchayat of Bombay. He is also a member of the "Athornan Mandal," Bombay, and takes keen interest in social uplift and amelioration of Parsi priests generally. His name has been commemorated in one of the marble tablets fixed in the front verandah of the new palatial building of the sacred Atash Behram at Navsari, for the valuable services rendered by him at the time of its construction.

Mr. Minocher Jamshed Sohrab Khras
F.C.R.A., F.S.S. (Lond.), etc.
Born in Aden (Arabia), 25th December 1869



After finishing his school education, Mr. Khras joined the service of the Oriental Life Assurance Company, Limited, Bombay, on 16th April 1888, as an Assistant on a small salary of Rs. 20 per month. To-day, by dint of hard and honest work he has risen to the rank of Chief Accountant at Head Office in Bombay, and earns about Rs. 2,000 per mensem. It is unique and noteworthy to mention here, as an example for young aspirants to follow, that during the whole of the long period of nearly half a century he has been absent from office for even a single day. Although he completed his Golden Jubilee year in the service of the Oriental Life Assurance Company in 1938, he is still active and energetic and works with the agility of a young man at the age of 68 years.

Sirdar Jamsetjee Merwanjee Morinas

The First Parsi Mahalkari of Baroda



Sirdar Jamsetjee was the eldest son of Meherwanjee Fakirjee Morinas who was employed in an ice cream shop first opened by a Spanish gentleman named Mr. Morinas, and in 1858 became the sole owner of the shop. Sirdar Jamsetjee, on the death of his father in 1873, conducted the establishment for some time and thereafter entered the Baroda State's service and became the first Parsi Mahalkari. After his retirement he renewed his ancestral business on the latest model style which was inaugurated by the Maharajah Gaekwar in September 1907.

Byramjee Merwanjee Malabari

(1853—1912)

One of India's Greatest Social Reformers



Sorabjee Shapurjee Bengali, C.I.E.

(1831—1893)

Journalist, Author, Social Reformer and Friend of the Labouring Classes



Educated at Surat, **Byramjee Merwanjee Malabari** began life as a tutor and after a hard struggle in his early years became a journalist, a poet and a social reformer. As Editor of the *Indian Spectator* (1880-1900) he did yeoman service to his countrymen by being instrumental in procuring the passing of "The Age of Consent Act" and removing restrictions against the re-marriage of widows. Amongst his publications are "Gujarat and the Gujaratis," "Indian Eye on English Life," etc. He was friendly with almost all the Viceroys and Governors who had a high regard for him, and when he died His Majesty King George V wired to the Viceroy as follows :—"Please convey to the family of Malabari the sincere regret with which the Queen and I have heard of the death of our old friend. His death will be a loss to the country."

Having lost his father at an early age, **Mr. Bengali** was brought up by his mother and at the age of 15 entered an office on Rs. 20 per month, and then by dint of ability and integrity rose to be one of the foremost citizens of Bombay. He was a J.P., a Member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation and the Legislative Council, Sheriff and a C.I.E. He worked for the advancement of education, for the reform in social customs amongst the natives, for the propagation of literary and physical pursuits, for the introduction of European women doctors in Bombay, and it was owing to his exertions that the Indian Factories Act of 1881 became law. His death was a distinct loss to Bombay in particular and to India in general.

For many years to come the genial influence of these two worthies will live on in many an unselfish deed and in many a broad-minded thought. They will pass to posterity as examples of selfless devotion to duty and of kindly sympathy for all. They were true benefactors of their fellow countrymen.

Mr. Manekjee Cursetjee

(1808—1887)

One of the Pioneers of Female Education in Bombay



Mr. Manekjee Cursetjee, son of a well-known Parsi Contractor, who was a friend of the great Duke of Wellington, was the foremost pioneer of English education for native girls, the father and founder of the Alexandra Native Girls' English Institution, the dauntless Vakil of the Sudder Adawlut, who had frequent passages-at-arms with the Judges, the friend and correspondent of the aristocracy of England and of Europe, the "Byron of the East" as he was sometimes facetiously called, the Sheriff of Bombay, one of the first natives of India who was lionized in Europe about the middle of the last century, the genial, warm-hearted, humorous and loquacious old Manekjee Cursetjee was indeed an ornament to his community. Throughout his life his courageousness, uprightness and fearless independence in his public and private relations were the

prominent features of his character. A certain amount of assertiveness bordering occasionally on obstinacy invested his views and opinions with an unpleasant flavour at times but his reputation for integrity and unselfishness was beyond question. The death of this Parsi reformer in December 1887 deprived the community of one of its brightest ornaments.

Ardesar Edaljee Bengali

A Persian Scholar and Social Worker



Mr. Ardesar is the son of Edaljee Bengali whose ancestors were the original residents of Malesar, Navsari, and who himself was a Persian Scholar and linguist and a Dalal of His Majesty's Customs in Bombay. Ardesar inherited the scholastic qualifications of his father and is reputed to be a good Persian speaker. He is very orthodox and his zeal for his community is well known amongst the Parsis. On two occasions he fought single-handed against some vernacular papers which had published defamatory statements against the Parsis with the result that several thousand copies of those papers were directed to be confiscated.

Mr. Bengali is a willing worker amongst the Parsis and takes a keen interest in all social matters. He is a constant contributor to the local papers on communal matters.

Navroji Rustom Manek Seth (1663—1732)

The First Amongst Parsis to Visit England in 1723



He was the son of Rustom Manek, the Broker to the East India Company, at Surat. His family having had some dispute with the Honourable East India Company, he had to go to England to lay his grievances before the Court of Directors. He left Surat by the ship *Salisbury* and reached his destination in April 1723, having been the first amongst his community to visit Europe. He was well received by the Company and was presented with a Dress of Honour. The Navroji Hill in Bombay, now no more in existence, was named after him. He was a member of the first Parsi Panchayet in Bombay.

Seth Cowasjee Rustomjee Patel

(1744—1799)

Who Built the Large Tank and Cultivated the Famous Mango Both of Which are Still Known by His Name



On the death of his father in 1763 he was made the Patel of Bombay; also when the British Government took possession of Thana and Bassein in 1774, he was created the Patel of the villages of Montpessier, Charni Bunder, Turambu, Math, Marve, Manori, Versova, Danda, Bandra, Kalyan, Bhimardi, etc. It was he who encouraged the Parsis to migrate to Thana where in 1780 he built for them a Tower of Silence and an Agiary. He was a Boat Contractor of the Hon'ble East India Company and as such supplied various kinds of vessels to Government for carrying goods from one bunder to another. For his services he was presented with a Dress of Honour by the then Governor, William Hornby, in 1775. In 1776 he constructed a tank at Khetwadi, which locality is still known by his name and so is the street off Hornby Road, now known as Cowasjee Patel Street. He first planted in Bombay the big mango, popularly called "Cowasjee Patel's Amba." Seth Cowasjee was a philanthropic gentleman and was a member of the Parsi Panchayet.

Framjee Cowasjee Banaji

(1786—1851)

The "Lord Leicester of Western India" and one of the Founders of the "Bombay Times"



For considerably over half a century Framjee Cowasjee was one of the most zealous and indefatigable promoters of moral and physical improvement and advocated a system of instruction which enabled the pupil in after-years to earn his bread. He was one of the greatest of Bombay's scientific agriculturists and the efforts he made on his estate at Pawai, in Salsette, earned for him the title of "Lord Leicester of Western India." He was one of the founders of the *Bombay Times*, now the *Times of India*, a promoter of the old Bombay Bank, 1840, and a Director of the G. I. P. Railway, 1844. His intelligence, kind-heartedness, benevolence, philanthropy, honourable as they were, were only surpassed by his stern integrity, candour, truth and perfect frankness for which throughout his crowded life he was so conspicuous. In him the Parsis lost an enterprising and industrious *Sethia* and the Bombay Presidency a good and great man.

(1781—1853) (1799—1854)

Merchants and Bankers, Hyderabad (Deccan)
Well known for their Philanthropy



VICCAJEE MEHERJEE



PESTONJEE MEHERJEE

Seths Viccajee and Pestonjee were tax-farmers to the Bombay Government and had established a banking connection with the Hyderabad State. They were great philanthropists and had during their heyday constructed cart-roads, dug wells, erected halting-places for travellers, founded religious places of worship and had made themselves respected throughout the Presidency. The two brothers traded under the name and style of Viccajee Meherjee in Bombay and Pestonjee Viccajee in Hyderabad. They were for many years largely entrusted by the Government of Bombay with the farming of the land and sea customs of the Northern and Southern Konkan, and the land customs of Poona, Ahmednagar and a part of the Khandesh *Zillah*. In that capacity they doubled the revenues, for which they received praise from the Bombay Government and the Court of Directors. The firm, in their threefold role of traders, bankers and farmers, extended their operations to the territories of the Nizam and improved trade and communications in Hyderabad. The measures adopted by them proved so effectual that the traffic in cotton from Berar to Bombay rose from 500 bullock-loads in 1826 to 200,000 bullock-loads in 1836. The firm thereafter established a *kothee* or Banking House at Hyderabad and made pecuniary advances to the State on the security of certain districts the revenues of which, estimated at 23 lakhs, were assigned to them. They minted their own coins, called after the younger brother, Pestonshahi currency, in a mint which they had set up at Aurangabad and this was considered legal tender in that district. After a few years the demands for advances became more and more frequent and large sums still remained owing to the firm, and eventually the latter failed through the failure of their claim of 41 lakhs on the Nizam's Government. The Governor-General in Council was appealed to unsuccessfully, and in 1851 two members of the family were sent to England to lay their complaint before the British Parliament but it was of no avail and the firm collapsed and the principals were reduced to such dire straits that they had to sell out their houses and landed property and retire into private life. It is said that such was the magnificence of their entertainments and hospitality that on one occasion when they entertained Maharajah Chandulal, the Dewan of Hyderabad, they seated their distinguished guest upon a dais composed of one lakh of rupees in silver which they presented to him afterwards.



The coin is about the size of a silver 4-anna piece but is enlarged in this picture to give clearer details.



This is the only coin ever minted by a Parsi firm since the advent of the Parsis into India 1300 years ago. It is popularly called "Pestonshai" from Pestonjee Meherjee who had advanced large sums of money to the Nizam's Government. The coin was first struck at the Aurangabad Mint on 17th March, 1840, during the regime of Nizam Nasar-ud-Daulah. In all, 22,00,000 coins were minted, and as they were eventually withdrawn from circulation, they are very scarce to-day.

Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy

(1786—1849)

One of the Pioneers of Steam Navigation in Western India



From the obituary notice that appeared in the *Illustrated London News* of 4th August 1849 it appears that Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy started life as a Broker and Agent, and was in business for 40 years during which period he was connected with several European houses. He was one of the most active among native capitalists and was instrumental in the establishment of three Banks in Bombay, and

had served as a Director of the Oriental and Commercial Banks. He was also a Trustee of the G. I. P. Railway Company. His capital was employed in making advances on Coffee, Sugar, Cocoanut and other estates on the Malabar Coast, also in Ceylon and the island of Bencooleen (Java). His firm was one of the first Indian members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. He was the pioneer of Steam Navigation in Western India along with Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy.

"To Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy and to Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, the inhabitants of Western India are indebted for the introduction of steam navigation for commercial and passenger traffic—the steamer *Sir James Riveit-Carnac,* the first and by far the best paying of the Bombay steamers, having been built by them. Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy, the manager of the company, so judiciously conducted the business that in the course of six years he divided profits amounting to nearly the outlay."—(*Illustrated London News*, 4-8-1849.)

"The above steamer was built in 1841 and when on board this steamer Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy went to Surat in February 1842, thousands of people flocked to the pier to witness the sight of the first steamer that had anchored at that port." (*Parsi Prakash I*, 383.)

"It was through his (Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy's) foresight and energy that steam navigation for commercial and passenger traffic was introduced on the western coast of India."—(*Karaka's History of the Parsees, II*, 132-133.)

Jeejeebhoy was for nearly twenty years a member of the Parsi Panchayet. This position frequently imposed important duties on him for the general benefit of his community. He was constantly called upon to arbitrate and settle matters in dispute between members of his community and his straightforward judgments invariably gained him the esteem and respect of both the contending parties.

In matters of benevolence his purse was always open to the poor of his community and his name was found in almost all the lists of public subscriptions and private charities, both European and Indian. He responded also to every call in support of native education. An Agiary costing Rs. 50,000 was founded by him at Colaba in 1836, and also a Charity Fund from which about Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000 are distributed in various charities every month.

The present-day prosperity and high position of the Parsi community owe a great deal to the far-sighted pioneering enterprises of this great Parsi Sethia.

Dadybhoy Nosherwanjee Dadyseth

(1734—1799)

'The Great Dady Seth, the First Parsi to Establish the Native Trade of Bombay with England."



A great merchant owning several sailing vessels. He established the first Cotton Screw, the first Kadmi Fire Temple and a Tower of Silence in Bombay. He was a member of the Parsi Panchayat. His total benefactions came to about Rs. 10 lakhs. He was, according to Dossabhoy Karaka, "one of the most opulent and influential Parsis of the time."

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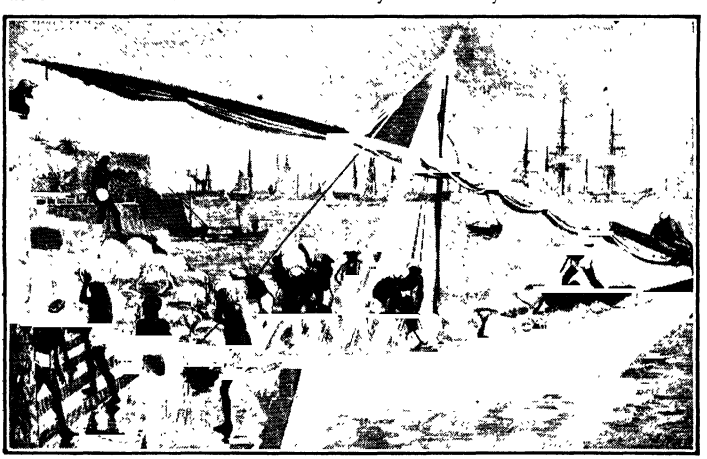
power in the Municipality that he was rightly dubbed the "King Maker of the Bombay Corporation." It was he who virtually nominated the Chairman, and his nominee was sure to get in. His recommendatory notes have procured services to many employees, especially in the B. B. & C. I. Railway. On one occasion his speech made at a public function was transmitted verbatim by telegram to the London *Times* by its Calcutta correspondent, a rare event in those days. In the words of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, he worked for the good of the Corporation with singleness of purpose and gave his best to the city in an ungrudging manner. His lordly bearing, his stately equipages, his gorgeous livery, were in turn a sight of Bombay, and were reminiscent of those great and eminent Parsis who did so much for their community, their city and their country.

Nanabhoy Byramjee Jeejeebhoy (1841—1914)

The "King Maker of the Bombay Corporation"



He entered public life at an early age, was a J.P., Director, Government Savings Bank, Fellow of the Bombay University and a Member of its Board of Accounts, Member, Factory Commission, 1884, etc. About 1880 along with Mr. J. A. Forbes he established the Bombay Ice Manufacturing Co., which broke the monopoly enjoyed by a European firm and gave to Bombay a cheap and constant supply of ice. He was a very active member of the Bombay Corporation and its Town Council and was foremost in the promotion of all movements in the city. His influence was so great that whatever cause he undertook, he was bound to succeed. He was recognized as one of the institutions of Bombay in his day and wielded such



Landing of Ice in Bombay from America before 1880

(*Continued on previous page*)



Early Parsi Merchants of England in the Sixties of the 19th Century

Sitting, left to right :-(1) Rustomjee Shapurjee Umrigar (1834-1869) ; (2) Framjee Shapurjee Mowdawalla (1817-1876) ; (3) Mancherjee Hormasjee Cama (1815-1894).

Standing, left to right :—(1) Dadabhoy Dossabhoy Cama, Bar-at-Law (1844-1884) ; (2) —— (3) Sorabjee Darabsha Captain

Seth Bomanjee Hormasjee Wadia, J.P., "Bomanjee Bawa" (1808—1862)

The First Indian Commissioner of the Court of Requests



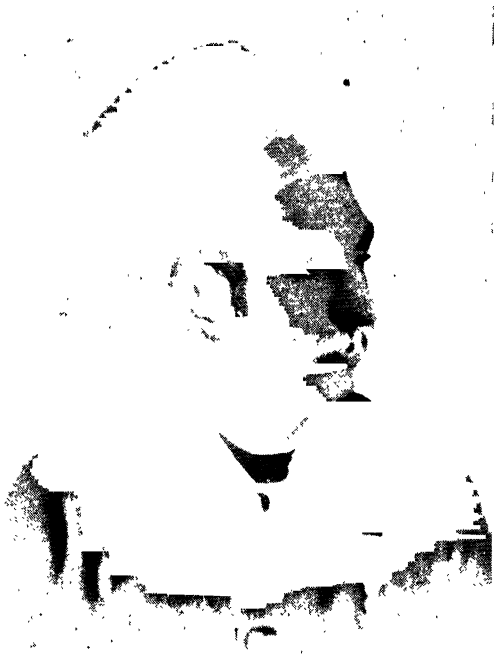
Seth Bomanjee, son of Hormasjee Bomanjee Wadia, the celebrated shipowner, was a well-known merchant, and was held in great veneration and respect by both Indians and Europeans. In 1839 he was appointed Commissioner of the Court of Requests, which post he held for eleven years, he being the first Indian gentleman to enjoy such a unique honour. He was also a member of the Parsi Panchayet, Vice-President of the Bombay Association, and in 1859 was appointed Sheriff of Bombay. A little before his death he consented to give up his ancestral property for the improvement of the Bombay Green and the creation of the Elphinstone Circle, and without his assistance the project would have had to be abandoned. In the words of the *Bombay Gazette* of 7th July 1862 :—"No man was held in greater veneration and respect by the native community, Parsi and Hindu, nor did any native ever enjoy the confidence and regard of Europeans to so great an extent as Bomanjee Hormasjee."

After his death a Memorial Fountain was erected in Bazar Gate Street, Fort, Bombay, by public subscription, to perpetuate the memory of this worthy citizen.

Seth Cowasjee Dinsha, C.I.E., of Aden

(1827—1900)

The Maker of Modern Aden



Mr. Cowasjee Dinsha was born in Bombay in 1827 and after completing his education, went to Aden in 1846 and by hard work combined with indomitable pluck, ability and energy, succeeded in building up one of the greatest business houses of the East. He did much for the benefit and advancement of Aden which city is indebted to him for the first private water condenser and ice machine imported.

During the Abyssinian Campaign of 1867-68 he rendered most useful services to Government for which he had the honour of receiving the thanks of Lord Napier of Magdala, Sir William Merewether and others.

As one of the firm of Luke Thomas & Co., he opened the first private coaling depot at the Hedjuff, and started a group of coasting

(*Continued on next page*)

Godrez Dorabji Padumji, B.A., I.S.O. (1857—1925)

The First Parsi Accountant-General



Mr. Godrez was the eldest son of Sirdar Dorabjee Padumjee. While holding the permanent rank of Deputy Accountant-General of the Imperial Financial Department of the Government of India, more than once he officiated as Accountant-General. He was the first Parsi to be nominated to this department. No Indian from the Bombay Presidency was previously nominated. On his retirement on pension, he was the recipient of the distinction of the "Imperial Service Order" for long and meritorious services to the Sovereign.

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steamers which are plying between Aden, Red Sea ports, Perim and the Somali Coast carrying the Government mails and ensuring a regular supply of live stock for the use of the garrison and other residents of Aden. The Fire Temple and a Tower of Silence at Aden are the result of his benevolence. He also dug out and repaired, in partnership with two others, a huge tank for the use of indigent persons and in a territory where rain falls at intervals of years. He also established a Charitable Dispensary at Aden. Mr. Cowasjee's gifts were numerous and varied and of a cosmopolitan nature, and for his benefactions he was awarded the honour of Companionship of the Indian Empire. He was also the Consular Representative at Aden for several foreign powers.

Maneckjee Rustomjee, J.P.

(1815—1891)

The First Indian Sheriff and a Distinguished Citizen of Calcutta



Mr. Maneckjee Rustomjee, belonging to the well-known and honoured Banaji family of Bombay, went to reside in Calcutta in 1837, and in partnership with his father became one of the most prosperous merchants in that city. From that time till his death he took a leading part in the civic movements of Calcutta and his

career was consequently remarkable as that of one of its foremost citizens. In 1873 he was appointed Sheriff by the Government, being distinguished as the first Indian gentleman to receive that unique honour. He was a Justice of the Peace, Honorary Magistrate, and Municipal Commissioner for Calcutta and its suburbs. The Shah of Persia appointed Maneckjee Persian Consul in Calcutta in 1870, which appointment he held till his death. The Parsis were justly proud of this honour, as it was a significant sign of the times that the head of the Parsi community of Calcutta, a community which had abandoned their original home in Persia a thousand years ago, should have been elected to represent the interests of the Shah in the Metropolis of the British Empire in India. During his unbroken record of 54 years of public life, he was loved and highly esteemed by the citizens of Calcutta, and after his death in 1891 a fund was raised to perpetuate his memory and a Scholarship and a Gold Medal were endowed in his honour and given to the Calcutta University. In February 1898 an oil portrait of Mr. Maneckjee was placed in the Town Hall which was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal who said that Maneckjee above all "was a cheerful and pleasant man—one of those cheerful people who are in this age of stress and worry the best promoters of social happiness, and one of those pleasant people endowed with that pleasantness which arises from sweetness of disposition and broad geniality of nature."

Sir Hormasjee Navrojee Mody, Kt.

(1839—1911)

"The Prince of Hongkong"



Hormasjee commenced life as a journalist whilst yet in his teens, and when barely 20 years old set sail, with a few hundred rupees, for China to try his luck in that country. He started there the business of auctioneering, and from the very beginning of his career fortune began to smile on him. Subsequently he entered into partnership with (Sir) Paul Chater, and with him enlarged his business to a great extent. Both these enterprising gentlemen were responsible for the development of the coal industry in Southern China.

Hormasjee was a philanthropic gentleman and judiciously utilized his large wealth. He lent additional lustre to the Parsi name in the vast Chinese Empire. He gave Rs. 4½ lakhs for the erection of a building for the Hongkong University and 50,000 dollars for the institution of a Sailors' Home. He also presented the city of Hongkong with a statue of King George V, which now graces the public garden there. To encourage education he gave scholarships amounting to more than 10,000 dollars.

Though placed far away from his native country he did not forget his own co-religionists and subscribed liberally for the amelioration of Bombay Parsis. For his public benefactions he was knighted a year before his death. Sir Hormasjee Mody's brilliant career justifies the saying that—

"It is not success that makes a man, it is the man who makes success."

Jamsetjee Framjee Madon

(1856—1923)

The Merchant Prince of Calcutta



Having had to leave school on account of his father's losses by the failure of a Bombay Bank, he launched himself upon the world of work at an early age. He first obtained an engagement in a theatrical company but the venture was not very successful. He then went to Karachi and devoted himself to buying up stocks at auction sales and made good profits. These transactions emboldened him to establish a business in Calcutta and in a few years he became a leading contractor in the supply and transport of goods. This led to his obtaining a large commissariat order to supply the army with everything required by it and he established shops every 20 miles from Siliguri to Chembi. His name was widely known throughout Northern India as the universal provider to the utmost limits of India. His firm also ventured in the cinema trade and established several theatres in Bengal and in other parts of India. Mr. Madon was a self-made and an enterprising gentleman and by his death the Parsi community lost one of its most valued members who had raised its already high name among other communities in Bengal.

Sirdar Khan Bahadur Padumjee Pestonjee

(1820—1894)

The First Parsi Sirdar of the Deccan



Sirdar Khan Bahadur Padumjee was born in Poona in June 1820. His early activities were associated with that of his father with whom he co-operated for about 28 years in his mail contracts. The son's success as Mail Contractor in the Bombay Presidency induced the Post Master at Madras, to entrust him in 1852 with the carrying out of the mails in that Presidency. During the Indian Mutiny, 1857-58, when all the mail lines were disorganized, the Padumjees, father and son, conveyed all mails safely to their destination without any hitch, for which, as mentioned above, they were rewarded by Government with a fat purse, the title of Khan Bahadur and a gold medal.

In 1872 Padumjee was enrolled as a First Class Sirdar of the Deccan, he having been the first Parsi who had had the rank conferred on him. He was also a Fellow of the Bombay University and a member of the Bombay Legislative Council on which he sat for two years. He had the rare honour of reading the Address of Welcome presented by the citizens of Poona to the then Prince of Wales (King Edward VII), in 1875. His public charities along with that of his father's amounted to Rs. 1 lakh. He died on 20th July 1894, at the age of 74.

Ardesar Kharsedjee Wadia

(1808—1877)

Who First Introduced Gas Light Into Bombay



He was the son of Kharsedjee Rustomjee Wadia, Master Builder, and the great grand-father of Sir Ness and Sir Cusrow Wadia. Having had his training under his father at the Bombay Docks, he was soon appointed Assistant Builder. He was, from the beginning, of a mechanical turn of mind. In 1833, he constructed a small steamer, *Indus*, in the Mazagon Docks and adjusted all the machinery himself. He was the first to introduce gas into Bombay and lit up his house with gas-light on 20th February 1834, and the Earl of Clare, the Governor, inspected the installation in the following month and presented Ardesar with a Dress of Honour. In 1839 Ardesar went to England and on his return was appointed Head Engineer of the "Steam Factory and Foundry" of the Bombay Docks. He visited England four times and died there in November 1877.

Sir Sorabjee N. Pochkhanavala, Kt., J.P.

(1881—1937)

"The Father of Indian Banking."



Born of poor parents, Sorabjee passed his matriculation and joined the Chartered and India Banks which he served for 7 and 5 years respectively. Having been refused the managership of the Mercantile Bank, he started the Central Bank of India in 1911 with the assistance of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta. He was the Chairman of the Ceylon Banking Commission, 1934, and was invited by the Ceylon Government in connection with the establishment of a State Bank. He established the Central Exchange Bank of India (the first Indian Bank) in London. For his services to Indian Banking he was rewarded with a Knighthood. According to the *Capital* of Calcutta, Sir Sorabjee was "the only Indian who had gained for himself the distinction and position in British banking by a success so signal as to be epochal."

Sir Dadiba Merwanjee Dalal, Kt., C.I.E.

(Born 1870)

The First Indian Permanent High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom and the First Parsi Member of the Council of the Secretary of State



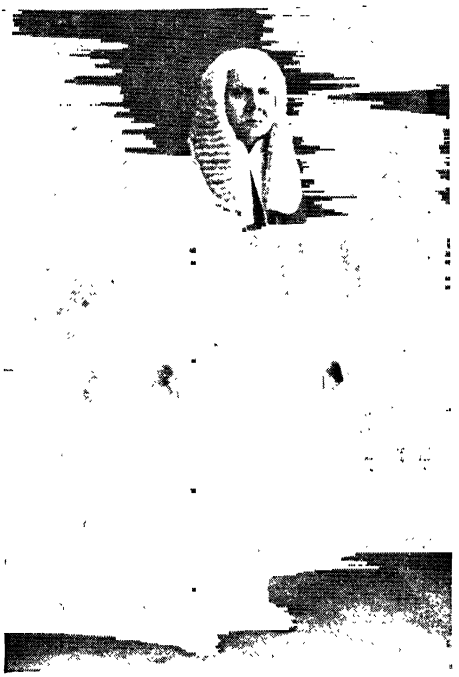
Sir Dadiba is the son of a well-known Parsi Broker and followed the profession of his father from the beginning of his career. He is an expert in Exchange and Currency, gave evidence before the Chamberlain Currency Commission (1918), was a Member of the Committee on Indian Exchange and Currency (1919), and wrote the Minority Report. He was also Chairman of the Government Securities Rehabilitation Committee, 1921.

Sir Dadiba was the first Parsi Member of the Council of the Secretary of State from 1921 to 1923. He has, moreover, filled in some of the most important posts that have ever fallen to the lot of a Parsi, viz., Delegate at International Economic Conference, Geneva, and Indian Representative at the Hague, 1922, Member of the Inchcape Committee, 1922-23, Delegate of the Imperial Economic Conference, 1923, and High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, 1922-24. By filling such high and important posts, Sir Dadiba has added a feather in the cap of his community which is proud to own him as one of its most precious assets.

Sir M. B. Dadabhoy, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Bar-at-Law

(BORN 1865)

The First Parsi President of the Council of State



Sir Maneckjee Byramjee Dadabhoy was educated at the Proprietary High School and St Xavier's College, went to England and was called to the Bar in 1887 He took his first baptism of public life by being elected a member of the Bombay Corporation in 1887 at the very young age of 23 years He then went to Nagpur and soon obtained a large practice in the local Bar, being subsequently appointed Government Advocate, Central Provinces, in 1891. Amongst his other public appointments were :—

(1) President, Provincial Industrial Conference, Raipur, 1907.
(2) President, All-India Industrial Conference, Calcutta, 1911.
(3) Member, Viceroy's Legislative Council, 1908-1912 and 1914-1917.
(4) Governor of the Imperial Bank of India, 1920-1932.

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Lt.-Col. Meherwan S. Irani, I.M.S. (Retired,) F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

(BORN 1878)

The First Parsi to Hold the Position of Surgeon-General to the Bombay Government



As an I.M.S., Irani joined the 113th Indian Regiment and saw service at Aden. Being an expert in the Arabian language, he soon made himself indispensable with his superiors. During the War he was for sometime in France and on his return to Aden, was made the Head of the Indian General Hospital, Civil Surgeon and Jail Superintendent.

Among other posts he occupied were Civil Surgeon, Belgaum, Superintendent, Matheran, and Surgeon-General for the Presidency of Bombay.

The Lt.-Col. has visited his ancestral country, Iran, and takes a very lively interest in its welfare. He had the honour of being introduced to His Majesty Reza Shah when he was in that country in 1926.

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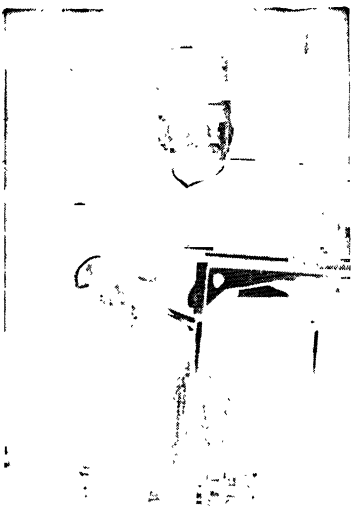
(5) Elected to the Council of State, 1921, and nominated 1926 1931, 1937.
(6) Member Fiscal Commission, 1921.
(7) Member of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, 1925-26.
(8) Member, Round Table Conference and Federal Structure Committee, 1931.
(9) President, Council of State, 1933.

Sir Maneckjee has served the Municipal Board, Nagpur, for 40 years and was honoured with high distinctions as mentioned above. He has been fortunate enough in enjoying very high posts which rarely fall to the lot of Indians and is one of the illustrious constellation that has added lustre to the name of the Parsi community.

Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, J.P.

(1864—1922)

Founder, the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Home for Children, Matunga



Sir Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, Kt., J.P.

(Born 1881)

The Founder of the First Children's Hospital in India



Rustomjee was educated at St. Xavier's High School and then privately, his tutor being Mr. (late Sir) Narayen Chandavarkar, who afterwards became Judge of the Bombay High Court. He was like his father, Nanabhoy and his grandfather, Byramjee, a Member of the Bombay Corporation, a Trustee in several Parsi Charitable Institutions and a Director in various Joint Stock Companies. He gave away large sums from time to time for the maintenance of his ancestral educational institution. He also gave Rs. 53,000 for the foundation of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Home for Children at Matunga. When the Ripon Mills Ltd., under his Agency went into liquidation he repaid the depositors their full amounts, about Rs. 10 to 12 lakhs, although legally he was not bound to do so, to keep untarnished his ancestral name for which he had the highest veneration. He was appointed Sheriff of Bombay for 1923 but died a couple of days before he could assume that exalted office.

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Khan Bahadur Jehangeer Cursetjee Mistree, J.P.

(BORN 1874)

The First Indian and Parsi to be the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.



The Khan Bahadur is the Proprietor, The British Porcelain and Sanitary Agency, and The Brito Foreign Trading Co., partner, Messrs. Wise & Co., Landowner and Agriculturist, Proprietor, " Mistree Farms," at Valnai, Malad, Bombay Suburban District. Member of the Notified Area Committee of Malad for 9 years and its Chairman for 6 years. Vice-President of the Bombay Suburban District Local Board for 4 years. Trustee and Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Parsi Pastakia Anjuman. Trustee and Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Association in India. Trustee of several other Funds. Made Justice of the Peace in 1920, and the title of Khan Bahadur conferred in 1934.

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Sir Byramjee is the eldest son of Mr. Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy and was educated at St. Xavier's School and College. He was an Honorary Presidency Magistrate and a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court and is now on the Board of various commercial firms in Bombay as Director or Chairman. He has been a Member of the Bombay Corporation since 1914 and had also been Chairman of its Standing Committee. He was the Sheriff of Bombay in 1927 and founded, in the same year, the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Hospital for Children, for which he contributed the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs, it being the first Children's Hospital in the whole of India. Sir Byramjee was on the Board of Film Censors and Chairman of the Governor's Hospital Fund. He is the President of the 32nd Bombay Parsi Pioneers Boy Scouts and the Vice-President of the Imperial Bank of India. In 1938 he was appointed Provincial Commissioner, Bombay Provincial Boy Scouts Association.

Lady Jerbai Shapurjee Billimoria, J.P.

(BORN 1880)

A Social Welfare Worker



Lady Jerbai is the daughter of Mr. Bhikhajee N. Dalal and was married to Sir Shapurjee in 1906. She is an active Social Worker, a Member of the Managing Committee of the Parsi Charity Organisation Society, the Shree Zarathosti Mandal, the Women's Council and Work-guild and several other welfare Associations. She was rewarded with a J.P. for her work for the uplift of women in general.

Lady Billimoria has visited Europe five times and was presented to Their Majesties' Court in 1928 by Lady Birkenhead.

Sir Shapoorjee Bomonjee Billimoria,

Kt., M.B.E., J.P.

(BORN 1877)

Who Rose From a Petty Clerk to be the First Indian Auditor of a Presidency Bank and who was the First Accountant to be Knighted in India



Educated at the Proprietary High School, passing Matriculation in 1895, and at St. Xavier's College, Bombay.
Married Miss Jerbai Bhicajee N. Dalal, J.P.

Sir Shapoorjee commenced career as a clerk. Passed the Senior Accountancy Examination of the London Chamber of Commerce with Distinction in 1899.

Started in 1899, a Commercial Class in Bombay, with Branches at Ahmedabad and Rajkot. Commenced audit simultaneously. Founded the firm of Messrs. S. B. Billimoria & Company in 1901, of which he is the Senior Partner. Extended business in later years to Lahore, Cawnpore and Calcutta.

Moved the Government of India in 1910 to put the Accountancy profession on a recognized footing.

Founded the Society of Professional Auditors and Accountants, Bombay.

He was granted Permanent Unrestricted Auditors' Certificate in 1914.

Appointed Liquidator by the Punjab High Court to the People's Bank of India in 1919 (when he paid twenty annas in the rupee to the creditors of the Bank), and Liquidator to the Amritsar Bank, Ltd. The Judges of the High Court of Lahore were not slow to recognize the sterling work which alone made possible such results, and they granted him a special remuneration of Rs. 2 Lakhs.

Appointed Official Liquidator and Official Receiver by the Bombay High Court and the Punjab High Court *without security*.

Has also been appointed, and acted, as Arbitrator and Liquidator on many occasions.

Entrusted, at the outbreak of the Great War, with the work of liquidating numerous hostile concerns, being the only Indian entrusted with such responsible duties during the War.

In 1926, he served on the Back Bay Enquiry Committee first in Bombay, then in England—having been appointed by the Government of India.

Worked as Honorary Auditor of the Imperial Relief Fund and Lady Willingdon Nursing Home, and Children's Welfare Exhibitions.

Chairman and President, Sydenham College of Commerce Union; Chamber of Commerce, England; Member of the Advisory Board of the Sydenham College of Commerce.

Member of the Managing Committee and an ex-President and ex-Member of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.

Appointed to be a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court at Bombay, which position he subsequently resigned.

Nominated by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General-in-Council to be a Member of the Indian Accountancy Board of the Government of India.

Nominated by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay-in-Council to be—

A Member of the Board of Management of the Bombay Properties of the Indian Institute of Science, in 1934.

A Member of the Board of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Parsee Benevolent Institution, Bombay.

A Member of the Auditors' Council, established by the Govern- of Bombay for the grant of Auditor's Certificates.

A Member of the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund.

Co-opted, in 1934, by the Government of Bombay, to represent the Bombay Provincial Branch of the Countess of Dufferin Fund Council at Delhi.

Represented the Indian Merchants' Chamber as a Member of the Bombay City Improvement Trust Committee.

Is the Local Representative for the Corporation of Accountants, Glasgow; the Central Association and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants, London.

Sir Shapoorjee is one of those fortunates whose names were being heard in the House of Commons: In 1911, Mr. Billimoria (as he then was), a Corporate Accountant, and Mr. A. F. Fergusson, a Chartered Accountant, were candidates, among others, for one of the Auditorships of the Presidency Bank (now the Imperial Bank of India) and Mr. Billimoria was elected. His candidature was supported by some of the Judges of the Bombay High Court, leading officials, and prominent citizens of Bombay. Mr. G. A. Touche, himself a Chartered Accountant and an M. P., thereupon raised questions in the House of Commons as to why a Chartered Accountant was not preferred to a Corporate Accountant. The then Secretary of State for India observed that the matter was purely a domestic affair of the shareholders of the Bank and that the Government did not, therefore, desire to interfere in its choice.

Sir Shapoorjee Billimoria is a Trustee of The Parsi Panchayet Trust, Bombay; The N. M. Wadia Charities, Bombay; The Sir J. J. Charity Funds, Bombay and many other public concerns.

Sir Shapoorjee has held the rank of District Senior Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

Held the rank of Depute Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Chapter in India and is at present the Grand Superintendent for the whole of India.

Founder and First Master of Lodge, "Justice and Peace" (E.C.).

He is a Past President of the Bombay Rotary Club.

Published a handbook on " Balance Sheet . . . . . " in 1914.

Occasional contributor to the Press on Social and Political problems.

Appointed a J. P. and Honorary Presidency Magistsate by the Government of Bombay in 1914.

Awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Government of India for services rendered in connection with the War Loan.

Made a Member of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for his public services in 1919.

Knighted, in 1928, by His Majesty the King-Emperor, being the first Accountant to be knighted in India.

Awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal and the Coronation Medal.

Appointed Sheriff of Bombay for the year 1934-35.

As we follow Sir Shapoorjee Billimoria's career, we feel convinced more and more that he owes nothing to chance or luck. If he was not born with a silver spoon, he amply made up for it by courting fame and fortune with such zeal, energy and ambition that he has to-day become the master of both.

He owns—and the more's the credit for such admission—that he started his career in the rather humdrum manner of a clerk. He served in three or four firms, but his ambitions led him to seek fresh pastures. "He is quick at figures," says one of earliest certificates. Perhaps it was an unconscious clue to the extraordinary manner in which he was to master, in later years, the supreme art of figures—auditing accounts.

"In 1919," says the Corporate Accountant of July 1928, "several Bank failures created panic conditions throughout Bombay and the Punjab," and Sir Shapoorjee, "by exposing the defalcations of a notorious financial charlatan and restoring confidence amongst the commercial community, added a memorable chapter in the history of the City of Bombay."

In December 1933, he visited Billimora, his native place, for the first time after the honour of Knighthood had been conferred on him, to unveil the portraits of Mr. Muncherji and Mr. Ruttonji Tata, two philanthropists of Billimora. On that occasion Sir Shapoorjee recounted how he had once to work on the handsome salary of Rs. 30 per month, and how he had once to count nails as part of his duties! And what is more, that he had to do his lessons from books supplied free.

And in 30 years, he has reached a position which must be the envy of many a man with far greater opportunities.

In successfully agitating that the doors of commercial and other examinations, held in India by Chambers or Institutes of Great Britain, should be thrown open to Indians, Sir Shapoorjee has rendered considerable service to India. Whether at that time, his efforts gained the appreciation he deserved, we cannot say. But his public spirited efforts, undertaken without any hope of reward or honour, have enabled hundreds of Indians to embark upon their careers via London-earned diplomas.

Mr. Rustomji Edalji Bharucha

(1863—1920)

Co-Founder, The Empire of India Life Assurance Co., Ltd.



The late Mr. Rustomji Edalji Bharucha was one of the two Joint Founders in 1897 of the Empire of India Life Assurance Company, Limited, the other being Mr. E. F. Allum. In conjunction with Mr. Allum he took an active part in establishing the Company, and saw it safely through its early days, which were the most critical of its existence. Mr. Allum and Mr. Bharucha bore the brunt of the work in establishing the Company and it was due to their active thought and unceasing labour that it had so firm a foundation and such immediate success.

Mr. Bharucha began his career in a humble position. By his business acumen and able and strenuous work, he soon rose to eminence and became a partner in the firm of Allum, Bharucha & Co., the Managers of the Company. He was an ardent and strenuous worker and to his unceasing labours much of the success of the Company in its present foremost position in the Insurance World is due.



After his death his son, Minocher Rustomji Bharucha, succeeded him.

Khan Bahadur Davar Rustomji Khursedji Modi (1803—1894)



Sardar Davar Edulji Khursedji Modi (1816—1906)



The two illustrious Heads of the Parsi Community of Surat.

Sardar Davar Tehmuras Kavasji Modi
B.A., LL.B., Bar-at-Law

(BORN 1887)

The Present Learned Head of the Modis of Surat



The Modis of Surat pride themselves on their ancient lineage. According to tradition running in the family they accompanied one of the bands of refugees from Persia as its leaders, and came to the shores of India and settled near Bhagwa, a sea-side place on the coast of Gujerat opposite the port of Ghogho. At Tena, which is not far from Bhagwa and other villages inhabited by Parsis, even to-day, ruins of not less than three *Dokhmas* could be seen and it is said that at least seven *Dokhmas* existed there.

As John Romer, Governor of Bombay, in a speech he made at a special Public Durbar he held in Bombay for official reception of Davar Rustomji Khursedji Modi in 1832, said "the family considers itself the most noble of all those that left Persia, springing from the Royal Stock". However this may be—and doubt may naturally be thrown on this unprecedentally long pedigree—it is certain that the Modi family was flourishing in the seventeenth century in the city of Surat when the English began their connection with India in a small way. "It is certainly the oldest amongst the existing well-known families of Parsis. The Modis, it may be said, have seen the rise of all the existing families out of insignificant beginnings and the fall of many others also."

The Modis, as their Davar, have, from the earliest times, exercised temporal and spiritual authority over the Parsis residing in the city of Surat and the surrounding villages. They enjoyed jurisdiction in civil, matrimonial and religious matters and also in small criminal matters until on account of the steady growth of the British system of administration of justice the authority was gradually swept away. Thus the Davar was the spiritual and secular judge in his community.

The Hon'ble H. L. Anderson, who introduced and piloted the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Bill in the Legislative Council of India, in his introductory speech on the 20th January 1865 said: "The office of Davar, which may be translated spiritual judge, has been held for centuries under adequate *parwanas* by this family.....there can be no doubt that the authority was respected in Surat, and recognized by the Nawabs of Surat, and by the British Government." In 1885 the Government by their Resolution No. 3349, dated 2nd June 1885, expressly recognized the title of "Davar" as hereditarily vesting in the head of the family and in 1891 granted a *Sanad* under the sign and manual of Lord Harris, Governor of Bombay. The title was also announced in the official list of hereditary titles in the Bombay Presidency, as made in consideration of hereditary position and rank among the Parsi community of Surat and for valuable services to Government. It is now noted under a separate heading in the Bombay Civil List.

The word "Davar" signifies in Persian temporal and spiritual judge, and the office of Davar or Datobar, is referred to in the oldest extant religious books, (see *Yezashna*, Chapters IX, XIX, and XLIX, and *Vendidad*, Chapter XVI). It is also referred to in the Bible (see *Daniel* III, 2 and 3), where in the English version it is translated as "Judge," whilst in the Greek version the Hebrew word *Dahtabar* occurs, which corresponds to the Pehlavi word Datobar or Davar.

According to the well-known Parsi student of history, the late Mr. R. P. Karkaria: "The Parsi Community had in former times Davars in various towns where they had settled. In Bombay also the Parsis had their Davar who dispensed justice in the affairs of the community in former times...In Surat the Davarship was vested from very early days in the Modi's family and its head was the Davar of Surat Parsis in every generation." He further states "after the British Government was established and before the Parsis came to have separate laws of their own in 1865, the Modi Davars had to adjudicate all matters relating to Parsi usage and custom, latterly associating with them a few other prominent Parsis of the city." Now all correspondence relating to the Parsis of Surat is addressed to the Davar by the authorities.

When the English first arrived in India and established a Factory for trading purposes at Surat, about the beginning of the seventeenth century, they were greatly helped by this Parsi family, which was called by them the "Modis" because its head was then the "House Steward" of the English supplying provisions and even money to the Surat Factory and was their general agent in all affairs pertaining to the Factory. Instances are recorded of the Modis having saved the Factory from being reduced to the greatest straits by secretly giving them help. This was no easy thing in those early troublesome days, for the English encountered very powerful opposition from the Portuguese and the Mahomedan Nawab of Surat who

then ruled there and a very doubtful support from the Dutch. In September 1758 two of the then Modi's nephews were killed by the Seedee Nawab's people in revenge for the support to the English and this joined to other circumstances led the English to obtain for the Company the Castle of Surat and the Mogul Fleet and to fix Pharis Khan in place of Mea Atchand in the Civil Government of the city. In recognition of the long and meritorious services of the family the British Government in 1871 granted 2,000 acres of rich alluvial land in the Surat and the Broach District to the then Modi, Khan Bahadur Davar Rustomji.

In the seventeenth century the ancestor of the Modis, Nanabhai Pujia, flourished in Surat as the Modi of the English and the leader of the Parsis. At his own expense he built a *Dokhma*. This was the fourth *Dokhma* to be built in Surat. Before its construction was completed he died in 1663 His body was laid apart carefully between two stone slabs in an old *Dokhma* and after his own *Dokhma* was ready it was removed and placed in it. Thereupon a controversy arose whether this was in accordance with the tenets of our religion and some correspondence took place between the Zoroastrians of Surat and Persia. Nanabhai's brother, Boman Pujia was the author of the famous *Revayet* known as Boman Pujia's *Revayet* of 1627 (A.D.)

There followed Nanabhai a long line of succession of the several Modis in the leadership of the Parsis at Surat. In 1827 Khan Bahadur Davar Rustomji Khurshedji Modi, whose photograph appears in these pages, succeeded his father at the young age of 24 years. His succession was confirmed by the community by presentation of shawls on behalf of the laity and the clergy on the Uthamna day and recognized by the Agent to the Governor by the presentation of a *khilat* at a special public Durbar and by the titular Nawab of Surat, who although deprived of all real jurisdiction still in continuation of ancient and well established forms of his family convened a public Durbar of great magnificence and presented a *khilat*. In 1831 Modi Rustomji for the first time went to Bombay and John Romer, Governor of Bombay, held a special Durbar in his honour (as was done in 1805 when his grandfather Modi Dossabhai had visited Bombay and received a Sanad confirming him in his office) and presented a *khilat* to him. The title of Khan Bahadur was conferred on him in 1877 on the occasion of the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria as Empress of India. He also received a Certificate of Honour in the name of Her Majesty for good service and loyalty. He was a Member of the Parsi Law Commission appointed in 1862 by the Government to inquire into the necessity of special legislation for the Parsis. He died in 1894 at the ripe old age of 92 years after having rendered many eminent services to the public. He enjoyed exemption from personal attendance in civil courts of the country. He and his brother Edalji were the only Parsis who have had this kind of exemption. No other Parsi family ever had this privilege.

His brother Edalji, whose photograph also appears on these pages, succeeded him at the venerable age of 78 years. According to ancient custom his succession was confirmed by the *Anjuman* by the presentation of shawls on behalf of the laity and the clergy on the Uthamna day. It was further marked by his elevation by Government to the high rank of a First Class Sardar of the Deccan, a distinction enjoyed by no one in those days in the whole of Gujerat. He died in 1907 at the patriarchal age of 92. The two joint lives, his and his father Khurshedji's, cover a period of more than 138 years, which is an unusual and noteworthy phenomenon for India.

On the death of Sardar Davar Edalji his eldest son Kaikhosro succeeded him and in accordance with old practice his succession was confirmed by the Anjuman by presentation of shawls on the Uthamna day and recognized by Government by enlisting his name as a First Class Sardar of Deccan. In his time the order of *Sardars* of Gujerat was created for the first time in 1909 and his name was included in this list also. He was nominated an Additional Member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay by Sir George Clarke afterwards Lord Sydenham. He was one of the earliest graduates of the Bombay University, being a fellow student of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and Sir Dinshaw Watcha. He was a man of culture and high education and possessed a master mind, and an imposing personality. He died without a male issue at the age of 85 years in 1922 and his deceased brother Kavasji's son Tehmuras succeeded him.

Sardar Davar Tehmuras Kavasji Modi the subject of this notice is descended on his mother's side from Sorabji Neksautkhan of Delhi fame, the descendants of whose two sons, Behrmandkhan and Taleyarkhan, have distinguished themselves in various walks of life. He is married to Gulbanno, daughter of the late Khan Bahadur Burjorji Dorabji Patel of Quetta, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.M., and has two sons Kawasji and Darius. He is a graduate in Arts and Law of the Bombay University: Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, and Holder of Certificate of Honour of the Council of Legal Education, London; Professor of Ancient and Roman Law and Land Tenures in the Sarvajanik Law College, Surat. He served as Company Commander in the I.T.F. and holds the King's Commission with the rank of Captain. He is loyally maintaining the tradition of public service which his family has established for centuries. His public activities embrace a large field of usefulness. He was a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council from 1921 to 1924 and from 1930 to 1937; Member of Chorasi Taluka Local Board and Surat District Local Board from 1919 to 1924; Vice-President of the Taluka Local Board for three years; Councillor, Surat City Municipality from 1922 to 1928. He is President, Chorasi Taluka Development Association from 1922; Trustee, Leper Hospital; Trusttee, Coronation Festival Fund Committee since 1915; and many other useful institutions. He

(*Continued on next page*)

Khan Bahadur Tehmuljee Sorabji Anklesaria

(BORN 1870)

Military (S. and T.) and Postal Treasury Contractor, Landlord and Philanthropist



Educated at Poona High School. In 1924 he was appointed by the Government of India as a Postal Treasury Contractor at Bombay, Ahmedabad and Poona. This service which involved handling of about Rs. 5 lakhs per day was appreciated by the Government of India. He was made a Khan Saheb in 1929, Khan Bahadur in 1933 and was awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935. In the same year he built six blocks for poor Parsis in Poona at a cost of about Rs. 35,000.

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is Secretary, Andrews Library; Secretary, Lady Wilson Village Maternity Association, etc., etc. He is a Delegate of the Surat District Parsi Matrimonial Court since 1915 and Managing Trustee of the D. N. Modi Atash Behram and Adarians and other charitable funds. He was a Director of the Surat District Co-operative Bank, Ltd., and is a Director of the Gujerat Safe Deposit Vault and the Surat Peoples' Co-operative Bank, Ltd.

When his uncle died in 1922 his succession to the dignity of Davar was unanimously acknowledged by the Anjuman by presentation of shawls numbering over thirty at the Uthamna of the deceased. The leaders of the other sister communities, namely, the Hindu, Mahomedan and Bohra, also presented shawls to him. It was also accompanied by a gracious act of Government in appointing him First Class Sardar of Gujerat. He was awarded the Silver Jubilee Commemoration Medal in 1935 and the Coronation Medal in 1937.

J. A. Bahadur (Behremandkhan)

(1835—1859)

A Jaghirdar of 18 Inam Villages and A Political Pensioner of the Crown



A scion of the family that played an important part during the rise and growth of British rule in Surat, Jehangirshah was the only surviving son of the famous Ardesir Dhunjishah whose name is still remembered with affectionate pride by the people of Surat. After his father's death he devoted his energies to put his father's estate on a sound footing, but, before he could do so he died, leaving his aged mother and widow to mourn his loss. Although young in years he was well versed in the English, Persian and Gujerati languages and was reputed to be a good rider and a splendid shot.

Bai Dossibai Jehangirshah Ardesir Behremandkhan



A political pensioner of the East India Company and the Crown, Dossibai was the daughter of Edalji Hirji Wadia of Surat, and daughter-in-law of the famous Ardesir Dhunjishah. After her husband's death in 1859, the Government of Bombay, taking into consideration the meritorious services of Ardesir and his ancestors, bestowed upon Bai Dossibai and her mother-in-law, Bai Avabai, a joint pension of Rs. 1,900 per annum. Avabai died in 1870, and after her death Dossibai solely enjoyed the pension till her death. Bai Jivibai (Ardesir's mother), Bai Avabai (Ardesir's widow) and Bai Dossibai were the first Parsi lady pensioners of the British regime.

Dr. Kavasji Edalji Dadachanji, L.M.&S., J.P.

(1855—1933)

Father of the Parsi Ambulance Brigade



Born at Navsari, educated at Navsari and Bombay. Passed L. M. & S. 1880 (First Class). Elected Member of Bombay Municipal Corporation (Girgaum Ward) from 1895 to 1933 continuously. Chairman, Standing Committee of the Corporation, 1908. President, Bombay Municipal Corporation 1911. Chairman of the Bombay Improvement Trust, 1927. President, Bombay Medical Union, 1912. Elected Fellow of the Bombay University 1899. Syndic of the Bombay University. Elected by the Bombay Municipal Corporation on the Yellow Fever Inquiry Committee and represented Bombay Municipal Corporation on the Inter-Allied Housing and Town-Planning Conference of Great Britain, 1920. Appointed by Government on the Foreign Liquor Committee, 1908. Honorary Life Member of St. John Ambulance Association, recognized Father of the Parsi Ambulance Brigade. Chairman of the Boy Scouts' Association of the Parsi Emergency Corps. Awarded Certificate of Merit by Government in recognition of his services for War Loans in 1918. Member of the Bombay Legislative Council from 1921-1929. Served on the Forest Inquiry Committee. Trustee, Khetwadi Shehenshahi Zoroastrian Anjuman. Founder, Honorary Secretary and later President of the Bombay Zoroastrian Mutual Death Benefit Fund.

Rustum Pestonji Masani, M.A.

(Born 1876)

The First Indian Municipal Commissioner of Bombay



Mr. R. P. Masani's career is remarkable for versatile ability and many-sided activities; for high academic qualifications and attainments, for high standing and distinctions in scholarship and literary output, unique success in the official positions filled, association with business and finance, pioneering effort in several departments of social service and welfare work, and varied activities in several spheres of public usefulness. At the New High School as well as at the Elphinstone College he was a scholar and a prizeman and at the University examinations he stood first among the candidates with English and Persian as their optional subjects for the B.A. and M.A. degrees. Even at the age of 50 we find him a student in England, where he obtained the London University's Certificate of Merit with Special Distinction in Advanced Economics—Theoretical and Applied. For the years 1897 and 1898 he was a Fellow of the Elphinstone College. He is now a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers,

a Fellow of the Bombay University, a Syndic and President of the Board of Studies for Commerce. He has held the office of the President of the Anthropological Society of Bombay, being the only member in the history of the Society repeatedly who was elected President for six years, namely, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1935 and 1936.

Mr. Masani commenced his literary career as a contributor to *Jame-Jamshed* and *Gup Sup*, when he was a first-year student at the Elphinstone College. In the year 1897 he was joint proprietor and editor of *Gup Sup*. Whilst he was a student of the Law Class in the year 1899, when there was not a single Indian owned paper in the English language in the Bombay Presidency, he succeeded the late Sir Dinsha Wacha as editor of the English columns of the *Kaiser-i-Hind*. After a year and a half he gave up the work on joining the service of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, but was soon called upon to edit the *Indian Spectator*, once owned by Mr. B. M. Malabari and then by Mr. N. M. Dumasia. Since those days Mr. Masani has been a constant contributor to the columns of several English and Gujarati newspapers in India and an occasional contributor to the columns of English and American journals. He has also been invited to write special chapters and articles for various books and publications such as "The Legacy of India," the "Ports of India and Ceylon" and the "Annual of the East." In the sweetest days of his youth Mr. Masani wrote several novels in Gujarati, namely, *Bodhlu*, *Chandra Chal*, *Abyssiniano Habsi*, *Rezia Begum* and *Bhai ke Bharthar*. He also gave lectures, and wrote a book in Gujarati, on Home and School education, entitled *Gharnitatha Nishalni Kelavni* and wrote a health series, called *Tansukh Mala*. Since then, although he has been contributing occasionally to Gujarati journals, all his books have been written in English. The first English work was *Child Protection*, a subject on which he gave several lectures with a view to awakening the public to the need for an organisation for the protection of destitute, neglected and ill-treated children. The next work was *Folklore of Wells* : Being a Study of Water Worship in East and West. It attracted a good deal of attention of European scholars, and some of its chapters dealing with Eastern folklore were translated into French and published as a special number of *Revue de L'Histoire Des Religions* in the year 1931, under the title *Le Folklore des puits dans l'Inde et specialment a Bombay*. Then followed *The Conference of the Birds : A Sufi Allegory*, being an abridged version of Farid-ud-din Attar's *Mantiq ul Tayr*. This work attracted even greater attention of European scholars than "Folklore of Wells." It was used as a text-book for studies in Sufism at Geneva, under the direction of the editor of the *Sufi Quarterly*, and in Germany, and a translation of the book into Dutch was published by the Servir Publishing Co. in Holland. Then followed the *Law and Procedure of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay*, and *Evolution of Local Self-Government in Bombay*. Two more books, *Zoroastrianism : The Religion of the Good Life* and *Court Poets of Iran and India* are now in the Press and the *Life of*

Dadabhai Naoroji, The Grand Old Man of India, is now in hand, Mr. Masani's contributions to the journal of the Anthropological Society and other literary journals are numerous and he has also read papers before the Sessions of the International Congress of Orientalists in Leiden and Rome. As an effective speaker at public meetings and a popular lecturer Mr. Masani has acquired as much fame as an author and his lectures, if collected, would fill volumes.

Mr. Masani's official career is memorable for the fact that he was the first Indian to be appointed Deputy Municipal Commissioner (1919), and then Municipal Commissioner (1922), for the City of Bombay. Before these appointments fell to his charge these posts were filled by members of the Indian Civil Service. Commencing his municipal career as Head Clerk and Office Manager of the Municipal Corporation Office, he soon became Municipal Secretary in the year 1907 and in that capacity made such a name for efficiency, impartiality and integrity that against his own inclinations he was induced to change that office for the higher appointment of Deputy Municipal Commissioner. Having filled the highest office in Municipal service, Mr. Masani retired on pension ten years before the usual age for retirement, as he wanted leisure and independence to do literary work and to join the Assembly. He was, however, prevailed upon by the Directors of the Central Bank of India to join and strengthen that bank. He agreed on condition that the Bank should depute him to go to England to study practical banking in an English Bank for about two years, and to return to the Bank when he felt confident that he could safely accept the office of manager of a bank. Having studied banking in the Midland Bank, Mr. Masani took up the post of Manager for Branches, in the year 1926, and then Manager in sole charge of the Bank for the years 1927 and 1928. Soon afterwards he was invited to work as Secretary to the Bombay Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee and then as Joint Secretary to the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee. After being relieved of these offices, in 1931, Mr. Masani joined the Boards of Directors of the Persia Industrial and Trading Co., the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Co., the Nadiad Electric Co., the Bassein Electric Co., the Grand Hotels, Ltd., and the Reserve Bank of India. He is Vice-President of the Western India Board of the Reserve Bank and a member of the Council of the Indian Institute of Bankers. He is also a member of the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber and its representative on the Local Advisory Committee of the B. B. & C. I. Railway.

As a social worker and founder and promoter of educational and literary institutions Mr. Masani may be said to have established a record. He has been actively and intimately associated with numerous institutions either as President or Vice-President, Secretary or Member of Managing Committee. He was Secretary to the Parsi Girls School Association for 20 years and placed it on a sound financial footing and equipped its schools for efficient domestic training in

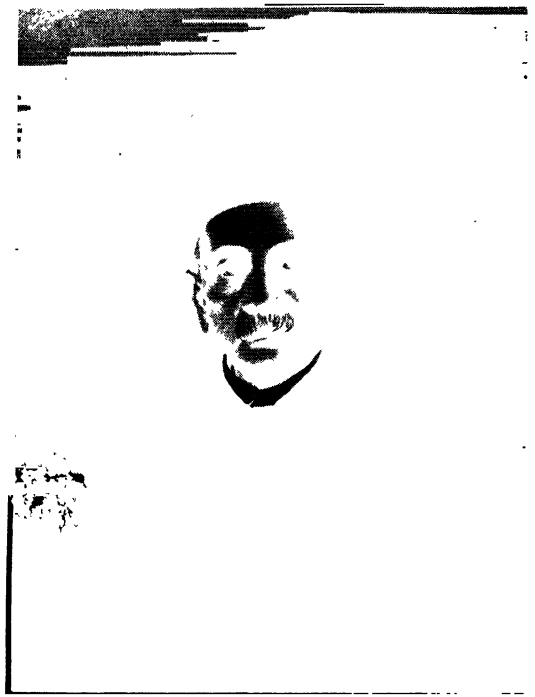
addition to the regular school courses. He was one of the founders of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute and as one of its Honorary Secretaries did all the spade work in connection with the rearing of the Institute and placing it in a strong financial position. He is a Trustee and Member of the Governing Body of the Institute and he is also a Trustee of the Damodhar Gordhandas Sukhadwalla Trust Free Reading Room and Libraries. While in England in 1931, Mr. Masani studied the work of the organisations there engaged in adult education, and on his return started, with the co-operation of eminent University Colleagues, "The Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association," of which he is now President. One of the objects of this Association also is to found free reading rooms and libraries and it opened the Bai Motlibai Wadia Free Reading Room and Library at Byculla in 1936. The Society for the Protection of Children in Western India also owes its initiation to Mr. Masani. Being a joint Founder, with Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, he has worked as Honorary Secretary of the Institution for a number of years and is still the moving spirit of the Society. He may be called the Father of the Children's Act, as it was he who proposed the special enactment for the protection of childern, in his lectures, and it was at his instance that the Society sent representations suggesting the provisions to be embodied in such legislation, with the result that the Children's Act came into operation in the year 1927. To cope with the additional work entailed by that Act, another Society was necessary, and Mr. Masani was one of the founders of the Children's Aid Society which was inaugurated in that year and has been a Member of the Managing Committee of that Society. Mr. Masani also did much pioneering work for the rescue of fallen women and for special legislation for the prevention of traffic in women. He is now Vice-President of the Bombay Vigilance Association and Chairman of its Managing Committee. The present Prostitution Act is the result of his strenuous efforts in conjunction with his colleague, Mr. H. W. Bryant. During the War Mr. Masani was Honorary Secretary to the Bombay Food Prices Committee and a member of the Rent Control Committee, and his services were repeatedly requisitioned in connection with a number of various War Committees appointed during the period of the Great War. He was also a member of other Government Committees such as the Committee to report on Professional Begging, the Bonus Enquiry Committee in connection with the 1924 Millhands Strike in Bombay, the Local Self-Government Committee, and the Committee to report on the Bill for the amendment of the Bombay Prostitution Act. He has also been Honorary Secretary to several Committees appointed at public meetings such as the Governor's Sind Relief Fund, the Famine Relief Fund, the Lady Clerk Memorial Fund, the Dadabhai Naoroji Memorial Fund and the Welfare of India League. He is a life member of several communal institutions such as the Zoroastrian

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Mr. Sorabjee Eduljee Warden, J.P.

(1848-1933)

A shrewd Business Man who Introduced Marble and other Flooring Tiles into Bombay



Mr. Warden was the scion of a respectable Parsi family. He studied for the District Pleader's examination and later joined the Bank of Bombay. Having a great liking for business, he started a firm in the name of Warden & Co. in 1879, dealing in building materials, being mainly interested in roofing and flooring tiles. The former were obtained from South India and the flooring tiles from England. Gradually his business developed and he acquired the sole agency for the well-known tile factory on the south coast of India, formerly managed by German missionaries, and known as the Basel Mission Tile Works. These tiles were recognized as standard tiles by the Public Works Departments, Railways, etc,, owing to their superior quality. His firm were the sole agents for these tiles for a period of about 40 years.

The English flooring tiles imported by Mr. Warden were manufactured in England by Messrs. Minton Hollins & Co., and he also secured the sole agency for this firm.

He also imported English "Hand Brand" cement, marble tiles and slabs and various other kinds of tiles from Europe and America. For this purpose he went to Europe and America about seven times, and besides the above business he added further side-lines which were then unknown in India. His name will be ever associated with the typewriter business in India. He took up the sole agency for Remington Typewriters and worked it for a period of two decades. After that he was offered the agency for Underwood Typewriters, for which he opened offices in different parts of India. These are some of the principal lines of business he developed and attended to till the day of his death.

He visited most of the important commercial centres of India and took a general interest in various matters of public interest and utility. He was for a period of three decades a member of the Board of Directors of the pioneer and biggest life assurance company in India, the Oriental Life Assurance Co., Ltd., and was its Chairman for about 20 years. He was also the Chairman of the Khatau Makanji Mills, Ltd., and of many other joint stock companies in Bombay. He was one of the founders of the Zoroastrian Association and Zoroastrian Building Society and a Trustee for the J. N. Petit Institute and for a number of other societies for the welfare of the Parsi community. He was for many years an Honorary Presidency Magistrate and a Justice of the Peace and was also a member of the Commission set up by the Bombay Government in 1923 for stabilizing Government Securities.

In spite of his many activities, he used to act as arbitrator in commercial cases which were referred to him for settlement. It was rather unfortunate that during the last decade of his career, he had the misfortune to lose his two sons, Mr. Dinsha and Mr. Palonji, who were assisting him in business, which was a death-blow to his career, and also to his well-established firm. His two other sons, Mr. Edulji and Mr. Khurshedji, were also working with him. In the short space available here it is not possible to narrate the various other features of his useful and well-known career.

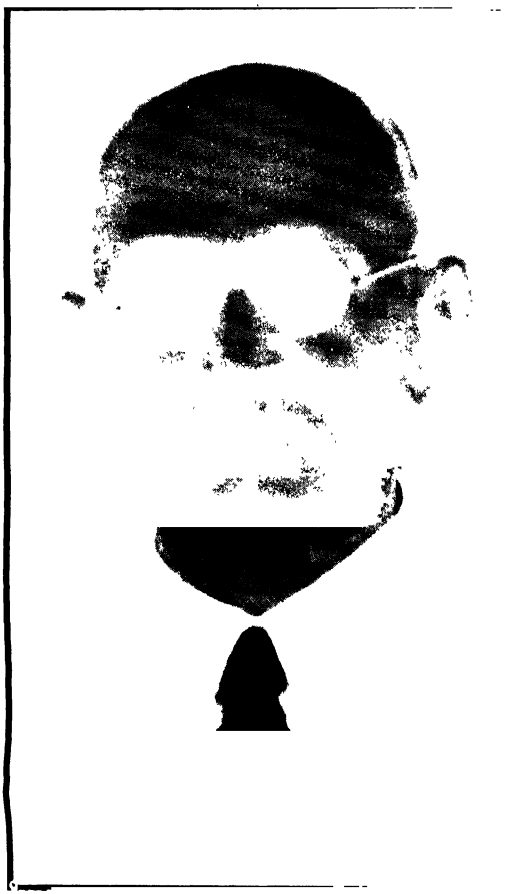
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Association, the Iran League, the Gatha Society, the Bhaibandh Mandli, Society for giving religious instructions to Parsi children, the Parsi Girls School Association and the Parsi Authors' Association. He is, moreover, a Trustee of the Anjuman and Udwada Atash Behrams, of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Institute, and of the N. M. Wadia Charities, to the work of which he has devoted a good deal of his time and energy.

Mr. Sorabji M. Rutnagur, M.R.S.A., J.P.

(1865—1937)

Founder-Editor of the "Indian Textile Journal" and a Man of Inventive Faculty



Mr. Sorabji Muncherji Rutnagur, M.R.S.A., J.P., was the Founder of the *Indian Textile Journal*, and as its Editor for a continuous period of 47 years had maintained its editorial columns at a high level. The

journal to-day enjoys uniform prestige and influence not only among all classes of Indian millowners and the technical mill staff but amongst readers in England and other foreign countries.

Born in January 1865 among humble surroundings and with only a bare High School education, he was apprenticed at the age of seventeen in a mill where his father was the manager. His starting of the *Indian Textile Journal* in the year 1890 was a pioneer enterprise and it was the first magazine in the country to have illustrations printed therein from hand-cut wooden blocks. To-day after well-nigh half a century's existence it is still the most outstanding and only periodical of its kind in India and the East, and has earned for itself a place of unquestioned pre-eminence in international textile literature.

The late Mr. Rutnagur's technical and practical knowledge, combined with a masterly grasp of the Patent Law, had made him the leading patent agent and consultant in the country. He had a decisive inventive faculty and from the beginning of his career till the very last day he worked at his inventions which were fairly numerous and covered a variety of subjects from cotton textile machinery to ingenious ventilation devices, patent oil lamps, etc.

Mr. Rutnagur had been the Joint-Editor of the *Indian Municipal Journal and Sanitary Record* from 1900 to 1903. In 1905 he published the *Men and Women of India* under the patronage of the Viceroy and the Governors of Madras and Bombay. His publications include *Electricity in India* (1912) and *Bombay Industries: The Cotton Mills* (1927) with a foreword by the then Governor of Bombay.

Mr. Cowasji Naoroji Chhoi

(1853—1929)

One of the Pioneers of Silk Industry in Bombay



Cowasji Naoroji Chhoi was born of well-to-do parents at Surat on 1st August 1853. His ancestors hailed from this emporium of trade and industry of former centuries, having been occupied in the then flourishing silk industry and trade. Cowasji was barely 16 years old when his father died and the whole brunt of the maintenance of the family and business affairs fell on his shoulders. This sad occurrence indeed proved a blessing in disguise, as it brought forth all young Cowasji's inherent qualities of strength and character, inexhaustible energy and aptitude for hard work. Undaunted and unaided, amidst doubts and misgivings of his relations and friends, the boy rose to the occasion and heroically shouldered the responsibilities and burdens, and when he was only twenty, he not only successfully piloted his ancestral profession but developed it to a very large extent. He was a master in the technique of hand-weaving. The advent of machine looms gave a set-back to the hand-weaving industry, and he with the assistance of Messrs. Dhalla, Kooka, Joshi and others formed a company, purchasing silk cloths from the Sassoon Silk Mill and exporting large consignments to Arabia. The Company's competitors did not brook this interference in their business, and rumours were circulated about pig tallow being used in the sizing of silk cloth manufactured in the mills. This had an adverse effect on the Chhoi Company's trade, which dwindled a great deal. In 1892 Cowasji came to Bombay with an iron

will to promote and conduct a new Silk Mill, and rented a small bungalow at Khetwadi, wherein on the ground floor he installed power-looms with a small oil engine, and manufactured silk cloth as a preliminary test to his cherished ambition of a big mill. Sir Pherozesha Mehta, the premier swadeshite, was attracted towards the enterprise, and with his influence and co-operation Cowasji, in 1896, eventually succeeded in starting the Chhoi Silk Mills, Ltd., at Supari Baug, Parel. He was associated with Mr. Rustamji Mancherji Kuka and Mr. Dhanjisha Bapuji Desai (who later on became one of the Managing Directors of the Twinza Oil Co., of Burma), as the partners in the Agency firm of the mills, as Messrs. Chhoi, Kuka, Desai & Co. At first, the Chhoi Silk Mill was purely a weaving mill and subsequently the waste silk spinning department was added to it. From the inception of the mill till a few years before his lamented demise in 1915, Sir P. Mehta was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the mill.

The successful working of the Chhoi Mill attracted the attention of industrialists like Sir Shapurji Bharucha and others and to Cowasji's agency were entrusted the old Peroo Mahomed Mills, renamed the Coronation Mills, at Mahalaxmi, the Naigam Mills at Dadar, and the Tapti Mills at Surat, formerly known as Bela Mills.

Cowasji was a perfect type of his ancient virile race to whom work was worship, and he divided his working day of 12 hours between his mills and office. His was a unique instance of a hand-loom cloth manufacturer who by sheer dint of industry, integrity and indomitable will, rose to the position of an owner of four mills with a large turnover, the profits of which he willingly distributed for the amelioration of his co-religionists.

Mr. Chhoi was a Trustee of the Surat Parsi Charity Fund and had given monetary assistance to several philanthropic institutions including Rs. 20,000 to the Surat Parsi Orphanage, Rs. 5,000 to the Bai Gulbai Mehta Lying-in-Hospital and a like amount to the Rustamji Tarachand Hospital. After his death, the sum of about two lacs of rupees were contributed to various charitable institutions, including one lac to the above-mentioned Tarachand Hospital and Rs. 70,000 to the Parsi Technical and Industrial Institute, Surat.

Mrs. Dossibai Cowasjee Jehangir Jassawalla

(1833—1911)

The Pioneer of Many Social Reforms Among Her Parsi Sisters

and Her Husband



(*Inset : Mrs. Dossibai in after-life.*)

The record of Mrs. Dossibai's life, it is said, is the story of progress and reform, of the victory of self-sacrificing courage over narrow-minded opposition, of the march of advancement in the face of obloquy, of the final triumph of that which is noble and virtuous and beautiful in human life. She was the first Parsi girl to be sent to an English School in 1842, a fact which then excited much opposition. In after-life she was always in the vanguard of reform and thrice visited Europe. She had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Their Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, His Holiness the Pope and many other notables. The Parsi community owes much of the advancement of its womanhood to this liberal-minded lady.

Bai Pirozebai Shapurjee Dhunjeebhoy

(1834—1906)

One of the First Parsi Ladies to Learn English



Bai Pirozebai who was the daughter of Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, First Baronet, married her cousin Seth Shapurjee Dhunjeebhoy Batlivala when she was just twelve years old, on 6th January 1846. She was one of the first Parsi ladies to learn English which was a novelty in those days. The Lady Jamsetjee Causeway between Mahim and Bandra, completed in 1845, was built by her parents as a thanksgiving offering on her attaining the age of seven years.

Bai Pirozebai was a kind-hearted lady and her piety and devotion to her religion was steadfast. She diverted a portion of her wealth to deeds of charity and benevolence and her death was a severe blow to those poor and indigent who were supported by her benefactions.

The above picture is of the oil-painting in the collection of Sir James Rivett-Carnac, Governor of Bombay (1838—1841).

Dr. Miss Banoo J. Jilla

(BORN 1914)

The First Qualified Lady Dental Surgeon in the Parsi Community



Dr. Miss Banoo Jehangirji Jilla, L.D.Sc. (Bom.), passed her Matriculation in 1932 from the Bai Ratanbai F. Panday Girls, High School, Bombay, and joined the Wilson College in the following year. In the beginning of 1934 she left the College and joined the Bai Yamunabai Nair Dental College and within a couple of years completed the full course and obtained the L.D.Sc. Diploma in January 1936, she being the first qualified lady Dental Surgeon in her community. Her up-to-date Dental Clinic is situated at New Charni Road, opposite the Railway Hotel, Bombay.

Miss Perin Jamsetjee Mistri, G.D.Arch., A.U.A.

The First Lady Architect in the Whole of India



Having taken Gujrati education in Bombay where she was born, young Perin was entered as a boarder in Miss Kimmin's High School in Panchgani. At the age of ten she went to England and finished her education from the Croydon High School, Croydon. On returning to Bombay she joined the Architectural Section of the Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy School of Art where she showed great abilities for the profession of Architecture and passed the final examination for the Diploma in 1936. She is now a partner in her father's firm of Messrs. Mistri and Bhedwar and, as said above, has the honour of being the first lady Architect in India.

Mr. Rustom Ruttonjee Desai

A Self made Parsi Merchant of London



By sheer dint of industry, labour and intelligence, Mr. Desai has striven to rise from the lowest rung of the ladder

As a school-boy, while learning for the investiture for "Martab," he was helpful to his father in his profession as a "Panthak," in Bombay, as well as in a business which his father was running on the lines of a European shop at Marmagoa It was in this business that he first showed signs of commercial acumen, when, at the age of seventeen, he secured a contract, in the teeth of keen competition, to supply oil to the Western India Portuguese Railway. About the same time he secured Dubashing work of supplying food and provisions to boats which entered the harbour for fuelling.

Soon after leaving school he joined an Indian firm of Stevedores and Contractors in Bombay, as a clerk on a salary of Rs 20.

Subsequently, he procured employment with a well-known European Banking firm, as a Baggage and Customs Clerk. He served the firm for about four years and gained a thorough insight into the workings of their Shipping Department. He continued his upward career, when he was offered a position by a well-known English firm of Engineers and Government Contractors, as head of their Shipping Department for a tenure of three years. In these three years of office, he marked himself out as one deserving of higher promotion, and was soon raised to the post of an Assistant Manager of the firm. He remained with them for eight years when he was called to England by his father-in-law to take up his business there, but due to disagreement he withdrew from the firm and started on his own.

Soon, by his straight dealings, he carried the confidence of his bankers, manufacturers, and the trading fraternity in general, and established a good name for himself. His formulation of a scheme for the protection of both merchants and manufacturers, just before the Great War, evoked great appreciation in the English papers, and but for the war, the scheme would have been a great success. During the war he had improvised a novel place of safety against air-raids in his own compound, which was the means of sheltering about 30 to 40 people at a time. This in itself was a great and unique achievement, and declared by the English papers as the work of a pioneer.

He was also a Trustee of a Secret Verbal Trust created by one of his Parsi friends for utilizing the moneys in Parsi Charities.

On the 30th of January 1915 Mr. Desai got his daughter Goolchehir's Navjot Ceremony performed by Dastur Dr. Dhalla at Caxton Hall in London. This being the first ceremony performed in the West, a great controversy was raised by some friends in Bombay as to its validity, as they (a few Bombay people) argued that without the "Nerung," the Navjot was not a complete one. On the other hand, one has to consider the absurdity of bringing a child to perform its Navjot in India to get "Nerung"; it would cost each family at least Rs. 20,000 for expenses, etc. But Mr. Desai ignored them entirely, and to prove its justification, he himself performed the Navjot ceremonies of several Parsi children in London. Further, a good many Parsi children's Navjot Ceremony has been performed outside India, and had it not been for the bold step taken by Mr. Desai, these children might have embraced other religions, for which Mr. Desai should be congratulated.

Mr. Desai was Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Parsi Association of Europe for a number of years, and did very useful work in the interests of the Parsi community in London.

In the year 1919, a much needed want in the shape of good comfortable dwellings for the Parsis was felt in Bombay. This gradually materialized, and the Landlords' Association had come into existence

to safeguard their interests, as, due to the arbitrary and impracticable terms imposed upon the landlords by the City Improvement Trust and the Zoroastrian Building Society, many plots of land were relinquished. On the other hand, the Improvement Trust threatened the landlords to sell the plots to non-Parsis. Thus the position became very serious, and the leaders of the community failed in their attempts to overcome these difficulties with the Improvement Trust, in consequence of which, the object of having a Parsi Colony was frustrated. Mr. Desai, who at that time had from his own moneys created a Trust of a lakh of rupees, and devoted it to the erection of two spacious buildings for middle-class Parsis in the Colony, was asked to relieve the situation, if possible, by taking over the Presidentship of the Landlords' Association. He soon set himself to work, and after some months of controversy with the Improvement Trust and the Society, he managed to have all the onerous terms removed from the lease to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. In appreciation thereof, he was presented with a Silver Casket by the Association. This is one more instance of Mr. Desai's successful achievements in the interests of the Parsi community.

In 1934 Mr. Desai retired from active business life, and has settled in Bombay. He is now devoting all his time and energy to the promotion of Parsi good in every form, and is on the Parsi Panchayet Advisory Committee of "Employment Bureau" and "Dhundha Fund." He is Treasurer of the Zoroastrian Association and is also a member of the Managing Committee of the Zoroastrian Credit Bank. Besides these, he is engaged in various Parsi activities.

(*Concluded from next page*)

at Hither Green, near London. In this dugout—the first, and, we believe, the only one of its kind—his friends and neighbours and their children took refuge when raiders were announced. It still exists and will remain a landmark for years to come. Those who obtained shelter there were not slow in showing their appreciation ot Mr. Desai's thoughtful kindness, and when the War was over they presented him with a silver vase appropriately inscribed. English newspapers, including the *Graphic*, printed photographs of the solidly built retreat and a film company took a "shot" of its working arrangements.

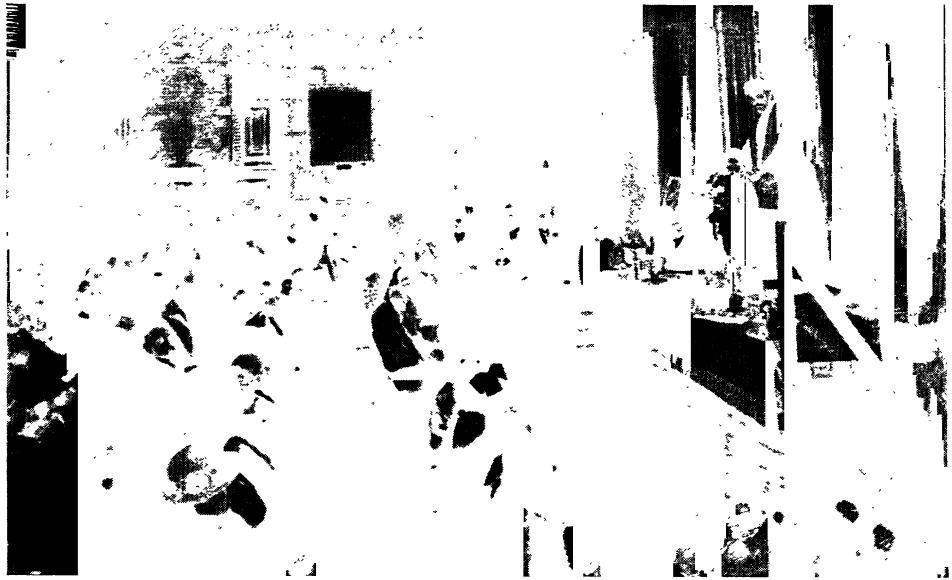
A Parsi Home in London during the Great World War as a Bomb-proof Shelter



The top full face figure in the background on the right is Miss Mehra R. Desai (Mrs. P. M. Khambatta); in the second row on the left—partially hidden—is Miss Goolcher R. Desai (Mrs. Sorab G. Kapadia).

In 1917 while the War was at its height and air raids were frequent, Mr. R. R. Desai carried out a patriotic and kindly idea—the construction, at his own expense, of a dugout in the garden of his residence

(*Continued on previous page*)



The first Navjot performed in Europe on 30th January 1915 by Dastur Dr. Dhalla at Caxton Hall, London, of Miss Goolcheher R. R. Desai.

Mr. Merwanjee Dhanjeebhoy M. Jeejeebhoy

(1866—1922)

The First Indian Manager of a British Insurance Company.



After his school and college career he joined the Jubilee Mills, entered the cotton trade and, within a few years, became a partner in the firm of Readymoney Jeejeebhoy & Co. He had, like his great-grandfather, a liking for the Insurance line, and was appointed head of the Insurance Department of Killick Nixon & Co. In 1902 he was offered and accepted the Managership of the Yorkshire Insurance Co., Ltd., the first Indian, as mentioned above, to enjoy such a high position. He was a member of the Bombay Fire Insurance Association, Bombay Marine Insurance Association, and was the first Indian to be appointed on the Committee of the first named Association. In 1917 Government appointed him on the Auditors' Council and he was also a Trustee of the Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Charity Funds from 1905 to 1922. He visited England and the Continent on several occasions and died suddenly in London on 28th July 1922. He had many friends in London, and was a familiar figure in big hotels and restaurants, of which he was a great patron. It is said that a well-known delicacy is still known in London by his name.

Mr. Rustomji Limji Batliboi

(1856—1925)

Pioneer in Opening a Hostel in London for Parsi Students and Visitors



Mr. Batliboi had his firm in Bombay and was doing Import and Export business for a number of years. After closing that firm, he went to England with his whole family in 1902 and stayed there until his death in 1925.

He was the pioneer in opening a Hostel for Parsi students and visitors to London and was a great help to them, and he managed that hostel for a period of nearly 20 years. On his retiring from this self-imposed work, he was presented with an Address by the students and Parsi residents in London.

During the last few years of his stay in London, he was elected a member of the Committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Europe, and was an active member of the same till his death.

Even on the very last day of his life, he was on his way to attend a meeting of the Association, and died in the train suddenly of heart failure. He was buried at the Parsi Cemetery at Woking, and his funeral was very largely attended by the Parsi students, visitors and residents of London.

All the sons of Mr. Batliboi were educated in London and are doing business in Bombay on their return from England.

His son Limji (born 1879) is General Manager in the firm of Messrs. Bomanji Dhunjibhoy, the Naval Contractors.

Another son, Jamshed, F.S.A.A., London (born 1881), founder of the firm of Messrs. Batliboi and Purohit, is in Bombay as a Public Auditor and Accountant.

Mr. Jal R. Batliboi, A.M.I.E.E. (London) (born 1883), is Chief Electrical Engineer in the Poona Electric Supply Co. of Poona.

His youngest son, Sorab, F.S.A.A., London (born 1885), works in Calcutta and Rangoon as a Public Auditor and Accountant, and has a firm in the name of Messrs. S. R. Batliboi & Co.

Mr. Cooverjee Ardeshir

(1850—1894)

Pioneer in Transport Lines and Racing



Took to business very early in life after completing his school studies and was one of the pioneers in mail-contract lines. Established the mail and passenger service and transport lines from Poona to Satara, Wathar, Wai, Mahableshwar, Kolhapur and Belgaum before the advent of railways. Was sole Government Abkari Contractor at Kalyan and Mhow for many years. A perfect horseman, and a successful race-horse owner, his knowledge of horses was so great that in his last years along with Col. G. Buhl he was Joint Honorary Secretary and Judge of the Poona Horse Show.

A. C. Ardeshir, M.A.

Pioneer in Racing Activities and in the Collection and Knowledge of Mughal Paintings



Mr. Ardeshir is the eldest son of the late Mr. Cooverjee Ardeshir, the well-known Mail Contractor of the Deccan. He graduated in 1906 standing first amongst the list of successful candidates and carrying off all history prizes and scholarships. He was a Fellow of the Deccan College from 1906 to 1908 in which year, he passed his M.A. After a successful business career, Mr. Ardeshir took seriously to racing in 1927 and has had the unique distinction of being the first Parsi to win the classic double at Calcutta, the King-Emperor's Cup and the Viceroy's Cup with his famous Australian horse "Ethics." He has had the honour of winning almost all classical races for Arabs and Thoroughbreds at Bombay and Poona, including the much-coveted Governor's Cup, the Byculla Club Cup, the Rajpipla Gold Cup, the C. N. Wadia Gold Cup and the

Obidullah Khan Gold Cup. He successfully organised the Western India Race Horse Owners' Association, unique in the history of racing, and acted as its Secretary from 1930 to 1937. In 1935 he was appointed acting Steward and subsequently every year has been elected Member of the Committee and Steward of the Royal Western India Turf Club, Ltd.

Mr. Ardeshir is a connoisseur in Indian Art and is the proud possessor of one of the finest private collections of Moghul paintings in the world, purchased by him in all parts of India at very high prices. He has minutely studied this subject and is one of the few authorities in this Art in India.

Mr. A. C. Ardeshir's article on the portrait of Dastur Meherji Rana appears on page 48.



Mr. A. C. Ardeshir leading in his famous Australian horse "Ethics" who won the double classics at Calcutta—the King-Emperor's Cup and the Viceroy's Cup in 1934. He is the first Parsi in the history of racing to win this double event.



SOME PARSI MERCHANTS OF 1865

Standing from left to right :—A Parsi servant, Dinsha Hormusji Billimoria, 1831—190 , Beramji Hormusji Patel, 1829-1902, A servant.

Sitting :—Lowji Muncherji Wadia, 1829-1881, Dorabji Nanabhoy Wadia, 1835-1897, Cowasjee Cooverjee Bhabha.



A PARSEE CLUB, 1870.

Upper row, from left to right :—Burjorji Dorabji Patel, 1833—1899 ; Merwanji Hormusji Patel, 1840—1900 ; Lowji Muncherji Wadia, 1829—1881

Lower row, from left to right :—Nuserwanji Dorabji Patel, 1840—1893; Ruttonji Dadabhoy Lowji Wadia, 1835—1907 ; Nuserwanji Rustomji Mody, 1836—1901.

Some Prominent Parsi Sethia Merchants of the early years of the twentieth century, at Chateau Petit, Warden Road, Bombay



From left to right :—

1. J. M. Framji Patel, J.P. (1857—1918). "Father of Parsi Cricket."
2. Dadabhoy Merwanji Jeejeebhoy (1852—). A Director of several Mill concerns.
3. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart. (1st), J.P., (1853—1934). A Philanthropist and Founder of the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Public Hall.
4. Bomanji Dinsha Petit, J.P. (1859—1915). Founder, Bomanjee Dinsha Petit Parsee General Hospital.
5. Sir Dinsha Maneckjee Petit, Bart. (2nd), J.P., (1873—1933). Mill Magnate.
6. Jamsetjee Cursetjee Jamsetjee, J.P., (1860—1916). Member, Parsi Punchayet and Bombay Corporation.
7. Rustomjee Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, J.P., (1864—1922). Founder, Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Home for Children, Matunga.
8. Jeejeebhoy Muncherjee M. Jeejeebhoy (1855—1905), Connected with Mill Industry. Popularly known as Jeejeebhoy Nawab.

PARSIS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

By Dr. M. E. PAVRI, J.P., L.M. & S. (Bom.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.) L.M. (Dub.)

Joint Hon. Secretary of the Parsi Bekari Fund

AT the present moment, the most acute and vital question that affects the very future of the Parsi community is that of "Unemployment." It is upto the leaders—Parsi Panchayet Akabars, Trustees of different Trust Funds, and the wealthy *sethias* of the Parsi community—to search for its causes and find out ways and means to temporarily alleviate—if it is not possible to remove—the distress immediately and entirely. Our community could not naturally escape from the disastrous repercussions of the world-wide trade depression which has sapped the world dry of its happiness for the last ten years or so. The acuteness of the major problems of our community was vividly illustrated in the Report issued by Mr. Dinshaw J. Irani with the help and guidance of Lady Ratan Tata, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Mehta and Sir Phiroze Sethna, but unfortunately it still remains unsolved. Schemes have been mooted and discussed only to be shelved.

What are the Causes of this Distress ?

(1) *Genuine Poverty*—due to natural deficiencies and defects of body, mind, and soul (character)—weak, decrepit invalids, blind and maimed, or to unforeseen circumstances. Such poor people deserve sympathy and help and are the right people for "doles," though the dole system in other cases is undesirable and demoralizing and stands self-condemned. However, under the present circumstances, a sudden cessation of doles is not advisable, as such a course is sure to lead to further misery and much greater hardship and evils. It will have to be continued until some schemes for the amelioration of the distress are put into force, such as Unemployment Bureau with a sales organization and Unemployment Insurance, Parsi Statistical Bureau, Industrial Homes and Polytechnic Institute, Hunarshala for men and women, Charity Organization Society and as special "Relief" Fund.

(2) Another class of able-bodied people, due either to inefficiency or weak character or to laziness and indifference to make any effort to stand on their own legs and earn their livelihood by honest means, depends on doles from unorganized, indiscriminate and misdirected charity which do them more harm than good. The dole system must be stopped for such people judiciously, and work and model dwelling houses should be provided for them and free technical and vocational training should be given to their children. The dole system in such cases leads undoubtedly to indolence and is a sort of an incentive to begging.

(3) Another cause is the wrong ideal adopted, of late, to emulate the " smart set "—the result of the wrong system of education in character-building and spending the leisure hours in material pleasures of life, such as cinema, smoking, drinking, gambling, etc.

(4) Adoption of a high standard of living out of all proportion to their income and means and lack of scientific and equitable distribution of wealth and unorganized charity. Parsis are known for their cosmopolitan charity, but now times are changed and charity must first begin at home.

(5) Faulty education, or rather a travesty of education, given to children both at home and at school. Parsis have become educated beggars owing to their becoming " copy-book graduates."

(6) Lure for clerkship is very detrimental to future prospects.

(7) The natural awakening and advance of our sister communities have closed doors or avenues which were the main preserves of our community, hence there is keen competition and the situation has become still more difficult owing to the inequitable and unfair policy of our benign Government in making Government appointments the special preserve of certain communities, stopping that avenue altogether for the Parsis.

(8) Centralization in cities, chiefly in Bombay, and the consequent lowering of the health and character by city-life and luxuriant extravagant habits.

(9) The loss of the charm of living a simple and frugal life and chiefly the lack of appreciation of the " dignity of labour." The aping of Western ways of so-called civilization, such as racing, gambling, smoking, drinking and other evil habits and pleasures of life on the one hand and the incurring of excessive and unnecessary expenditure on dress, ceremonials and festivities on the other, have impoverished the very fibre of our community so that the old spirit of righteousness, grit, independence, enterprise and dignity of honest labour are nearly lost in a large percentage of our people.

(10) Complete absence of " home education " which is the main cause of several social evils and the unfortunate conduct of some young persons. In this case, the responsible parties are the parents who must teach their children, by precept and example, the beautiful and rational teachings of the Zoroastrian religion.

(11) Carelessness and indifference of the members of our community in not helping their co-religionists in various spheres of life. Parsis must help poor Parsis by buying *swadeshi* goods made by our own people and Parsi firms must employ Parsis as far as possible and buy goods from Parsi stores.

(12) Our community has suffered most by the closing of several textile mills, owned by Parsis. The suffering thereby caused can be relieved by starting a mill on co-operative lines. Besides this

scheme, an *Industrial* colony, at Uran, after the fashion of the one at Dayalbagh of Agra, will be the best solution for the distress amongst the Parsi unemployed. The industries to be introduced there will be dairy and poultry farm, factory for confectionery, soap and scents, bread, biscuit and cake bakeries, boot and shoe making, tailoring, hat factory, growing sugar-cane and preparing molasses (*gur*), agricultural pursuits like growing fruits, flowers and vegetables, wheat and corn fields, fishing, pottery works, etc. Valuable information will be given in this respect by Mr. Behman Banaji who is striving hard to colonize Uran by building cheap dwelling houses and encouraging various industries on cheap plots of land already secured by him.

I will recommend my readers to consult Dr. Jal Balsara's valuable books on Parsi Charities, and also the Report circulated by Mr. D. J. Irani amongst us in 1936.

In fine, I will say that if fifty charitably-disposed and public-spirited Parsi ladies and gentlemen of the noble type of Lady Ratan Tata, Mrs. J. K. Mehta and Bai Navajbai Navroij Gamadia, Sir H. C. Dinshaw Adenwalla, Sir H. M. Mehta and Mr. Muncherji Kharegat were to come forward to help the poor Parsis at this critical juncture without wasting a single moment, the devil of unemployment will vanish within a short space of time.

May The Almighty Help The Poor Parsis !

Dr. Merwanjee Erachjee Pavri

L.M. & S. (Bom.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), L.M. & S. (Dub.), J.P.

(BORN 1866)

A Prominent Sportsman and an Active Social Worker



Dr. M. E. Pavri was educated at the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir High School, Naosari, and the Grant Medical College, Bombay, and then left for Europe in 1892 to qualify himself for higher medical degrees. He was the Captain of the Parsi Cricket team for 24 years (1889-1913) and its member for 28 years. He is the President and Secretary of several Health and Athletic Institutions of Bombay, and his name is associated with Cricket, Skating, Scouting, Ambulance, Physical Culture League, etc.

Dr. Pavri has made his name as a distinguished sportsman. He was the first and only Parsi who played as an amateur for the Middlesex County Eleven in 1895. He celebrated his sporting Silver Jubilee in 1911, when his friends collected a decent sum out of which a life-like portrait of his was hung in the Parsi Gymkhana Pavilion and two Gold Medals were also founded to commemorate the happy occasion. The Doctor has published a book on *Parsi Cricket*. He is a Justice of the Peace, an Honorary Presidency Magistrate and an active social worker acting as Chairman of many Parsi Associations.

Ardeshir Edulji Cama, A.C.A.

(BORN 29*th November* 1879)

Chartered Accountant ; First Indian to hold the A.C.A. Diploma in England and Wales



Mr. Cama who is the grandson of the late Pestonjee Hormasjee Cama, C.I.E., Founder of the Cama Hospital, Bombay, is the first Indian member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Incorporated by Royal Charter in the year 1880. A staunch follower of the writings of the late Lawrence R. Dicksee, F.C.A., M.Com., author of Auditing, etc.: " The detection of fraud is a most important portion of the Auditor's duties and there will be no disputing the contention, that the auditor who is able to detect fraud is, other things being equal, a better man than the auditor who cannot." Gave up public practice, and entered service to gain practical knowledge of Executive and Administrative work. Is backed up by 8 years' London and 27 years' Indian experience of Commerce, Industry and Financial administration.

Rendered War-time service to the Government of India in the Imperial Section as Accounts Officer attached to the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard at Bombay, controlling finances of over 23 Prize Steamers, and was thanked by the Government for his indomitable character in exposing serious and complicated frauds of great magnitude. At the final inquiry based on a direct communication by Mr. Cama with the Viceroy, the Military Accountant-General and the Controller of Marine Accounts challenged Mr. Cama, that in spite of the Government Solicitor's opinion that there was no fraud, did he still consider his findings against the officers to be of fraudulent nature? Mr. Cama affirmed his report to be true and added that it was not based on assumption, as was relied upon by the Government Solicitor, in his opening para. of the written opinion, "Assuming the officers of the steamers to be honest," and ending, "I pronounce the transaction not to be fraudulent."

Mr. Cama served the Gwalior State, under His late Highness Madhav Rao Scindia, first as Accountant-General and then as Finance Minister. He was the first Parsi to hold these honourable posts and through his persistent investigating powers and acumen of Commercial Law, he successfully saved the State a sum of Rs. 12 crores. Mr. Cama was offered a colossal bribe to suppress his report to the Durbar but this he honourably declined. His Highness thereafter gave Mr. Cama powers of a Prime Minister, and issued State Orders that other members should submit their files to Mr. Cama, and he in his turn submit them to the Durbar with his opinion for final sanction. Mr. Cama resigned his high office at a time when his services were about to be appreciated with increment of pay and high honours. The Durbar lost nearly 6 crores of rupees after Mr. Cama had left the service. His late Highness tried his best to secure him back, through the emissary of a Pundit, who played His late Highness false and pocketed a large sum of money.

By Mr. Cama's evidence and unflinching reports many joint-stock companies were closed down and punishment meted out to guilty officers as under:—

(*a*) 10 years' hard labour to the Manager, the Credit Bank of India, Ltd. This trial was a sensation, due to the fact that the co-auditor, the late Mr. N. R. Mistri, Incorporated Accountant, was one of the accused and Mr. Cama was a free man. The late Mr. Sullivan and the late Mr. Morris of the C.I.D. told Mr. Cama that some of the leading members of the Accountancy profession had urged them to put a rope round Mr. Cama's neck but had failed, and so did the nefarious actions of the accountants. Mr. Justice Hayward, in delivering the charge to the jury, said:—

"Gentlemen of the Jury,—Above all the evidence, believe the evidence of Mr. Cama, who is the only truthful witness and has not tried to save his skin, as others have tried to do." Mr. Mistri was acquitted.

(*b*) 6 months' hard labour to the Manager, the Gorakhpore Bank., Ltd, of Gorakhpore, and its Liquidation.

(*c*) 6 months' hard labour to the Manager, the Kayastha Trading and Banking Corporation of Gorakhpore, and its Liquidation.

Many companies have prospered through the guidance of Mr. Cama, and only a couple of names are mentioned :—

(*a*) The Hindusthan Co-operative Insurance Society, Ltd., of Calcutta.

(*b*) The Alembic Chemical Works, Ltd., of Baroda.

The Hindusthan was floated during the first *Swadeshi* movement and by its activities had created many enemies, so much so that it was believed not to have kept any proper books of accounts and was severely attacked by the leading journals of Calcutta. Mr. Cama's signature to a balance sheet saw the end of all criticism, and the work the Hindusthan is carrying on to-day speaks for the great success it has achieved.

The late Sir Dinshaw Wacha, Kt., appreciated Mr. Cama in the following terms :—

> " I have known him as an auditor of most complicated accounts and one whom I greatly esteem and regard for his conscientious work and perfect integrity."

The late Dr. Annie Besant ended up her Editorial, written specially for Mr. Cama, and which appeared in the *New India* of 24th December 1915 :—

> " The incident is significant in many ways and in fact embodies all the grievances the people have concerning the administrative machinery of this country. Most important of all, one is naturally at a loss to understand why the Government should have so unceremoniously rejected the claims of Mr. Cama, the only Indian Chartered Accountant."

The late Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, Kt., when convinced by Mr. Cama as to the illegality of " Reciprocal Accounts" as assets on the balance sheet of the All India Insurance Co., Ltd., resigned his Chairmanship of the company.

Mr. Cama, accompanied by his wife, has toured various parts of India in search of *Rishis*, and have met :—

(*a*) Gambhirnath, of Gopichand's Shrine at Gorakhpore.

(*b*) A Mahatma of Shoghi, who was found in a valley, bare of clothes, in the severe cold of Simla.

(*c*) A Mahatma at the Guru Dutt Durbar, Gurushikhar, 5,680 ft. high in Mount Abu.

(*d*) Shri Shanti Vijay Maharaj, of Bamanwada, via Sajjan Road, Marwar.

(*e*) Late Swami Jyotirmoyanand, of Kashi Devi Math, Sapt Sagar, Benares, who gave freely of his great learning. Mr. Cama owes to him his knowledge of the Upanishads, Bichar Sagar and Shiv Sarode.

Mr. Cama has made research of Occult Sciences at the Reading Room of the British Museum for over a year and has contributed largely to the various Astrological journals of England and America and is consulted on important astrological questions from many parts of India and Europe. He is the author of a booklet, " Gandhi's Path on the Wheel of Fortune, via Ill-omened."

Mr. Cama has come in contact with savants of the West and has been appreciated in the following terms :—

(*a*) " Cheiro," the Seer :—" Judging from your booklet on Gandhi, you must be a good Astrologer. I have pleasure in sending you my exact birth-date for your collection."
2. "I think the Horoscope you have drawn up for me is extremely good and *accurate in every way*. You must yourself have very remarkable powers of intuition to be able to turn up such a good analysis of character."

(*b*) Paul Brunton, Author of " In Search of Secret India " :—" I am specially interested in your remarks upon the Law of Divine Supply and your personal experience proves the existence of such a law. I too have had similar experiences. You have certainly had a very unusual life and I shall look forward with interest, to meeting you when I visit Bombay."

(*c*) Dr. Alexander Cannon, Kushog Yogi of Northern Tibet, author of " The Invisible Influences " :—" Thank you for sending me a copy of *Star Lore*, for October 1934, with your fine article in it on ' Strange Facts,' which I have read with much interest. Any time you have anything else to send to me in this way, please do."

Jehangir Palanji Katgara, J.P.

(BORN 1885)

The Pioneer of Indian Tourist Travel



Mr. Jehangir P. Katgara, Proprietor, Jeena & Co., and Honorary Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, was educated at the New High School, Bombay. His father, Mr. Palanji Hormusjee, founded Jeena & Co. in 1900 as an Importing and Exporting firm. After completing his education, Mr. Jehangir, the subject of this sketch, joined the firm in 1903. In 1911 he added Clearing and Forwarding departments and in 1925 the Passage, Travel and Insurance departments came into being.

A great traveller, Mr. Katgara has earned a fine reputation for conducting tours to Europe and Japan since 1933. Jeena's Kashmir, Ceylon and Xmas Special Tours to Northern India are household words throughout the country and the 1937 Coronation Tour is the greatest and most ambitious ever attempted in the East. Jeena's are rightly styled the Pioneers of Indian Tourist Travel.

Mr. Dara N. Masters

(BORN 1883)

The First Indian to fly from Europe to India



In 1928 Mr. Darabshaw Nanabhoy Masters when a through regular Air Service was not established came down to India as far as the aeroplane could bring him, that is to Basra. On 14th July 1929 he left Europe and arrived in Karachi on the 20th. He was the first Indian to fly from Europe to India.

Mr. Masters is an enthusiastic traveller and his aeroplane trip in 1927 totalled 8,000 kilometres and in 1929 more than 9,000 kilometres, having flown round Europe, from Constantinople to London and back, making an extensive round trip covering all the principal Capitals of Europe like Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Geneva, Rome, Palermo, etc.

Mr. Noshir Framoze Dalal

(BORN 1896)

The First Indian to Fly from India to South Africa



After leaving school Noshir entered the Engineering and Technical line and finally was appointed an Engineer at Messrs. Tata Hydro-Electric Co. He then started his own workshop under the name of Eastern Motor Works. He is also the Consulting Engineer to the Western India Automobile Association and Insurance Companies.

Mr. Dalal is a Pilot and possesses his own aeroplane. He and his partner, Mr. Keki D. Pochkhanawalla, were the first Indians to fly from Bombay to Africa in 1935-36, and were presented with a new machine by the Indian community in South Africa.

His son Rustom (born 1920), who is an all-round sportsman, is a Cadet Captain on board the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship *Dufferin*.

Major Burjor Rustomji Karanjia

BORN 1887 (*Quetta*)

As Acting Officer Commanding Fars Force (Persia) with his Staff Officers in 1917



Major Karanjia has made history as the first Parsi to rise to the rank of Major in the Royal Iranian Army and thus after a lapse of 1300 years a member of the Parsi race has been fortunate enough to hold a high rank in the Military organization of Iran, his ancient motherland. This Iranian (Parsi) patriot's gallant career has been published in different languages by well-known authors and commended by Persian, American and English High Officials.

Mr. Nanabhoy Edulji Bharucha

(1876—1934)

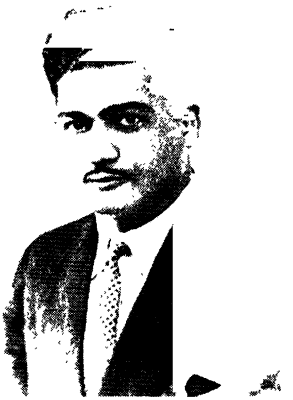
Pioneer Outdoor Amusement Showman Amongst the Parsis

AND HIS SON

Mr. Purvez Bharucha

(BORN 1907)





Mr. Nanabhoy Edulji Bharucha was the first outdoor Amusement Showman amongst the Parsis, and the first in India to order out a big Giant Wheel from America. After graduating from the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute of Bombay, he joined the Mills where he served for some time as a Carding and Spinning Master. But always wanting to do new things in life he turned his attention to the Amusement line by ordering the biggest Wheel and the most unique side-shows from different parts of the world. After running for some fifteen years the Giant Wheel in Bombay, he went on an extensive tour of India exhibiting together with his Wheel other side-shows which were greatly appreciated everywhere. Accompanied by his two elder sons he was invited by many of the Maharajas who admired his shows and he received Gold Medals from the Kabul Government. He was specially invited to Afghanistan with his Show and Wheel on the occasion of the Independence Day



(*Continued on next page*)

Mr. Sorabji Nowroji Jamsetji Wadia

(BORN 4-2-1823—DIED 4-10-1883)

A Prominent Guarantee Broker and Auditor



He was one of the sons of the late Parsi Master Builder, Mr. Nowroji Jamsetji Wadia, and was originally a guarantee broker to the well-known firm of Messrs. Lyon Bros. Subsequently he joined the firm of Messrs. Ewart Latham & Co., another well-known English firm of his day, and was the head of the Pearl department. He was also a representative of the well-known Coach Builders of England, Messrs. Casterton and Messrs. Kinross.

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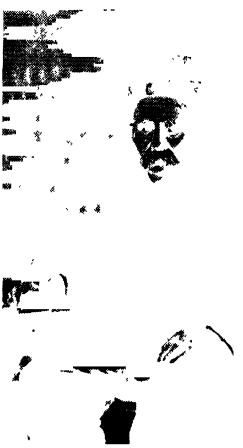
celebrations. He was an inventor, industrialist, magician and a genius in making useful articles out of waste products. He was appointed as the first Principal of the Parsee Hunershalla on its inauguration and amongst his last enterprises was the running of a talkie cinema in Bombay. In his Show business he was helped by his sons Purvez and Dhun. Mr. Bharucha was the younger brother of Mr. Fakirjee E. Bharucha, Consulting Engineer and late Director of Industries.

The business is now being conducted by his eldest son Purvez.

Mr. Pestonjee B. Press

(1854—1930)

Prominent Parsi Coach-builder
who introduced Rubber-tyred Carriages into Bombay.



Mr. Pestonjee B. Press was born on 17th February 1854, Roj Arsesang, Mah Amardad, 1223 Y.Z., and died on 28th July 1930, Roj Deen, Mah Bohman, 1299 Y.Z. Mr. Pestonjee belonged to a family engaged in coach-building business, his father and uncle having been pioneer coach-builders in Bombay, when that industry was introduced on this side of India. Mr. Pestonjee, however, started on his own and opened a coach factory in a small way about 1879 under the name of the Fort Coach Factory and at once made a decided departure from the ordinary run of carriages turned out by local coach-builders. He struck a new line for himself, endeavouring to approach with native workmanship as nearly as possible the elegance and durability of English imported carriages. Since then the factory made steady progress, and is now one of the leading coach-building houses of this city. Mr. Pestonjee had cultivated a taste for superior carriages, and was able to establish extensive connections with Europeans and Indians of this city, as well as several Indian States, from many of whom he held complimentary and unsolicited testimonials. H. E. Lord Sandhurst was the first Governor of Bombay to confer in 1896, his Special Appointment on Mr. Pestonjee, as a mark of his approval of the Government House work turned out at the factory, and it is noteworthy that since that date the Special Appointment as coach-builders has been granted to the firm by all the successive

Governors of Bombay including the present Governor, H. E. Lord Brabourne, the firm having thus enjoyed that unique distinction for an uninterrupted period of close upon 40 years.

Mr. Pestonjee's Factory has secured several Gold Medals, first class Diplomas, Certificates of Merit, and Cups at several Exhibitions in India, London, and Paris.

Since the advent of motor cars Mr. Pestonjee's was the only firm that started building elegant and luxurious Motor Car Bodies in India and even in those days when a millionaire or an Indian Prince having taken a fancy to a particular design wished to rebuild the original body which happened to be destroyed by fire or otherwise, Mr. Pestonjee was the only person they turned to and it redounds to his credit that the new bodies he turned out were found by their owners even more elegant and luxurious and better finished than the original ones built by English or Continental makers. That speciality of the firm, it had better be noted, is continued upto the present date.

Mr. Pestonjee always tried to keep his factory up-to-date by introducing every new idea or design appearing in England, which tended to provide more comfortable and convenient carriages and motor bodies than those made by others. From those early days the notable characteristic of all Carriage and Motor Bodies built by Mr. Press was that they were elegant in design but light in weight and draft, that fact being due to the training he had received in woodworking at the Sir J. J. School of Art in Bombay; and the result of all this was that the name of "Press" came to indicate very high class coach-building turn-outs both in Carriages and Motor Bodies. With a view to get firsthand information of the various lines pertaining to his trade Mr. Pestonjee undertook a journey to England, Scotland, France and other places on the Continent early in the present century and there he was able to establish personal contact with all the manufacturers and merchants who had even then several years' dealings with his firm. In 1911, Mr. Pestonjee made another notable departure in his line by turning out a State Carriage in real gold and silver for H. H. the Jamsaheb Ranjitsinghji of Navanagar, and 4 years later he built another similar State Coach with the addition of coloured enamel ornamentations for H. H. The Maharaja Bhavsinghji of Bhavnagar.

After Mr. Pestonjee's retirement in 1925, the business is being continued by his sons, who have always tried to keep up the high standard and traditions started by their revered father.

Mr. Hirjibhai Maneckji Vasanwalla

(1848—1908)

The First to Introduce Methylated Spirits into India

Mr. Cooverji N. Mehta

(Born 1878)

Of the Firm of Messrs. Hirjibhai Maneckji & Co.



Mr. H. M. Vasanwalla



Mr. C. N. Mehta

Mr. Hirjibhai started business in English Provisions and Wines in Parsi Bazar Street, Bombay, about 1876, and established Agencies in the Persian Gulf and in Goa. He was the first to introduce Methylated Spirits into India. On his death he left his business in the hands of his son-in-law, Mr. Cooverji N. Mehta.

Mr. Cooverji N. Mehta took over the sole charge of the business of the well-known firm of Hirjibhai Maneckji & Co. in 1908 and developed it on a large scale. He is Government Contractor to Army Headquarters, Simla, and also to the Indian Stores Department, New Delhi. Besides Provisions and Methylated Spirits, he has secured the Sole Agency of the firm of Messrs. Polak & Schwarz (Holland) for Soda Water Essences, Essential Oils, Perfumery, etc., also the Sole Agency for Hermese Schharine (Switzerland). He is conducting his Methylated Spirit business on a large scale and holds the Sole Agency for the Mysore Sugar Co., Ltd., Bangalore.

Mr. Hirjibhai Cooverji Mehta

(Born 1909)

Partner of the Firm of Hirjibhai Maneckji & Co.

Mr. Navroz Cooverji Mehta

(Born 1914)

Partner of the Firm of Hirjibhai Maneckji & Co.



Mr. H. C. Mehta

Mr. N. C. Mehta

Mr. Hirjibhai Cooverji Mehta joined his father's firm of Messrs. Hirjibhai Maneckji & Co., and is managing the business since 1928.

Mr. Navroz Cooverji Mehta is a Graduate of the Bombay University and is studying for the M.A. degree in the Ismail College, Andheri. After passing his M.A he will join his father's firm of Messrs. Hirjibhai Maneckji & Co

Mr. Minocher Kaikhusru Commissariat

Managing Partner, "Indian States and Eastern Agency," who were the Pioneers of Wireless in India



The history of the rise and progress of Wireless in India is solely due to the efforts of the Indian States & Eastern Agency, the Managing Director of which was Mr. F. E. Roshar who was responsible for the introduction of Wireless in India. The firm was established in 1912 and in 1926 the Agency took great interest in Wireless and through them it was introduced in Bombay in June 1927.

Mr. Commissariat who had joined the firm a year before took keen interest in the subject and studied Wireless and Radio progress in India. He soon became an expert in the line and within two years was placed in charge of the Wireless Department. He was thoroughly experienced in the Radio trade and by his personal effort and hard work he was successful enough to take over the firm in 1930. He is closely connected with a large number of mercantile firms.

Mr. Commissariat was the first Parsi to introduce Public Address System in India, with the Agency of Messrs. Graham Amplion, Ltd., the then leading manufacturers in England for Public Address and Sound System work.

This firm specialises in Wireless and Electric Accessories and Mr. Commissariat holds a record for successful demonstrations throughout India for Wireless as well as Public Address Installation. Mr. Commissariat at present is greatly assisted in his work by his partner, Mr. Jamshed M. Framji.

Mr. Gushtasp S. Bhathena (1896—1935)

The First Parsi to take Films of Jungle Life in India



Mr. Gushtasp S. Bhathena was a great *shikari* well known in many parts of India—more particularly in the Central Provinces. He was considered an authority on Hunting and his advice and guidance were invariably sought for by lovers of Indian shikar. He was a crack shot and preferred to kill tigers and leopards at close range. He shot many Bengal tigers and a number of other wild animals. On the 11th of December 1935 while he was out hunting in Khandwa, he was attacked from behind by a big tiger. He fought with the beast and killed it with his gun which he fired with one hand. He was, however, badly wounded on many parts of his body and though he was at once brought down to Bombay and placed under the treatment of expert surgeons, he succumbed to his injuries on the 25th December 1935.

He was the first Parsi from Bombay to take films of jungle life and was an expert in gun mechanics.

Rustomjee Pirojsha Palamkote

The First Parsi to Join the Fire Brigade as a Station Officer



Mr. Rustom Palamkote, who is the son of Lieut. Pirojsha D. Palamkote, a retired Municipal Officer, showed his mettle at an early age by walking from Bombay to Broach (about 205 miles) in 10 days with five other Boy Scouts. He joined the St. John Ambulance Parsi Division in 1925 as a Cadet and has taken an active part in all emergent occasions in the city, such as Riots, Civil Disobedience Movement, etc., for which he holds a Certificate from the Governor of Bombay. As mentioned above, he joined the Bombay Fire Brigade as a Station Officer in 1936 at the early age of 25, being the first Parsi to be so appointed.

PARSIS AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

By the Hon. Sir HOMI MEHTA, Kt., J.P.

BOMBAY owes its position as the First City in India more to its cotton trade and textile industry than to its being the first port of call for mail boats from the West. The textile industry in its turn owes its past glory and success to the foresight of Parsi pioneers who not only laid the foundation of the Cotton Mill Industry in India but also contributed immensely to its wonderful success.

The first cotton mill was founded in Bombay by Mr. Cawasji Nanabhoy Daver as early as in 1854. In those days the Parsis did immense trade with China. Though times were hard and the dangers great, owing to there being no big steamers plying between India and China, Parsi pioneers crossed the seas in sailing vessels and traded with China in Indian commodities in return for costly silks. The first Parsi Baronet—Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy—amassed great wealth therefrom. The Allbless and Cama families were also in the forefront and made the name of the Parsis more or less a household word all over the Eastern world. The Petit family also contributed largely to the reputation of the Parsis as traders and counted among the biggest businessmen of the time. Sir Dinshaw Petit—the founder of the family—promoted from 1860 onwards many cotton mills in Bombay and worked them successfully. He amassed great wealth in the cotton mill industry and left a very lucrative business behind him when he died. His son, Mr. Bomanji Petit, carried on the family tradition and the business very successfully. After his death, his successors not having followed in the foot-steps of their ancestors, lost the control they had over the mill industry in Bombay, and, sad to say, there is no Petit Mill in existence to-day.

The Hon. Mr. Naoroji Nusserwanji Wadia who was the Manager of the Petit Mills at the time of the first Baronet was a clever textile expert, and seeing that money could be made in the industry he started on his own, at first in a modest way, and latterly expanded out till he controlled the Textile Mills, the Bombay Dyeing and the Century Mills. He worked and managed these mills so well as to amass a big fortune and when he died he left the concerns in a very flourishing condition in the hands of his sons Sir Ness and Sir Cusrow who had been educated and trained in England in spinning, weaving and engineering. These two brothers devoted themselves solely to cotton mills and multiplied the fortune their father had left them many times over. Sir Ness Wadia is running the concerns even now in Bombay and his mills are known to be the best equipped in India. Even in these hard times they show very creditable results. The Century Mills, one of the group controlled by the Wadia Brothers, were managed by Sir Cusrow Wadia, the brother of Sir Ness Wadia, who recently retired from India when he handed over his mills to his friend Sir Chunilal Mehta to look after and manage.

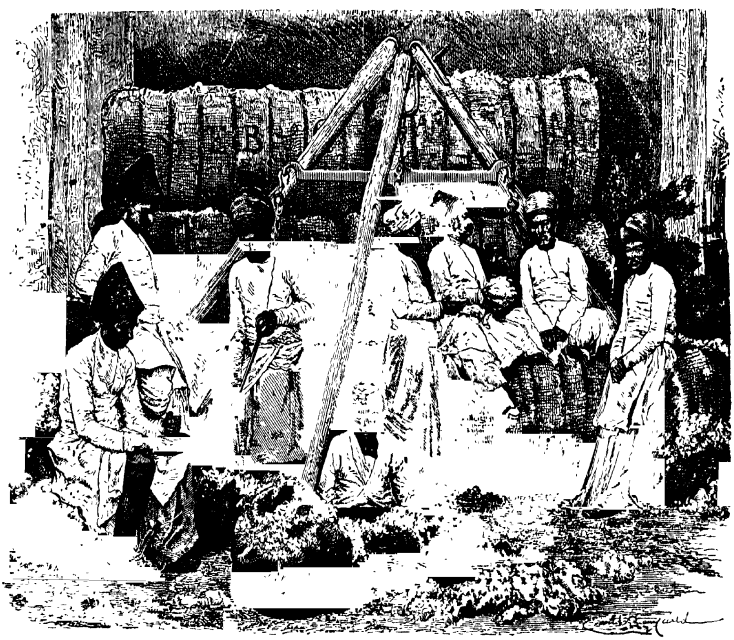
The great House of Tatas which was founded by the late Mr. Jamshedji Tata is also in the forefront in the line. They run a group of mills known as the Central India Mills at Nagpur, the Swadeshi Mills, Tata Mills and the Ahmedabad Advance Mills in the Bombay Presidency. These mills have done well and given large profits to their shareholders. Among others who have contributed largely to the mill industry among the Parsis may be mentioned Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart., Mr. H. F. Commissariat, Mr. P. N. Mehta and Sir Homi Mehta.

The industry was for a very long time largely in the hands of the Parsis but is now distributed among other communities and Hindus, Mahomedans, Jews and Europeans own and run several mills in Bombay as elsewhere, with varying success. In Ahmedabad, almost the whole of the industry is in the hands of the Ahmedabad Hindus, who have proved themselves very adept and run the concerns very successfully.

Apart from the mill industry Parsis have also been prominent in founding Steel Works and Hydro-Electric Schemes in different parts of India. The Tata family with their usual foresight have played a great part in their development and not only Mr. Jamsetjee Tata but his sons the late Sir Dorabjee Tata and Sir Ratan Tata have contributed largely towards the success of the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur and the gigantic Hydro-Electric Works in the Bombay Presidency.

Apart from the above, Parsis are still holding their own in various lines of import and export and are largely interested in distilleries and engineering works of various kinds. There is great scope in India for starting new works and Parsis are not slow to be the first among them. I have ample faith in the present generation and though we may have lost some ground in recent years, I feel sure, with our inherent grit and intelligence we shall always command respect from our sister communities and retain our place in business and commerce. Parsi parents should inculcate in the minds of their boys not to seek service but to start in small business as there is a large field all over the country for them and they are bound to profit in whatever line they chalk out discretely for their career. It is idle to say that our ancestors had better times and they succeeded because there was no competition. The fact is that they passed through just as difficult times as we are facing to-day. The reason for their success is their unlimited industry and hard work and capacity to surmount difficulties coming in their way and overcoming them. Our present generation can succeed to an equal degree if not more if it follows in the foot-steps of its forebears and works as hard as they did. Small as our community is, the name of the Parsis is known all over the world. It is respected as no other name is, and it is up to us not only to retain the high position but treat it as a heritage and add to it.

Some Parsi and Hindu Cotton Merchants of the Middle of the Nineteenth Century



The third figure from the right is Seth Merwanji Framji Panday, the founder of the Panday Sanatorium, Bombay.

Kavasji Nanabhai Davar

(1814—1873)

Founder of Mill Industry in India



In 1854, a new era began in the commercial history of India. The Parsi community may claim the honour of having inaugurated this, and that honour is especially attached to Kavasji Nanabhai Davar. It was this gentleman who established, in Bombay, the first steam cotton mill. At that date, people did not know that this was a new venture which was soon to raise their town to the rank of a city equal to the wealthiest manufacturing cities of Europe.

Kavasji Nanabhai Davar was born in 1814. He belonged to a rich family, but educational advantages were then almost unknown, and a young man's commercial career was all that was thought of. At sixteen years of age he was already in harness under the orders of his father Nanabhai Davar who was broker to two English Houses. On his father's death Kavasji, in partnership with his elder brother, opened a firm on his own account and gave it his father's name, Nanabhai Framji & Co. Unfortunately, his elder brother Dinshaw died shortly after, and the expenses and responsibility of financing and managing it devolved upon him. Thus, his whole life may be said to have been one of work and sacrifice.

Kavasji Davar supplied what was lacking in his early education, by an uncommon intelligence and wonderful common sense. He at once recognized the gain which would accrue to India from the establishment of spinning gins to work the cotton grown on the spot. But, at that moment, he had not the means of realizing the

scheme he had in mind. He was obliged to have recourse to Platt Bros., an English firm, and to obtain, by correspondence, the plans and specifications necessary for the construction of the factory he had in view. Platt Bros., recognizing the importance of the undertaking, accepted Kavasji Davar as agent, and furnished a mill and machinery at very moderate prices. This was the foundation of the Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company (1854) with a capital of five lakhs with two thousand spindles. Kavasji Davar asked but five per cent. commission, but the profits exceeded all expectations. Suffice to say that for the first six months the profits permitted of Rs. 500 dividend on Rs. 5,000 shares. The establishment of this mill, the first in India and analogous to those in Manchester, attracted general attention.

In 1857, Kavasji Davar had also opened another mill, the Bombay Throstle Mill, which did well. But owing to dissensions among the partners it was sold for seven lakhs of rupees, and the new proprietors changed its name to the Alliance Spinning and Weaving Mills.

Kavasji died in 1873 at the age of 59. He had retired from active life before his death. Several useful establishments were founded by him, among others, a workshop for cotton cleaning. This was opened at Colaba and worked for six years; also a hydraulic cotton press, and a steam press. He was counted among the best financiers in Bombay and took a large part in the foundation of the Commercial Bank (afterwards the Mercantile Bank) (1853), the Orient Bank, the Brokers' Loan Discount and Banking Co., etc.

Kavasji Davar's example was in later years followed by other Parsis, who proceeded to exchange their almost hereditary employment such as that of dubashes for that of promoters of great industrial movements.

The Maneckji Petit Mills, Tardeo, Bombay



Founded in 1860 *by* (*Sir*) *Dinshaw Maneckji Petit* (*inset right*) *and named after his father Maneckji* (*inset left*).

These Mills, which once revolutionised the industrial situation in Bombay and brought prosperity and livelihood to numbers of the Parsi and other communities, went into liquidation in 1933, and soon after the machinery was sold as scrap iron and the building razed to the ground. Thus vanished from the city one of the greatest industrial concerns, the pride of the Parsi community.

An Interesting Group of the Staff of the Maneckji Petit Mills Tardeo, Bombay, 1893



Sitting, left to right :—(1) Dadaji Palanwalla, Draftsman ; (2) Adam, Chief Engineer ; (3) Banniston, Hosiery Master ; (4) Nanabhoy Dhanjibhoy Banaji, J.P., (1842–1901) General Manager ; (5) Barkley, Thread Master ; (6) Ibrahim, Printing Superintendent ; (7) Byramjee C. Darukhanawalla, Chief Storekeeper.

Standing, middle row :—(1) Adarjee E. Kawascama, Spinning Master ; (2) Jamsetjee B. Mistry, Building Contractor ; (3) Mahomed, Carding Master ; (4) Merwanjee J. Shroff, Gatekeeper.

Standing, last row :—(1) Dhanjibhoy B. Darukhanawalla, Weaving Master ; (2) Nanabhoy Ganpat, Assistant Weaving Master ; (3) Khodadad B. Irani, Godown-keeper ; (4) Kaikhasru D. Panday, Ledger Assistant ; (5) Hormusjee Maneckjee Dadyburjor (Homi-Maneck), Ledger Assistant.

Seth Merwanjee Framjee Panday

(1812—1876)

One of the Pioneers of Mill Industry in Bombay



Seth Merwanjee Framjee Panday began life as an English Provision Merchant and by dint of labour and integrity amassed a large fortune which he freely distributed amongst the needy of his community. In 1845 he acted as broker to several English firms and after gaining a thorough experience of commerce, founded the firm of Merwanjee Framjee & Co. in 1863. He was one of the pioneers of the cotton mill industry in Bombay, and jointly with Sir Dinshaw and Nusserwanjee Petit established the Maneckjee Petit Spinning and Weaving Company and took over its agency in 1863, as also that of the Oriental Spinning and Weaving Company three years later. He was the Agent of the Broach Mills and the Coorla, New Dharamsy Poonjabhoy Spinning and Weaving Company. Seth Merwanjee also established the Bombay Press and the East India Press Company, the Imperial Banking and Trading Company and other Joint Stock Companies all of which came to grief during the share mania of 1864-65.

This enterprising and philanthropic gentleman passed away in 1876, regretted and remembered by his grateful community for whom he liberally endowed a Sanatorium and Dharamsala which remain as standing monuments to his benevolent temperament.

Some Prominent Parsi Industrialists, Merchants and Philanthropists of the Last Century



Standing, left to right :– (1) Maneckji Kawasji Suntook; (2) Jamsetjee Kharsedjee Cama, Solicitor, 1847-1900. (3) Hon. Nowroji N. Wadia, C.I.E., 1849-1899; (4) Framjee Dinsha M. Petit, 1848-1895; (5) Jamsetjee Nusserwanjee Tata, 1839-1904; (6) Dr. Ardesar Pestonjee Cama, —— 1923; (7) Jeejeebhoy Jehangir Lam.

Sitting :—(1) Byramjee Nusserwanjee Seervai, 1823–1914; (2) Dossabhoy Framjee Karaka, C.S.I., 1829–1902: (3) Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bt. (3rd) C.S.I., 1851–1898; (4) Sir Dinsha Maneckjee Petit, Bt. (1st) 1823–1901; (5) Sorabjee Framjee N. Patel, 1826–1894; (6) Mancherjee Naorojee K. Banajee, 1837–1890.

Mr. Jamsetji Nasarwanji Tata

1839—1904

A Great Captain of Indian Industry



Mr. Jamsetji Nasarwanji Tata, by far the most prominent of Indian industrialists, was born in 1839 at Navsari in Gujarat, and educated at the Elphinstone College. He was a successful and philanthropic merchant of Bombay, and founder of the firm of Messrs. Tata & Co., at Bombay, with branches in the Far East, Europe and America. In earlier years he lost a fortune, but soon acquired another. He was a pioneer of the cotton manufacturing industry in Western India, established the Alexandra Mills at Bombay, built the Empress Mills at Nagpur and the Swadeshi Mill, aimed at developing other Indian industries such as silk culture in Mysore, the working of

copper ore in the Central Provinces, and built the Taj Mahal Hotel at Bombay and founded the Tata Iron and Steel and the Hydro-Electric Companies. He travelled widely, knew England well, and sought no honour. His ambition was to create an Institute of Research, with a view to provide new careers for promising youths, and to promote the development of the resources of India; until this Institute could be started, on a financial basis of £14,000 a year, he offered to the Government of India properties producing a large annual income for an Institute of Scientific Research in India which was established at Bangalore after his death. He also endowed a Trust for sending students to Europe for higher studies. He died at Nauhem, Germany, on May 19, 1904.



SIR DORABJEE J. N. TATA
(1859—1932)



SIR RATAN J. N. TATA
(1871—1918)

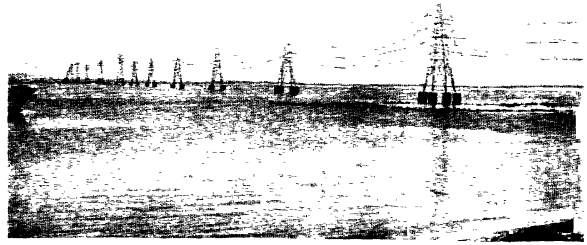
The sons of Jamsetjee N. Tata. These two Brothers successfully launched, completed and conducted several Industrial Schemes, inaugurated by their late father and thus broadened and strengthened the economic foundations of Indian society.

Tata Iron and Steel Works



Old Sakchi (Present Jamshedpur)

Tata Hydro-Electric Works



The Thana Creek : Hydro-Electric Transmission Lines



Panoramic View of the Steel Works

The Hon'ble Mr. Nowroji Nusserwanji Wadia, C.I.E.

(1849—1899)

The Well-known Parsi Engineer, Mill Magnate, Philanthropist and Public Worker



When only 11 years old, Nowroji was sent to England where he received a thoroughly good English education. He joined the textile industry and soon became expert in the line. In 1881 he designed in the Manockjee Petit Mills of which he was the Manager, one of the largest engines in the world and was also the first to introduce into India hosiery from Nottingham and Leicester. He was a member of the Bombay Corporation and the Legislative Council and took a very lively interest in their debates. His advice was frequently sought by the Government of Bombay and the Government of India in the matter of Excise duties, the Boiler Inspection Bill and the Factory Acts.

He died in England in 1899 leaving a widow, Bai Jerbai, and three sons, Sir Cusrow, Sir Ness and Mr. Rustom. The Parsi, community owe to them the Jer Baug, Rustom Baug, Cusrow Baug, Hospitals and other institutions and the amount of their charities reaches the colossal figure of more than a crore of rupees. The princely donations of this charitably-disposed family laid the people of Bombay under a deep debt of gratitude and their names will be enshrined in their hearts with feelings of deep gratefulness and reverence.

Hirji Jehangir Readymoney

(1808—1901)

A Nineteenth Century China Merchant



Hirji was the elder brother of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Kt., and the paternal grandfather of Sir Cowasji, the first Baronet. He went to China in 1836 at an early age and established the firm of Hirji and Nowroji Khersedji, which had then a great reputation. He returned to Bombay three years later and became a Director of several Joint Stock Companies and after the share-mania craze of 1864-65 led a retired life.

In the seventies of the last century, however, he established a Jute Mill in Bombay, but after working it for about a couple of years it had to be closed down on account of Calcutta competition.

Seth Rustomjee Cawasjee Banajee

(1792—1852)

The Enterprising Merchant Prince of Calcutta



Rustomjee Cawasjee was the youngest brother of Seth Framjee Cawasjee with whom he carried on business till 1807, and in 1812 first went to Calcutta and settled in that city with his family in 1838. He went to China twice on business and also to Madras and Ceylon. In 1819 he opened the firm of Rustomjee Turner & Co., and eight years later a Branch in China. In 1837, along with some other partners, he bought the Calcutta Docking Company, founded the Sun Insurance Office, established a Cotton Screw and a Paper Manufactory at Calcutta, in short, he carried on a very extensive business as a merchant and shipowner and for his activity and enterprise was well known to men of business all over the East. His and his son's firms owned in all 27 ships, 15 of which were chartered by the British Government during the Chinese War. He also founded an Agiary at Calcutta. He was one of the 12 J.P.'s created by the Calcutta Government in 1835. On account of the failure of the Union Bank in 1848 he incurred great loss.

During Rustomjee's prosperity he sought influential society, invited even the Governors-General to his table and broke through the restraint then usual amongst Indians, and did not hesitate to introduce ladies of his family to his guests. When he died the *Friend of India* wrote :—" In the days of his prosperity he gave like a Merchant Prince and sedulously emulated the example of his intimate friend Dwarkanath Tagore."



METRO MOTORS STAFF. 1972

Sir Hormasji Manekji Mehta, Kt.

(Born 1871)

A Mill Magnate and a Self-made, Enterprising Gentleman Who Rose from a Clerk to Positions of Great Responsibility in the Public Life of India



Sir Hormasji, popularly known as Sir Homi Mehta, was born of poor parents on 1st April 1871. He finished his education at the Elphinstone High School and earned his livelihood as a clerk in a local firm. He then joined His Majesty's Mint as an Accountant but left the service as he found an opening as a Salesman, in which capacity he worked in several firms. In 1896 he founded the Mill Stores Trading Co. of India, Ltd., and for furthering its interests visited Europe several times and worked in a number of Lancashire factories, and secured their agencies for India. He thus acquired thorough practical experience of mill machinery and stores which stood him in good stead in later years.

Having obtained success in business Sir Homi purchased, in 1904, the Victoria Mills, Ltd., in partnership with Seth Mangaldas Girdhardas Parakh, a millowner of Ahmedabad, and later on they bought the Jubilee and the Raja Gokaldas Mills which they converted into limited companies. Sir Homi's business thereafter began to thrive and he floated several new concerns such as (1) The British India General Insurance Co., Ltd.; (2) The Zenith Life Assurance Co., Ltd.; (3) The Poona Electric Supply Co., Ltd.; (4) The Northern

India Portland Cement Co., Ltd.; (5) Messrs. T. R. Pratt (Bombay), Ltd., etc., etc.

In 1928 Sir Homi purchased a Cotton Mill at Bilimora which does good business in spite of depression. The Nasik-Deolali Electric Supply Co., Ltd., and the Nadiad Electric Supply Co., Ltd., were also floated by the enterprising gentlemen in 1929 and 1931 respectively.

In 1930 Sir Homi was elected to the Council of State where he took an active part in the debates. He was also appointed in 1932 on the Bihar and Orissa Committee by the Government of India to demarcate the boundaries of the new Orissa Province.

Sir Homi is a Director of the Reserve Bank of India and in 1933-34 was nominated as a substitute Delegate for India to the League of Nations.

Such is the brilliant life record of Sir Homi Mehta who, rising from the ranks by sheer ability and enterprise, filled some of the most important positions in the public life of the country and whose success in life is a conspicuous example of the triumph of energy and patience over various contending factors that retard the progress of an enterprising individual.

(*Concluded from next page*)

services to the many companies with which he was connected and the way in which he rescued the Cement Companies from stagnation on account of foreign competition will remain a monument to his great success as an industrialist and businessman. The number of private individuals who were saved from humiliation and disgrace by his apt and ready assistance is legion, and without calling himself a Congressman he helped the Congress national movements and national organs unostentatiously.

A king-maker but never seeking a crown himself; versatile in outlook but endowed with ability and keenness for specialization; impressive of intellect but simple of bearing; autocratic in some way but courteous at all times and to all men; large-hearted in charities but meticulous in settlement of accounts; a friend to be loved but a foe to be dreaded; apparently stern to those who knew him not but intensely friendly to those who did; lawyer, financier, businessman, industrialist rolled into a unique blend; painstaking in details but facile and suie; consummate and considerate in direction and policy, incisive in understanding, sound in judgment, quick in decision; vigorous in action, alert in control, such was F. E. Dinshaw, a great personality of rare calibre, the Prince of Bombay's Financiers and Industrialists.

F. E. Dinshaw

(1873—1936)

Prince of Bombay's Financiers and Industrialists



Born of a wealthy father, Mr. Edaljee Dinshaw, C.I.E., of Karachi, Mr. Framroze, popularly known as "F.E.," after graduating from the Bombay University, went to England for the I.C.S. but returned within two weeks and studied law. In 1895 he passed his LL.B., became a Solicitor and made his mark as a consummate lawyer. His opinion on legal matters was considered to be most reliable and was much sought after. Indeed it is said that a Chief Justice had his will made through him, such was the respect he had as a sound and tactful lawyer.

After the Great War F. E. began to take an active interest in financial and industrial affairs and was a tower of strength in the commercial life of Bombay. For instance, when during the depression which followed the war boom, the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., was financially crippled, F. E. came to the rescue and but for him the crisis of 1924-25 might have inflicted on the company an injury beyond the limits of recovery. He procured a crore of rupees from the late Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior who had appointed him his financial agent in Bombay after the death of Sir Shapurjee Broacha and in this capacity the management of Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 16 crores was left entirely in his hands. F. E. had also rendered very valuable

(*Continued on previous page*)

Mr. Bejonjee Fardunjee Madon

(1873—1929)

A Great Authority on Indian Finance and Economics



Mr. Madon was born in a family whose means were too slender to give him a liberal education; but by dint of labour and perseverance he managed to pass his Matriculation and became a Graduate in 1892. He first got a job in a press at Rs. 18 per month and later became a teacher at the J. N. Petit Parsi Orphanage.

After his graduation Mr. R. D. Tata offered him a post as his Secretary and the master was so pleased with the aptitude of his assistant that he sent him to Japan and China to take charge of his business there, and latterly to Paris and New York. In these countries Mr. Madon acquired varied experience in matters commercial and economic which stood him in good stead as a publicist and business

man. When he returned to Bombay Mr. Tata practically handed over to him the charge of his firm, namely, R. D. Tata & Co.

Mr. Madon who was regarded as an expert in Exchange and Indian Finance, was a prominent member of the Indian Merchants' Chamber and was appointed its Vice-President in 1925. The financial heads in this country recognized him as an authority on Economics and only a little before his death he was selected as a member of the Indian Banking Inquiry Committee. He was also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank from 1925 to 1929 and of the Union Bank, and a Director in many of the Tata concerns. His profound knowledge of the economic and financial problems of India was a national asset of the greatest value at a critical juncture of the history of India and his name will ever remain as a source of inspiration for generations of students of the country's financial and industrial problems. He was strongly in favour of retaining the 1*s.* 4*d.* ratio and was the guiding spirit of the great movement started in that behalf. During the last few years of his life he was considered the brain of the Indian Chambers and the national section of the Legislative Assembly members, in regard to Finance, Currency and Economic questions. When he died, a national paper lamented his death in the following words :—

" The light that shone through various brains is extinguished ! The voice that emerged through various lips is still ! The pen that darted fatal arrows of argument is laid to rest ! The terror of European economic wizards has gone to rest ! All India mourns his loss to-day !"

Mr. Phiroze Dorabji Saklatwala

(1876—1934)

" The Oil King of America "



Mr. Saklatwala was the brother of Mr. Shapurji Saklatwala, M.P., and was educated in St. Xavier's School and College. He was a nephew of the late Mr. J. N. Tata and was as shrewd as his uncle. He passed most of his time in America where he was known as the " Oil King." He was the first Parsi Consul-General for Persia in the United States of America. He took a great interest in the rise of his ancient fatherland, Iran.

Sirdar Khan Bahadur Dorabjee Pudumjee

(1838—1902)

A Leading Poona Citizen, Civic Worker and the Champion Rifle Shot of India



Sirdar Dorabjee and his brother Sirdar Nowrojee, eldest and second son, respectively, of Sirdar Khan Bahadur Pudumjee Pestonjee, studied under Sir Edwin Arnold, K.C.I.E., author of the *Light of Asia*, who was from 1857 to 1860 the head of the Poona College. They soon attained a high standard in English, a rare qualification in those days. Both brothers passed the Junior and Senior Examination tests held in those days as is testified to in the Report of the D. P. I., Bombay, 1858-59. Sirdar Dorabjee also acquired an intimate knowledge of the Marathi language and it enabled him to get a firm grip on the civic affairs of the city of Poona and made him a leader in the local self-administration.

The accomplishments of Sirdar Dorabjee also extended to rifle-shooting and in 1877 he won the Championship Medal of the Western India Rifle Association. He also won the Governor's Cup in 1879 and the Viceroy's Cup in 1882 and thus established his position as the Champion Rifle Shot of India. He won in all 9 Cups and 12 Medals including one from the National Rifle Association of the United Kingdom.

Another of Dorabjee's accomplishments was in the domain of Photography and it may not be known to many that in the third quarter of the nineteenth century when this art was in its infancy, Pudumjee Hall at Poona was the centre of photographying the *elite* of the Poona and Bombay of those days. Dorabjee was so proficient in the line that he obtained recognition from the Amateur Photographic Society of London in the shape of a Silver Cup and a fine Album.

In his younger days Dorabjee paid homage to music and showed his practical interest in it by the construction of organ rollers which were admired by all who saw and heard them.

In conjunction with his brother Nowrojee, Dorabjee started in 1884 the Deccan Paper Mills Co., Ltd., at Mundhwa, near Poona, this being one of the first ventures of its kind in Western India. He also started a Bank, Ice and Cotton Factories and in these institutions he was only supported by his brother Nowrojee.

The social and civic side of Dorabjee has left its mark on Poona. In conjunction with Sir M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., he founded the Hirabag Club, which is the meeting place of many an eminent personage of Poona and whose Hall still graces his likeness.

From 1874 to 1884 he was the Government nominee to the Poona City Municipality and was its President from 1886 to 1902. In 1895 Government nominated him in the Bombay Legislative Council and at the end of his term of office his friends and admirers gave him an Address to mark their appreciation of his work.

Dorabjee was appointed a First Class Sirdar of the Deccan and a Khan Bahadur in 1894 and 1895 respectively, as a personal distinction.

Dorabjee died in Poona in July 1902, and soon after his death a Public Meeting was held in his honour under the Presidentship of Lord Northcote, Governor of Bombay.

Sirdar Nowrojee Pudumjee, C.I.E.

(1841—1930)

President, Poona City Municipality



Educated side by side with his brother Dorabjee, during their lifetime the two brothers lived together and were hand and glove in all the activities in which they were concerned. Nowrojee fully shared in the accomplishments, hobbies and occupations of his elder brother who relied on the younger brother's co-operation in all matters. Thus when the Deccan Paper Mill was started it was Nowrojee who went to Europe to select the plant and machinery for the mill, and his business acumen was instrumental in securing the same at prices advantageous to the newly started Company.

Nowrojee was at one time appointed Examiner in Mathematics in the Matriculation Examination. He was for a number of years Honorary Secretary of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western

India and it was through his energetic activities that the Poona Flower Shows were regularly organized. He was elected the President of the Poona City Municipality from 1908 to 1915.

Nowrojee was created a First Class Sirdar of the Deccan and in 1909 was invested with the C. I. E., in recognition of his useful public work. He was also nominated a member of the Bombay Legislative Council. He had also the honour of being invited at the Durbar at Delhi, when Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary were crowned Emperor and Empress of India.

Sirdar Nowrojee during the later years of his life managed the Cotton Mill at Gadag and the Deccan Paper Mills. He died in July 1930, at the grand old age of 89.



The Deccan Paper Mills, Mundhwa, Poona

Hormusjee Bapujee Gazdar

(1853—1937)

An Expert in Aniline Colours



He was educated in the Proprietary High School and started life in a Solicitor's firm in 1872. Entering the journalistic line he was for seven years Manager and Editor of the *Akhbar-e-Saudagar*. He then joined Messrs. Volkart Brothers and was with them for eight years. In 1896 he was taken in the service of Messrs. Leopold Cassella & Co., on a salary of Rs. 200 per month and retired as its Manager in 1932 when he was drawing Rs. 2,000 per month. He was presented with an Address eulogizing his services and was given a pension of Rs. 1,000 per month. He was a man of great experience and knowledge in Aniline Dyes. He made several tours to Europe and gained great knowledge in this lucrative industry.

Ardesar Barjorjee Godrej

(1867—1936)

Pioneer of the Indian Safe and Soap Manufacturing Industries



To amass a large fortune is not a very difficult thing for a person who has inherited a decent sum from his ancestors, but to fight the world, to overcome various obstacles, and under diverse other contending factors, to make money with almost no capital and then to put it to good use, to rise and raise others to a supreme height—this is what gives a great flavour to the career of an individual and marks him down as really a great man. Such an individual was Ardesar Barjorjee Godrej, a self-made man, a keen industrialist, a great nationalist and a noble philanthropist, whose brilliant career affords an edifying lesson to the present generation.

After graduation Ardesar joined the firm of Messrs. Little Smith & Co., Solicitors, but as that calling was uncongenial to him, he diverted his attention to industrial and scientific pursuits and started a small shop for repairing surgical instruments, the progress and success of which undertaking induced him to manufacture surgical instruments. As this line did not offer much scope, Mr. Godrej started his next industry, that of making cupboards and drawer locks and, later on, of manufacturing safes. These gained such a reputation for reliability and fireproof and burglar-proof qualities that they grew in popularity from day to day and were ultimately used in Government offices both in India and outside the country.

After he had sold his Safe Works to his brother, Mr. Ardesar, with his knowledge of chemistry, started experiments in soap-making but did not put his products on the market until he had perfected them. He gave India the highest quality vegetable toilet soaps which gradually developed a big market.

In 1928 Mr. Godrej turned to other lines like printing ink and boot polish which met with some success, but he diverted his attention again to soya beans and believed that their cultivation and use would be highly beneficial to the people at large. He therefore took great interest in farming and bought large plantations near Nasik.

Mr. Ardesar was a versatile genius and a scholar and had a highly cultured mind. As an admirer said of him, he " was in turn a rare kind of combination—a thinker, pioneer, captain of industry and a noble soul." He left his holdings in Godrej Soaps and his lands to a charity trust.

If any man really believed in plain living and high thinking, it was Ardesar Godrej. He shunned publicity and his benefactions were silent. The poor and the needy lost in him a real patron and benefactor.



The Office Staff of Bombay Cycle and Motor Agency, Ltd., 534, Sandhurst Bridge, Bombay (Head Office), Mr. Kharshedji Limji, Director and Agent, seated in the centre

Mr. Kharshedji Limji, J.P.

(BORN 1878)

Prominent Parsi Motor Magnate



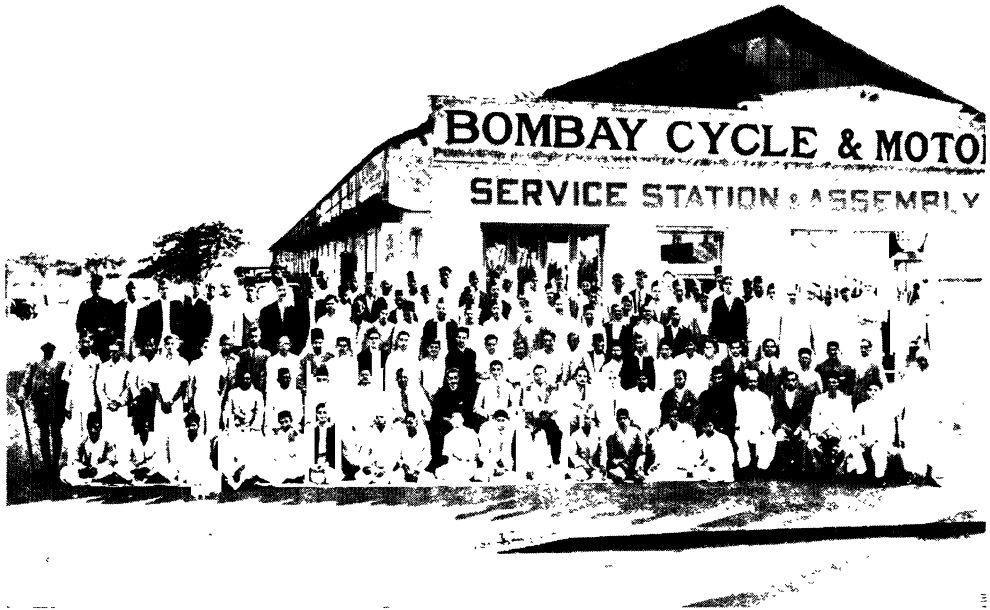
Mr. Kharshedji Limji was born in Bombay in a respectable middle-class family but not being in circumstances to go in for higher education was compelled to seek service, and in 1900 joined the Bombay Cycle Agency, who were then doing ordinary cycle business in Churchgate Street. Shortly after his joining the firm, they took up a Motor Cycle Agency as well as the first Motor Car Agency in India, and later on Mr. Kharshedji was put in charge of the whole management. The name of the firm was thereafter changed into the Bombay Cycle and Motor Agency. Under Mr. Kharshedji's management, business grew to a very large extent and in 1915 he was taken as a partner in the firm by his one-time master, Mr. K. D. Wadia. In 1918 the owner sold his business and the Company

was then turned into a Limited Company, Mr. Kharshedji Limji being the Agent along with his master who was a sleeping partner in the Agency, and the entire business was solely conducted by Mr. Kharshedji. From the year 1923 Mr. Limji has been the Sole Agent of the Company, which is not only one of the oldest motor car firms in India but a very prominent one in the trade. They have been running several Agencies of different makes of cars, their particular favourites being the Dodge and Chrysler lines. The Bombay Cycle and Motor Agency, Limited, were the first retail distributors to open out an Assembly Department where cars and trucks received in components from abroad were built up into units ready to take the road. Hundreds of Parsi youths have been trained as Motor Mechanics in his company.

Mr. Kharshedji's knowledge and experience in the motoring industry are unique and during the past 37 years he has been called upon to serve on many Committees set up by Government, etc., dealing with Public Welfare, Charitable Movements, etc.

Mr. Limji who is very religiously minded, has also for many years been a Justice of the Peace, an Honorary Presidency Magistrate and a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court. He was for some time a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation when they used to elect Councillors from among the J.P.'s. He was one of the recipients of the Silver Jubilee Medal in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V, and is a figure well known in Bombay social circles.

Mr. Limji is a great traveller, having been round the world, to Afghanistan, Persia, several times to America and many times to Europe.



The Group of the Service Station and Assembly Department—Bombay Cycle and Motor Agency, Ltd., Tardeo, Bombay

Mr. Cursetjee Pestonjee Wadia (Born 1880)

Senior Partner, P. A. Hormarjee & Co.



Mr. Cursetjee, the second son of the late Mr. P. A. Hormarjee, after studying at St. Xavier's School and the Elphinstone College, joined his father in his business. After he had had a practical training in the China Mills, Limited, and the Moon Mills, Limited, both then under the Managing Agency of the firm of Messrs. P. A. Hormarjee & Company, he went to England and joined the Technological College for further study at Manchester and there joined well-known mills which considerably helped him to attain insight into the working of the textile concerns in England.

Returning from England so equipped he proved of good help to his father in the management of his two concerns above referred to.

Soon after the demise of his father in 1924, he became the sole proprietor of the firm of Messrs. P. A. Hormarjee & Company having under it the Managing Agency of the Moon Mills, Limited.

Mr. Cursetjee is on the directorate of several mills in Bombay and is a Trustee of the Seth N. M. Wadia Charities.

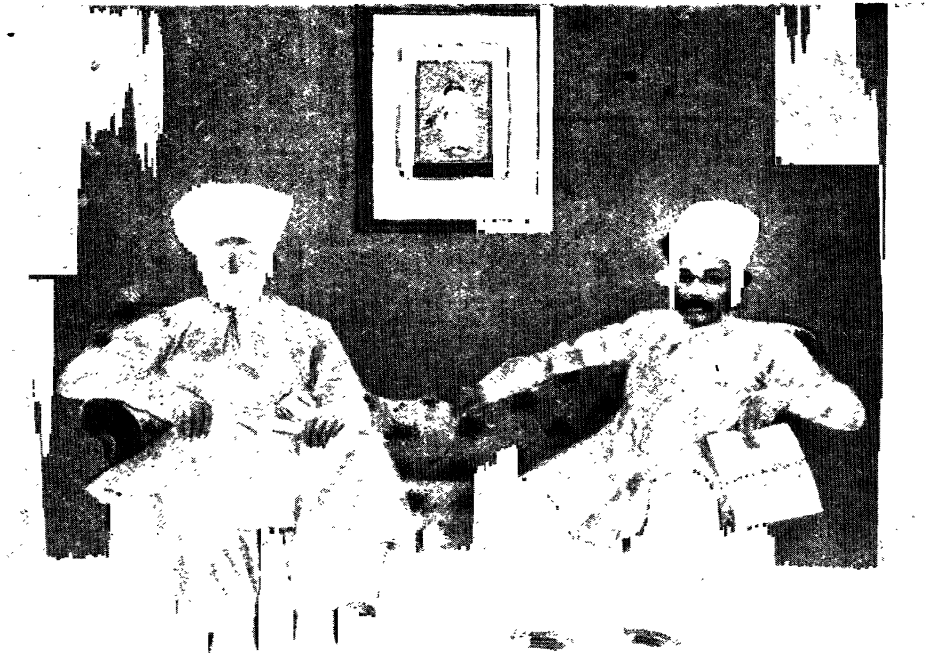
Mr. Adi C. P. Wadia

(Born 1914)



After studying at St. Xavier's College he joined the firm of Messrs. P. A. Hormarjee & Company, Managing Agents, the Moon Mills, Limited, of which his father, Mr. C. P. Wadia, is the senior partner.

He is diligently helping the firm in the management of the Moon Mills, Limited.



Seth Dadabhoy Pestonji Wadia (1802?–1885) and Seth Meherwanji Dadabhoy Wadia (1829—1896)

Mrs. Aimai Jehangir Commissariat

(Born 6 9-1869)

An Enterprising Parsi Tradeswoman



Daughter of the late Mr. Edulji Sorabji Ghamat, a keen business man. Being possessed of a very indefatigable energy, enterprise and business acumen inherited from her father, she first opened in 1900 at Dadar a dairy for supplying pure milk and thereafter in 1904 started, along with the dairy, oil mills for supplying pure sweet and cocoanut oils. Encouraged by rapid success, she in 1915 started a bakery known as "The Star Bakery of Dadar"—a renowned and popular concern in the town and abroad—having its 9 branches throughout the city. Having been gifted with a keen insight of business, she has side by side opened a Dairy, known as the "Venus Dairy," for manufacturing wholesome butter. Further, she has since 1932 been successfully conducting the sweetmeat concern known as "The Star Sweet Mart" for the preparation and sale of Indian sweetmeats. Also, she has been independently indenting most of the ingredients used in the Bakery and the Sweet Mart, such as essences, provisions, paper-goods and cake decorations, etc., directly from Europe. The bold undertaking and keen business capacity of this hardworking Parsi lady, who has succeeded in all her ventures, are living examples to demonstrate the fact that industry, integrity and labour will always bring their just reward to honest persevering and enterprising persons.

Mr. Hirji Shapurji Nagarwalla

(1884—1935)

An Expert in Textile Industry



Mr. H. S. Nagarwalla, the well-known Textile Expert and General Manager of Basanti Cotton Mills, Ltd., Calcutta, passed away in Berlin on 14th September 1935. Mr. Nagarwalla was one of the most competent and highly paid Weaving Masters and Mill Managers in Indian Cotton Mills, and was held in great esteem in mill circles for his exceptional organizing abilities, experience and perfect command of technical knowledge.

Mr. Nagarwalla started his career about 1904 as an apprentice in the Empress Mills, Nagpur, on a salary of Rs. 15 p.m. in preference to joining the flourishing business of his ancestors in Ahmednagar. Aided by his keen intellect, unflagging energy, unceasing hard work and a determination to succeed, he made short work of all obstacles in his way and right from the period of his apprenticeship always maintained a position of distinction.

After holding responsible positions even during the early part of his career, he turned his attention in 1917 towards Ahmedabad where he saw plenty of scope to expend the inexhaustible store of his energies. In this city his rise was rapid. His services came to be in great demand and he soon became one of the highly paid

officials in Ahmedabad mills where he strained every nerve and put forth his best efforts in the discharge of his duties.

In 1926 he left Ahmedabad for Bombay, and after a short stay at the Sir Shapurji Broacha Mills he was engaged by Messrs. Birla Brothers as Superintending Weaving Master of their mills at Calcutta, Delhi and Gwalior. He worked in this capacity for 6 years before resigning his post in order to join the Basanti Cotton Mills of which he was appointed the General Manager.

These mills owe their success in no small measure to the valuable services rendered by him to the Directors. During his stay in Calcutta Mr. Nagarwalla added considerably to the progress of the Mill Industry in Bengal by giving an undoubted impetus to the manufacture of fine goods in that province. He was also adviser to several Mill Agents in Ahmedabad and Bombay, and his many friends in the line constantly consulted him on technical matters.

Mr. Nagarwalla was a strict disciplinarian and a man of very high principles. He was essentially a self-made man who started life at the bottom of the ladder and rose to a high position in his line. His thorough mastery of technical knowledge was not gained in an arm-chair but was derived from ceaseless practice, which also enabled him to make constant useful suggestions to the manufacturers for improvements in their machineries. In spite of his high position he would tuck up his sleeves, go under machines, spanner in hand, and do full justice to any job that his assistants had failed to execute to his satisfaction. At 51 he had ambition and enthusiasm which would put many a young man to shame, and he imparted to all those who worked with him his wonderful vitality.

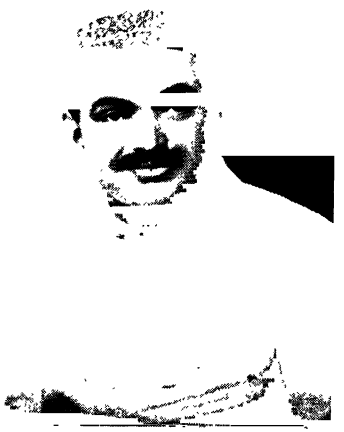
Until a couple of months before his death Mr. Nagarwalla had been working almost incessantly for over 30 years and had scarcely enjoyed 6 months as holidays during this long stretch of strenuous work. From five in the morning till ten in the night used to be his usual working hours at the age of 51.

Mr. Nagarwalla's life was indeed a monument of hard work and his sad and untimely death marks the close of a brilliant career of one of the ablest Weaving Masters and Mill Managers known to Indian Cotton Mills, and his irreparable loss will be most keenly felt by all with whom he was associated in his lifetime

Manchershah Burjorjee Billimoria (Megusi)

(BORN 1899)

Co-Founder, Wadia Movietone



Educated at Bilimora and later at the New High School, Bombay. Graduated from the Sydenham College of Commerce, Bombay, 1921. Second son of Burjorji Nusserwanji Megusi of Bilimora, the first elected President of the Municipality of Bilimora, and a Trustee of the Bilimora Parsee Anjuman.

Married in 1921 to Gul, daughter of the late Mr. Meherwanji Pestonji Megusi, L.C.E.

Joined service as a clerk with Mr. M. C. Patel, dealer in cinema films, in 1923.

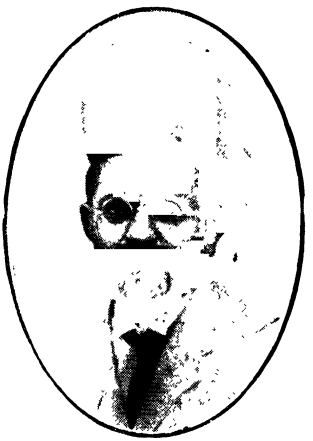
Started business on his own account in July 1925 for import and distribution of cinema films and machinery. Entered exhibition line in 1931 by taking up Edward Theatre at Kalbadevi, Bombay. Has under control to-day four cinema houses in Bombay City, viz., The Edward, The Palace, The Apollo and The Lamington.

Started Indian film-producing concern named Wadia Movietone in 1933 in partnership with four other friends—J. B. H. Wadia, H. B. H. Wadia, Nadir Mancherji Tata, and Burjor Mancherji Tata. It is a very prosperous film-producing company located at Bombay. It is the *only* concern managed and financed by Parsi capital and Parsi brains, the capital invested in the concern being over Rs. 3,50,000.

Mr. Burjor Framroze Joshi

(1861—1931)

The "Potato King of Bombay"



Mr. Joshi died in Bombay as the result of a tram-car accident in September, 1931. He was the son of Mr. Framroze R. Joshi, Superintendent of the Government Central Press. Passing his Matriculation in 1903 he obtained his B.A. Degree five years later. He first joined the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company as an apprentice and later was appointed local representative of a European firm. In 1912 he married the daughter of Mr. Rustomjee Edaljee Dadachanjee, a dealer in potatoes and onions in Bombay. Being an excellent business man Mr. Joshi extended his father-in-law's business within a few years to such an extent that he was appointed a partner in the firm. He began to import large quantities of potatoes from Italy and exported them throughout the East.

On the death of his father-in-law in 1913, he became the sole proprietor of the firm. Owing to the War importation of potatoes from Italy ceased, but Mr. Joshi after many unsuccessful attempts with the Italian Consul, Bombay Government and the Imperial Government, arrived at a settlement with the Italian Government, through the India Office, by which he undertook to buy 500 tons of potatoes in exchange for the exportation of 500 tons of corn to Italy. After the War he monopolised the onion trade and exported large quantities to Colombo, Penang, Singapore, Hongkong and other places. He was an amiable gentleman and his tragic and sudden death was a great loss to his many friends.

Mr. Burjorji Pestonji Reporter

(1850—1906)

Founder of the Empress Iron and Brass Works

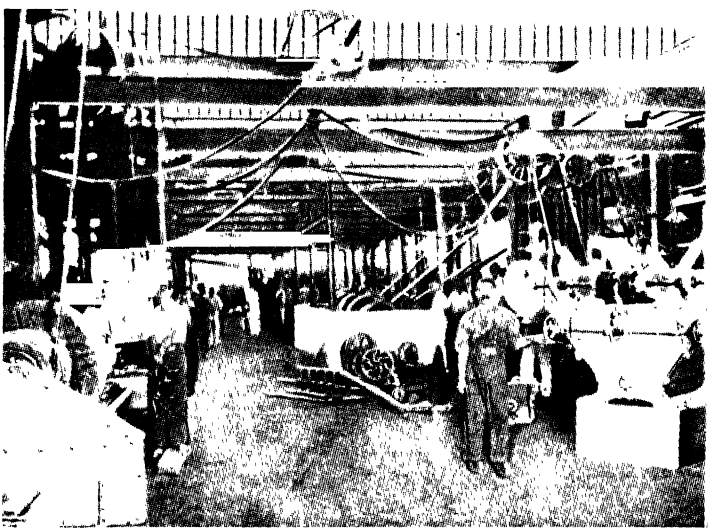


After having taken elementary education at school, Mr. Burjorji worked as an apprentice in the Bombay foundry of Messrs. Sorabji Shapoorji & Co. Thereafter he joined the G. I. P. Railway and was soon promoted to Engine-driver. He was also awarded many certificates by the Railway for his meritorious services. He showed special aptitude for the Engineering line in which he took keen interest, so much so that in his leisure hours he was always found busy with some sort of repair works and thus augmented his earnings by making a humble start for entering upon the threshold of business. He enlarged the sphere of his activities by engaging a man to work a machine which he purchased in the year 1889, and which could still be seen at the present workshop and which gives us an idea of the difficulties one had to contend with such primitive machinery of those times.

When he found himself well established Mr. Burjorji made a bid for opening a foundry at Grant Road on a small scale. The excellence of his workmanship soon led to its development and he was compelled to remove it within a few years' time into larger premises at Connaught Road, Byculla, near Victoria Gardens, and a branch was opened at Abdul Rehman Street, Pydhoni. After his death in 1906 it was considerably enlarged by his sons and to-day it occupies a total area of 10,000 square yards.

The workshop is equipped with all necessary modern machinery driven by two 75 H.P. Electric Motors.

Different departments such as Machine Shop, Foundry, Boiler Shop, Pattern Maker and Smithy are under the direct supervision of one of the proprietors who specialises in its management. The firm has been awarded Gold and Silver Medals at Gujerat and Bombay Exhibitions and is on the list of the Government Controller of Stores, Municipalities, Railways and other Public Bodies as approved Contractors. The present state of the foundry is entirely due to the efforts of its founder, and it is still run by his sons in the same efficient manner in which it was first started.



View of one of the Departments of the Factory

Mrs. Dhunbai K. M. Shroff

(1861—1924)

A Pioneer of Dairy Industry in Bombay



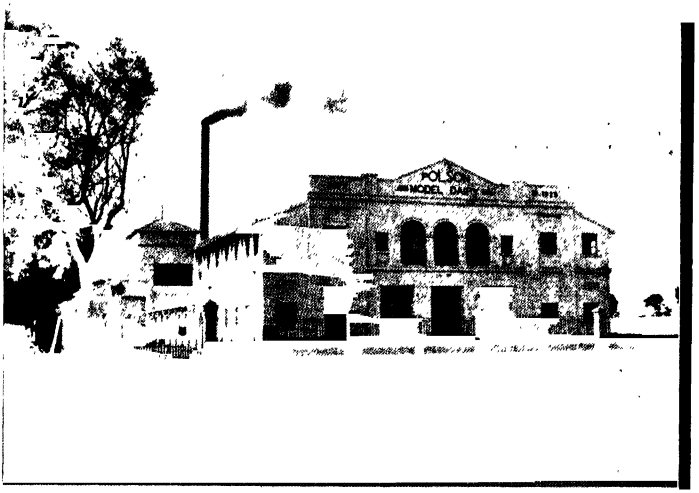
Born in the well-known Batliwala family of affluent circumstances, Bai Dhunbai Kawasji Shroff was fortunate in receiving education in an English Girls' School during the seventies of the last century when such liberal education was not common among Parsi women.

In the beginning of this century the business of supplying milk in Bombay was entirely in the hands of *bhayas* who could not be relied on to supply it pure. Mrs. Shroff conceived the idea of establishing a dairy on hygienic principles under her personal supervision so that a beginning might be made to supply pure unadulterated milk to the city. This venture was subsequently enlarged into a joint-stock company controlled by influential directors. The success of this enterprise can be gauged from the following

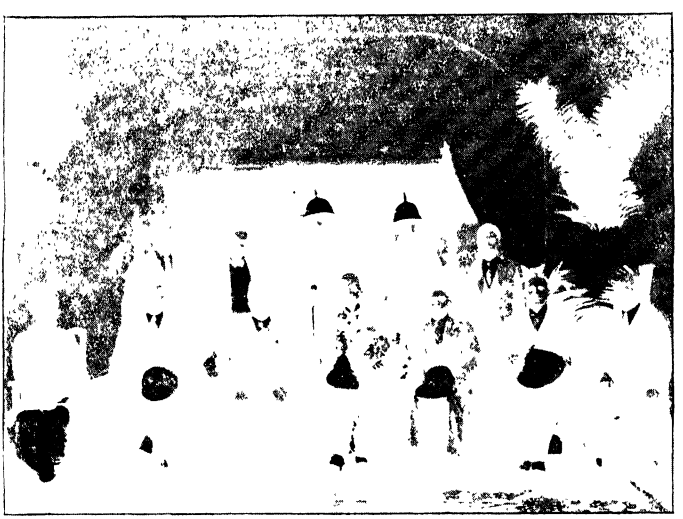
reference to it by Sir Pherozeshah M. Mehta in a letter addressed to Mrs. Shroff: "The problem of supplying pure milk to the city which had baffled us, seventy-two corporators, for so many years, has been solved so successfully by you, a Parsi lady of your position in society." Even the double tragedy of losing within a month of each other her helpful husband and only son on the threshold of a promising medical career, did not daunt the brave spirit of this enthusiastic lady and she carried on the business for six years more. Only her failing health compelled her to retire and the flourishing business which had paid annually 10 per cent. dividend throughout its existence had to be voluntarily liquidated, the shareholders getting back every rupee of their investment, a rare thing in case of joint-stock companies.

Mrs. Shroff had taken great interest in her husband's many-sided activities, particularly in developing the art of swimming among Indians of all communities, and had personally taken advantage of this invigorating exercise in the Victoria Swimming Bath which owes its existence to the zeal and influence of her husband.

These acts of hers forcefully indicate her pioneering spirit which would serve as an example for others to emulate.



Polson Model Dairy at Anand is capable of producing 10,000 lbs. of butter and 100,000 lbs. of separated milk daily



Group at the inauguration of the Dairy by Sir Frederick Sykes, Governor of Bombay

Mr. P. E. Polson

The Pioneer of French Coffee Production in the East

Mr. P. E. Polson commenced his business career in 1888 with the manufacture of Coffee and the firm of Polson Manufacturing Co. has ever since progressed successfully, year after year, until it had secured the largest sales volume of French Coffee throughout India, Burma and Ceylon and other Eastern ports. The sales exceeded those of any other class of coffee, whether manufactured or sold in this country, and thus the firm has been rightly regarded as the pioneers of French Coffee production in the East.

In the year 1915 the Company turned their attention to the butter trade, first as a war measure to supply His Majesty's Land Forces with this essential food product, and since then butter has played an equal part with the popular brands of coffee and it is just as widely used everywhere. In 1931 the Polson Model Dairy (as illustrated) was opened with the object of supplying Pure Pasteurized Butter with all its outstanding advantages over ordinary butter. The inauguration of this splendid factory which is acknowledged by the leading Government Experts to be the very best of its kind in India, was carried out by Sir Frederick Sykes, who was Governor of Bombay at the time. Since then each step in the history of the firm has been progressive and time has seen one improvement after another in the interests of public health.

The Dairy is run under the personal supervision of highly qualified experts from New Zealand and was recently installed with the latest Vacco-Pasteurizer, which may be described as the final achievement in the treatment of milk or cream to ensure absolute safety, freedom from any form of bacteria and to retain the delicate bloom and flavour that is so much prized by fastidious consumers of to-day.

An interesting feature in Polson's system of assuring the public that the quality of the butter is rigidly maintained, is a series of analytical tests conducted by the British Analytical Control (London) on all stocks held in the open market. The British Analytical Control is a Court of Appeal beyond which there is no other, including as it does, on its consulting staff, many of the most distinguished analytical chemists of the day.

The fact that each succeeding Governor of Bombay grants a Letter of Appointment to this Company is proof of its standing in all communities.





BYRAMJI HORMUSJI KABIR
(*Born* 1872)

HORMUSJI BYRAMJI KABIR
(*Born* 1900)

Proprietors: Persian Dairy, Byculla, Bombay

As evidenced in the previous pages, the small community of the Parsis has played a leading part in the commercial development of our city during the last 200 years. Names like the Batliwallas, Petits, Tatas, Wadias and Readymoneys are known far and wide. But while these were, or are, luminaries of the community, there are scores of Parsi traders and industrialists who do business in a smaller way and are shining lights in their own spheres of activity.

One such person is Mr. Byramji Hormusji Kabir, the proprietor of the "Persian Dairy" at Byculla. Nearly forty years ago he came to Bombay from his native village of Medhore to seek his fortune. Having got a job as a labourer in a dairy, he gained considerable experience in the milk business. After a few years he opened a small milk shop of his own with the meagre capital of Rs. 200 and about 75 customers.

To-day the business has grown to such an extent that the capital is nearly a lakh of rupees. A monthly rental of Rs. 2,000 is paid for the premises occupied for the 400 cattle used, and where 100 labourers work, earning Rs. 2,000 monthly.

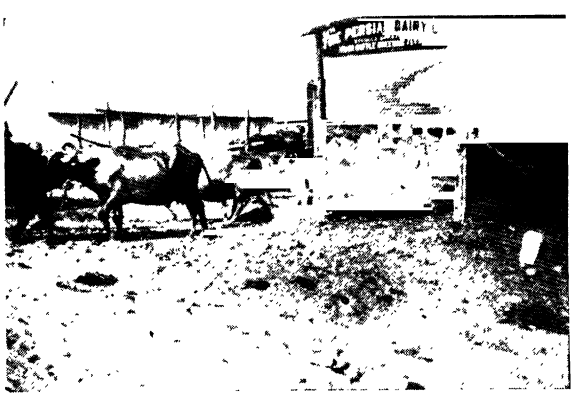
Mr. Byramji is an old man of 60, of quiet manners and simple tastes. Despite his old age, he is a zealous worker and takes a keen interest in the civic life of our city. He is the Honorary Secretary of the

Bombay Milch Cattle Owners' Association and a member of the Ghatkopar Jivdaya Mandli. As one of the Vice-Presidents of the Byculla Zoroastrian Association, he represents it in the Parsi Federal Council. He is also the Head Trustee of the Medhore Parsi Panchayat. Several years ago he installed a breeding farm at the village of Sulvave near Damann, all cows not useful for milking purposes being sent there, instead of being handed over to the butcher, as was previously the custom in the trade. This is in accordance with the modern progressive and humanitarian tendency, and has been adopted by many others in the milk business.

Mr. Byramji is fortunate to find in his only son, Mr. Hormusji, a zealous and capable assistant willingly shouldering the burden of his father's growing business.

The Silver Jubilee of the business was celebrated in 1929.

We wish both father and son continued success and prosperity in their business and hope Mr. Byramji lives long enough to celebrate, with his son, the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of the business.



View of the Cattle Breeding Farm at Sulvave, near Damann

Mr. M. L. Mistry, F.R.P.S. (London)

Governing Director

MISTRY RAW FILM DISTRIBUTORS, LTD.



Mr. Maneckshaw Limjibhoy Mistry was born in 1896. After completing his studies in Bombay, he proceeded to England and the United States of America where he specialised in the Motion Picture Industry—this being his favourite hobby from childhood—and by his personal efforts secured the agency of Dupont Cinema Raw Film Company. While in America, he continued his studies in the art of Motion Pictures and was the first Indian to be graduated by the New York Institute of Photography. His experience in this art was so considerable that Professor Carl Louis Gregori, Dean of the Institute, was pleased to nominate Mr. Mistry as an Acting Dean of the above Institute when he proceeded on leave. This indeed was a unique honour to be conferred on an Indian. Mr. Mistry is also an active member of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, America, to which he occasionally contributes. His various contributions to local papers are also noteworthy. Whilst returning from America he obtained several agencies from reputed firms, such as Zeiss-Ikon, etc., in Films, Photo and Cine accessories from U.S.A. and the Continent.

He started his business in Bombay in the name of M. L. Mistry & Co. (46, Churchgate Street) and began importing raw cinema films, and was the first Indian to introduce these films in the Indian market.

Mr. Mistry was the first man to introduce Sound Recording Machinery for motion picture films into India by acquiring the sole agency of the Tanar Corporation, Hollywood. These machines were supplied to the Imperial Movietone Company and the Krishna Cinetone Company, the former being the pioneers in producing the first Indian Talkie, "Alam Ara."

Mr. Mistry by his intelligence and perseverance became most successful in expanding his own concern throughout the Presidency. Subsequently his brothers also joined the firm and the company was converted into a limited concern with a capital of Rupees Five Lakhs. At the present stage the company is called Messrs. Mistry Raw Film Distributors, Limited, 204, Hornby Road. Messrs. Maneckshaw and Dhunjishaw are the Governing Directors along with his other brothers as co-Directors. After making the concern a limited company, Mr. Maneckshaw acquired a further agency from the Defender Photo Products Company of America. Since the advent of the talkies the business of this firm has increased considerably.

Mr. Mistry was one of the members of the Deputation that waited on the Hon'ble Sir Frank Noyce, Industries Member, Government of India, at Delhi in 1933, to appeal against the Import Duty on raw films.

He is well known in Masonic circles and is closely connected with a large number of associations and mercantile firms.

Apart from business Mr. Mistry is not lacking in social activities. He takes a keen interest in the affairs of the St. John Ambulance Association, of which he has recently been appointed Patron by His Excellency the Viceroy.

Messrs. C. S. Pochee & Son

Manufacturers of Incandescent Lamps and Mantles



MR. COWASJEE SORABJEE POCHEE
(*Born* 1844)

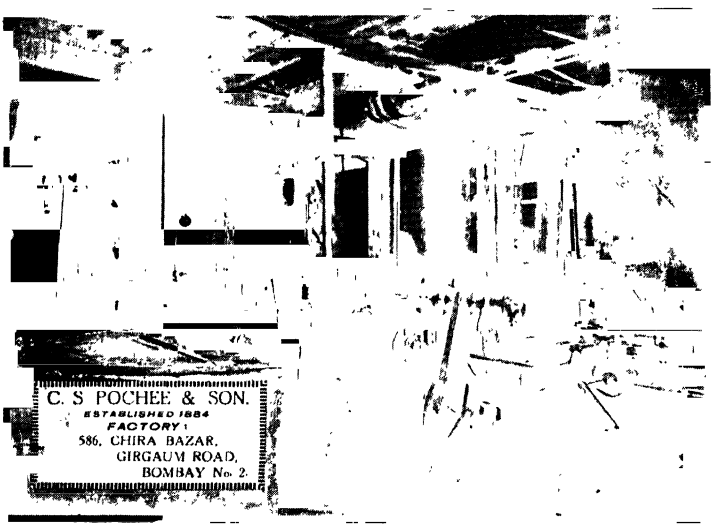


MR. SORABJEE COWASJEE POCHE
(*Born* 1878)

In 1884, Messrs. C. S. Pochee & Son began business in a small way for the manufacture of Gas fittings and accessories and a tinsmithy works. It was here, in 1905, that the first improved type of 1000 C.P. Incandescent Lamp was manufactured, and was known as "Genuine Pochee's Wonder Lamps." These lamps have a standing reputation throughout India, Burma and Ceylon for their superior workmanship and durability.

In 1920 came a thorough reorganization of the factory, which was removed to Messrs. Pochees' own premises at Chira Bazar, Girgaum Road, Bombay. The latest machinery and new and improved methods were introduced, able and well-trained men were employed, and at present the factory has the reputation of being an up-to-date and modern manufacturing concern. The vivid ranges of products manufactured by the firm comprise improved Wonder Incandescent Hurricane Lanterns, Table Lamps, Wall Lamps, Stoves and Inverted Lamps. The factory also manufactures Mantles.

Altogether 21 Gold Medals and High Class Certificates have been won by the Lamps and Mantles manufactured by this firm at various Industrial Exhibitions.



The Manufacture of Incandescent Lamps and Mantles

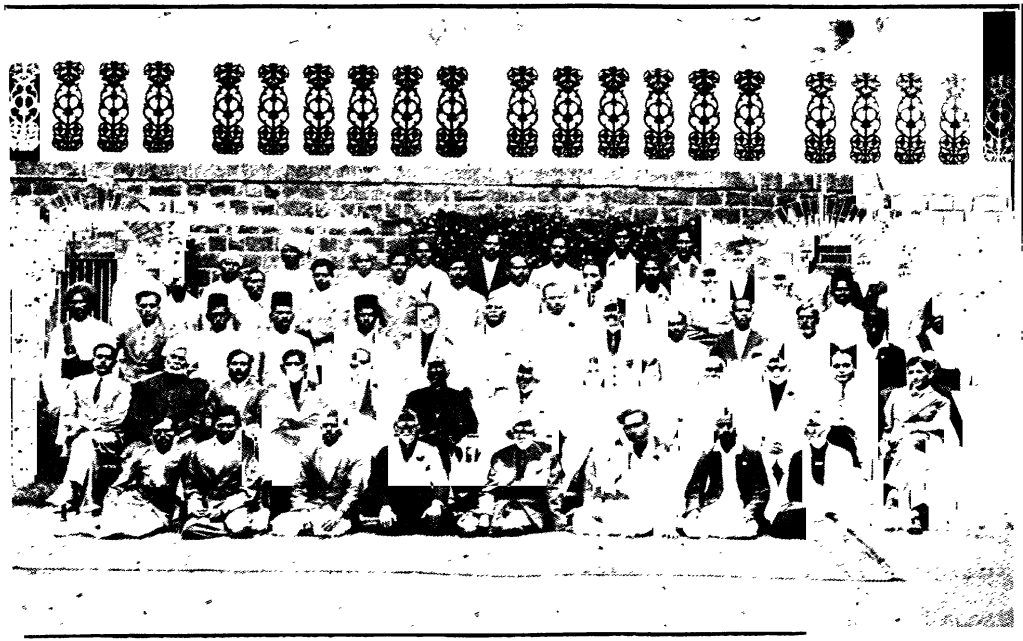
Mr. Pestonjee P. Pocha

(1854—1917)

Founder, Pestonjee P. Pocha and Sons, Well-known Seed Merchants of the Deccan.



Mr. Pestonjee, the enterprising founder of the house of Pestonjee P. Pocha & Sons, Seed Merchants, from a very modest beginning raised his firm to a large concern. When barely 30 years old he opened in 1884 a little store at Char Bowri in Poona City and in 1893 removed to a more commodious building at No. 8, Napier Road, and again on account of expansion of business another bungalow was occupied. In 1884 there were only two men on the staff which has now been increased to 70 men and additional hands are employed during the busy season. The firm maintains a box-making department and have their own printing press where their catalogues, calendars, etc., are printed.



The staff of the establishment of Messrs. Pestonjee P. Pocha and Sons, Well-known Seed Merchants of Poona Sitting 6th and 7th from left are Messrs. Dorabjee and Framroze P. Pocha the present proprietors (1936)

Mr. Hormusji A. Dubash

(Died 1930)

A well-known Florist

Mr. Framroze A. Dubash

(Born 1875)

Government S. & T. Corps Contractor



Late Mr. H. A. Dubash Mr. F. A. Dubash

Mr. Hormusji commenced business in 1875. He had the unique honour of being entrusted by the Government of Bombay with the Floral Decoration of the Amphitheatre, Reception Hall, and King's Pavilion on the visits of Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary in 1911, and also on the occasion of the visit of H. R. H. The Prince of Wales in 1921-22 and again when His Majesty Habibullah-khan, Amir of Afghanistan, visited Bombay in 1907 he and his brother Framroze were entrusted with the floral decoration works. In addition they have decorated the pavilions of Rajahs and Maharajas on various State occasions. During marriage ceremonies among the Parsis and other communities and on great festive occasions they have carried out the floral decorations and have been presented with Gold and Silver Medals and Testimonials at various Exhibitions. These are a few instances of their various activities. For nearly 32 years, the late Mr. Hormusji Dubash with his brother Framroze had been performing the death anniversary of the late Dr. K. N. Bahadurji, M.D., on which day Navjots and Weddings of poor Parsi children and couples were consecrated. Since Hormusji's death in 1930, Mr. Framroze has conducted the business.

Bomanji Ardeshir Irani

Florist

The family of Bomanji Ardeshir Irani, the oldest and well-known Florist, is seen in the picture with some beautiful bouquets. Practically the whole family are born florists, and their example is well worth copying by other members of the Parsi community.

When His Majesty the late King George V visited India Mr. Irani supplied flowers for the Banquet Hall at Government House, Bombay; and also decorated the Admiralty House and Banquet table. Among Mr. Irani's customers are Maharajas, Nawabs, and the cream of society in Bombay. Of course, it is needless to say that both rich and poor are treated with the same care and attention.

Mr. Irani specialises in shower-bouquets and *mandap* decorations and his well-established Nursery at Mazagon Tram Terminus is well worth a visit.



From left—Jehangir Bomanji Irani, the late Kaikashroo B. Irani, Bomanji Ardeshir Irani, Mrs. Bomanji, near Mrs. Bomanji Dinshaw B. Irani, Ardeshir B. Irani, *mali*.

On the ground.—Bejon B. Irani, *mali*, Framroze B. Irani, and *malis*.

Jehangir B. Irani

Florist and Nurseryman



Mr. Jehangir B. Irani is a well-known and popular Florist and Nurseryman in Bombay. He is a born horticulturist, as his father and grandfather both were in this line and were reputed for their knowledge and good services. Inheriting all this experience he has considerably added to his reputation by his charming and obliging manner. He is anxious to please his constituents and to do the right thing by them. There are few to match his expert knowledge and innate courtesy.

Mr. Irani had the unique honour of doing the admirable table decorations for ex-King Edward VIII when he visited India as Prince of Wales Bouquets for His Royal Highness were also made by him under the command of H. H. The Maharaja of Bikaner. When the two Viceroys, Lord Reading and Lord Irwin, visited the Rajkot and Jamnagar States, Mr. Irani was in charge of all floral decorations. The Bombay Government House is amongst his frequent patrons for flowers. He has been the recipient of many medals and certificates. The beautiful lawns and gardens of Cusrow Baug at Colaba are also the result of his creation and care.

His further specialities are wedding bouquets in latest Paris styles, *Mandap* and pavilion decorations and the laying out of new gardens or renovating old ones.

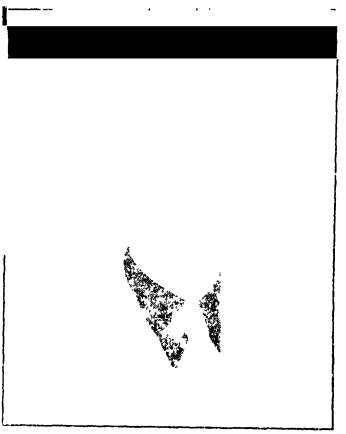
He pleases the rich and the poor alike by his persuasive business dealings and is anxious to retain the goodwill of all his customers. The entire satisfaction he gives to his clients secures for him their permanent custom.

Mr. Irani has his Head Office at Masina Hospital Garden, Byculla, Telephone No. 41080, and a shop at Colaba. He has extensive lands outside Bombay where he grows his flowers and other garden requisites, plants, shrubs, creepers, annuals, palms, fruit trees and ornamental foliage, etc., etc.

Mr. J. M. Cooper

(BORN 1905)

'Prince of Indian Stamp Dealers"



Mr. J. M. Cooper, born on 29th March 1905, has achieved considerable renown in the Philatelic world, being the only Indian recognized as Valuer and Auctioneer of Stamps by the British Philatelic Association Ltd., of London. Born of a very poor family, Mr. Cooper cut off his educational career at the age of 17, after passing the Matriculation Examination and immediately joined the Empire of India Life Assurance Co., Ltd., where he still holds a responsible position. Being possessed of a love for hard work, Mr. Cooper continued his studies by taking up Correspondence Courses by well-known English Colleges and Institutions and to-day ranks as a free-lance writer in both Gujarati and English, in which sphere he owes much to the late Mr. G. K. Nariman and Mr. B. G. Horniman, respectively, both being veteran journalists. Mr. Cooper joined the Naval section of the Parsi Emergency Corps, when this organisation was at its height, and rose to the rank of Master-at-Arms and Commanding Petty Officer in a very short period.

Mr. Cooper has been an ardent Stamp Collector since his school days and to-day a Philatelic Journal (*Indian Stamp Magazine*) has deemed it worthy to name him as the "Prince of Indian Stamp Dealers." Many valuable five-figure collections and valuable single items have passed through Mr. Cooper's hands as a Collector-Dealer and have been successfully disposed of to the best advantage of his clients, Mr. Cooper having an expert knowledge of the stamps of the British Empire and world-wide connections in the stamp trade.

Sorabjee Mancherjee Joshi

(1848—1916)

A Prominent Silk Merchant and Citizen of Surat



Mr. Joshi was an old and respected resident of Surat and a landed proprietor. He carried on a large trade in silk cloth which he freely exported to the French Colonies in Northern Africa and Arabia and which trade is still being continued by his son Kaikhasru who has his Factory at Surat and a Branch in Bombay. This silk manufacturing business has been carried on by this family for the last one hundred and twenty-five years.

Mr. Kaikobad N. Katrak

A Pioneer of Swadeshi Hosiery Industry in Bombay



Mr. K. N. Katrak, Proprietor, Katrak Hosiery Works, who has a complete mastery of everything in the Hosiery line, is a Pioneer of Swadeshi Hosiery Industry in Bombay, with which business he has been connected ever since 1904. Mr. Katrak has introduced innumerable new varieties suited to this country, and, it was he who invented gold-thread embroidery work on sewing machines. Formerly gold embroidery, which is in use among the higher classes in India, was a very slow process done by highly skilled craftsmen at great cost. Mr. Katrak's invention, however, made it possible to do work within a few hours that previously took many days to accomplish. Knitted goods and designs were first made in India in the Katrak Works, and as a side-line Mr. Katrak is now manufacturing gas mantles for lamps. Mr. Katrak has upto now won 20 Gold Medals in various Swadeshi and other Exhibitions for his Hosiery work. Of the yarn used in the Works 90 per cent. is Swadeshi while 10 per cent. of other kinds, entirely unavailable in India, are Italian and Swiss. From the standpoint of variety, colours, beauty of design, finish and price, Katrak Hosiery Works defy all competition.

Ardesar B. Darukhanawalla

A Noted Electrical Engineer



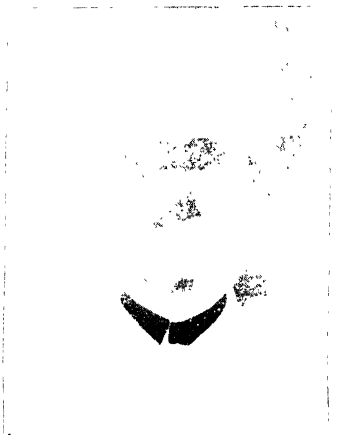
Mr. Ardesar started business in 1903, and in order to gain experience and make himself more conversant with modern practice in electrical engineering, on two occasions visited Europe and came into contact with the leading manufacturers in his own particular line. In Bombay he carried out, under his own supervision, large electric installations in cotton spinning, manufacturing and milling concerns, offices, bungalows and residential quarters.

In 1901 Mr. Darukhanawalla was nominated as an Associate of the Institute of Electrical Engineers in London and in 1904 the Bombay Fire Insurance Association appointed him as one of their experts to examine and report upon electric installations, and in the same year he was awarded a gold medal for the very efficient manner in which he carried out the lighting installations at the Bombay Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. He was also a member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris

Naoroji Edalji Screwvala

(1855—1937)

A Veteran Mill Manager



Mr. Naoroji completed his education at the Sir Jamshedjee Jejeebhoy Institution and started his mill career as an apprentice in the Sunderdas Mills in 1873. He gained a thorough knowledge of the working of textile machinery and then joined the New Coorla Mills in 1876 and the Shivlal Mills four years later. He next went to Calcutta as a Carding Master at the Empress of India Cotton Mills but returned to Bombay and joined the Sassoon Spinning Mills, and in later years became the Manager of the Coorla Mills.

Mr. Screwvala was held in great esteem, and at the time of his retirement in 1932 was presented with an Address enclosed in a beautiful casket. He took a lively interest in the welfare of Coorla citizens and was President of the Coorla Municipality. For his work as Census Officer he was awarded first class Sanad during the Coronation Durbar held by the Collector of Thana.

Mr. Maneckshaw Navroji Patel

(Born 1884)



Mr. M. N. Patel lost his father when he was quite young, and due to pecuniary circumstances he could not satisfactorily prosecute his studies as he wanted to. He had therefore to serve in several mills to learn the mechanical line, and after gaining considerable experience he started his own business—Iron and Brass Foundry—on a small scale in the year 1913 under the name and style of Bickman Iron and Brass Works. After two years he amalgamated his foundry in partnership with Messrs. Parekh and Purbhoo of Khetwadi Back Road, and simultaneously opened a Flour Mill in partnership with the same firm under the name of Messrs. Hosoman & Co. After running it for a couple of years he opened two more mills up-country at Yeola, Nasik District, in partnership with Mr. Hirjibhoy Rustomji Patel.

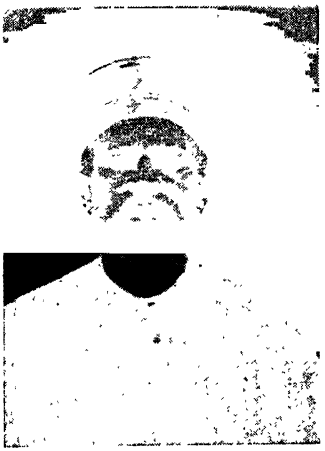
In order to have an independent business he started in 1920 the present Iron and Brass Foundry, under the name of Nadirshaw and Bros., Engineers, Iron and Brass Founders and Mechanical Works, at Khetwadi 7th Lane, and, finding it an inconvenient place, shifted to Foras Road, Bombay, 8, opposite the Municipal Workshop, where the workshop is still situated.



THE FACTORY OF MESSRS. NADIRSHAW AND BROS.

Engineers, Brass and Iron Founders and Contractors.
Manufacturers and Repairers of Mill, Gin and all kinds of Machinery Parts

FORAS ROAD, OPP. MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP), BOMBAY.
Phone :—40504



MR. DOSSABHOY RUSTOMJI CHOKSI
Founder of the Firm of Messrs. Dossabhoy R. Choksi & Co.
(*Died* 1922)



MR. RATANJI DOSSABHOY CHOKSI
(*Died* 1926)



MR. NARIMAN RATANJI CHOKSI
(*Born* 1908)



MR. JALBHOY RATANJI CHOKSI
(*Born* 1910)

Partners of Messrs. Dossabhoy R. Choksi & Co.

The founder of this Factory situated at Zaveri Bazar, Bombay, which bears the unique reputation of being the biggest Gold and Silver Melting, Refining and Rolling Sheets Factory in India, was Mr. Dossabhai Rustomji Choksi who started this business in 1872 by setting up a crude furnace, and employing a handful of men.

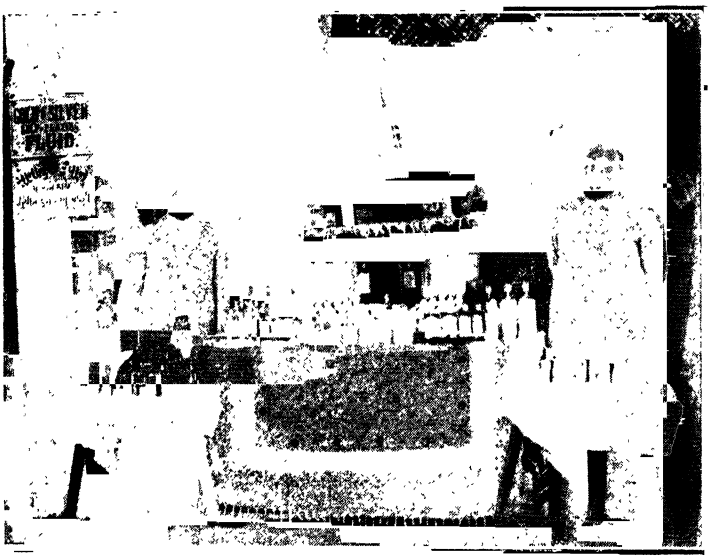
After surmounting a lot of obstacles and difficulties he gradually expanded the business and succeeded in gaining the trust and confidence of the public and the big bullion merchants of Zaveri Bazar and at the time of his death in 1922, left it as the foremost concern of its kind in India. Being a very enterprising man, he had gone to Europe in 1912 to see the lines on which such factories run there, and on his return to India had introduced in his factory the necessary changes, and also had set up a new side industry to the main concern of preparing Rolled Silver Sheets, Wire, etc.

After his death the business was ably continued by his son Mr. Ratanji, but unfortunately his promising career was cut short by his sudden death within four years, and the yoke of responsibility of carrying on the business fell on the shoulders of his two young sons Nariman and Jalbhoy. Both the brothers, ably assisted by their cousin Mr. Kekhusroo H. Hadvaid, have followed in the footsteps of their able father and grandfather and have kept up the old traditions of the business, and have quite recently further expanded the concern by setting up a new furnace capable of melting 18,000 tolas, i.e., 450 lbs. of Gold and Silver at a time, and starting a Bullion Refining Works at Mazagon.

The development of this business from its humble start to its present state and position is an ample testimony and tribute to the pioneering spirit, integrity, foresight and business acumen of its founder and his able successors.

Messrs. Olpadwalla & Sons

First Indian Manufacturers of Food Essences



Reading from right to left—

MR. MANCHERSHA HIRJIBHAI OLPADWALLA

MR. RATANSHA HIRJIBHAI OLPADWALLA.

Messrs. Olpadwalla & Sons are the successors of Messrs. E. B. Gilder & Co. which firm was started in the year 1885 by Mr. E. B. Gilder as manufacturers of Medicines, Drugs, etc. Owing to old age, he handed over his business to Messrs. Olpadwalla & Sons, who made many improvements in the products and became specialists in Flavouring Essences and earned a good name in the market for their products.

They are specialists in manufacturing Flavouring Essences, Food Colours, Roshan Hair Oil, Manora Hair Cream, Gold and Silver Self-Plating Fluid, Essence of Peppermint, Brilliant Hair Oil, Lime and Glycerine, Dill Water, Lime Water, etc., which became famous and for which they were awarded Gold Medals and First Class Certificates of Merit and high appreciations from leading Indians.

They celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 1935 with a new kind of Flavouring Essence called the " Jubilee Essence. "

The Firm has received a certificate from the H.O.H. Fete, Bombay, 1934, and Medals and Certificates from the Industrial Exhibition of Poona, 1935, Indian Industries Fair of Bombay, 1935, and the Indian Empire Exhibition of Bangalore, 1936.

Some prominent Parsi Philanthropists, Industrialists and Millowners of the Eighties of the Last Century



Standing (left to right)—
Mr. Dady Nusserwanjee Dadyseth (1842-1920).
Mr. Byramjee Nusserwanjee Seervai (1823-1914).
Mr. Jamsetjee Nusserwanjee Tata (1839-1904).
Mr. Mancherjee Navroji Banajee (1837-1890).
Mr. Cursetjee Hormasjee Dadyseth (1858-1902).
(The Hon.) Mr. Navrojee N. Wadia (1849-1899).

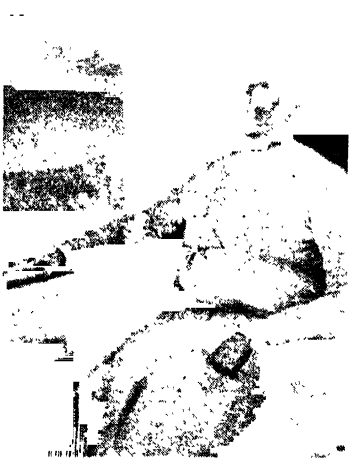
Sitting (left to right)—
(Sir) Ratan J. N. Tata (1871-1918).
Mr. Jehangir Dossabhoy Framjee (1855-1930).



SETH MANECKJEE LOWJEE, 1726-1792
(*2nd Master Builder*)



SETH FRAMJEE MANECKJEE, 1749-1804
(*3rd Master Builder*)



SETH JAMSETJEE BOMANJEE
1756—1821
(*4th Master Builder*)



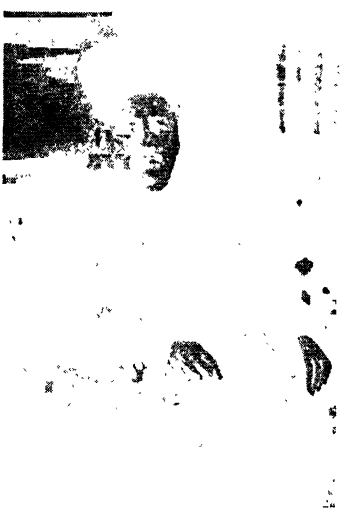
SETH NAOROJI JAMSEDJI WADIA
1774—1860
(*5th Master Builder*)



SETH CURSETJEE RUSTOMJEE, 1788-1863
(*6th Master Builder*)



SETH JEHANGIR NAOROJEE, 1821-1866
(*7th Master Builder*)



KHAN BAHADUR JAMSETJEE DHANJEEBHOY
1829—1895
(*8th and last Master Builder*)

Parsis and Ship Building

By RUTTONJEE A. WADIA

THE history of the rise and progress of the Lowjee Wadia family is practically the history of the rise and progress of the Island of Bombay. The establishment of the Docks made Bombay a great emporium of trade and gave shelter to the Squadrons of the Royal Navy for repairs, and thus contributed in no small measure to the building up of the British Empire in the East. In this connection the Lowjee Wadia family played an important part. Prior to 1735 when the site of the first Dock was selected, Surat was the only place in India where ships were built and repaired. In 17_5 Mr. Dudley, the Master Attendant at Bombay, was deputed to Surat by the Bombay Government to arrange with the builder there, a Parsi named Dhunjeebhoy, to construct a ship called the "Queen." From this we see that the Parsis occupied the position of chief builders in the Docks at Surat. When at this city, Dudley was struck by the remarkable abilities shown by a young Parsi foreman working under the chief builder. It was this obscure youth who, without money and influence, was destined to lay the foundation of the greatness and importance of Bombay. He was Lowjee Nusserwanjee Wadia, who was induced to accept service under the Bombay Government. He arrived here in 1735 and selected the site of the Dock between the present Custom House and Apollo Bunder. But the construction of the Dock was not taken in hand till 1748 and completed in July 1750. This was the first Dry Dock constructed in India and is known as the Upper Old Bombay Dock, and was followed by another in 1762 and yet another in 1765, they being the pride of Bombay and the wonder of all, and attracted shipping from all over the East for repairs. For these services the Court of Directors presented Lowjee with a Silver Rule in 1754 and again in 1772. He died in 1774 leaving a rich inheritance of ability, integrity and industry to his family.

He was succeeded by his sons Maneckjee and Bomanjee and under their supervision some 30 vessels were built in Bombay, including some for the Bengal Government. When Admiral Sir Edward Hughes came to India owing to trouble with France, his ships were repaired at Bombay and Sir Edward was so impressed with the valuable services rendered by the Parsi Builders that on his recommendation a free grant of land at Parel was made to the Wadia brothers. They were succeeded by their eldest sons Framjee and Jamsetjee. The former died after a short but successful career.

Jamsetjee was a born naval architect. So high was his ability that the Admiralty resolved to have ships for His Majesty's Navy built at Bombay under his supervision, and the arrival of the "Minden" in England, a 74-gun ship, constructed in Bombay, established Jamsetjee's reputation in Great Britain and the Lords of the Admiralty presented him with a Silver Vase for his diligence and skill, and the

Bombay Government granted him the villages of Ville Parle and Juhu in appreciation of his services. The reputation of the Bombay Docks reached its zenith under Jamsetjee who died in 1821 after serving in the Docks for 50 years.

Jamsetjee's son and successor Naoroji maintained the high level of efficiency in naval architecture attained by his father, and the ship "Asia," launched in 1824 and built by him, became the Flagship of Admiral Sir Edward Codrington at the Battle of Navarino fought in 1827. In 1831 it was decided that no more ships of His Majesty's Navy should be built in Bombay. It was during Naoroji's tenure of office that the first steam vessel, "Hugh Lindsay" of 411 tons, was built here with two 80 horse-power engines. Naoroji was the last of the master builders who enjoyed all the rights and privileges of the office unhampered, and after his retirement the importance of the office gradually declined. He sent his son Jehangir and his nephew Hirjeebhoy Merwanjee to England to study at the docks at Chatham the art of ship building which had made great strides owing to the introduction of steam. Naoroji retired in 1844 after serving in the Dockyard for over 54 years and when he died in 1860 the Dockyard was closed and the flags of the vessels in the harbour were flown at half-mast. Naoroji was succeeded by Cursetjee Rustomjee during whose term of office (1844-1857) some 10 war vessels and 37 other ships were built. Cursetjee was succeeded by Jehangir Naorojee who built 19 vessels for the Government.

In 1860 the strength of the Indian Navy was reduced and on 30th April 1863 it ceased to exist and its functions were taken over by the Royal Navy.

Jehangir died in 1866 and was succeeded by Jamsetjee Dhanjeebhoy who was the last master builder of the Wadia family and during his tenure of office he constructed a large number of small vessels. On his retirement in 1885 he received a free grant of land on the island and an Englishman was sent from England as constructor, and the post of Master Builder abolished. A quarter of a century later (1910) Bomanjee Sorabjee Wadia was appointed Assistant Constructor (Master Builder) and on his retirement in 1913 the connection of the Lowjee Wadia family, which had built in all 345 ships, with the Dockyard of Bombay ceased after 178 years.

Dorabjee Rustomjee Patel

(1754—1804)

The Patel of Bombay and Thana and a Reputable Merchant



Dorabjee was the son of Rustom Dorab (1667-1763), the Patel of Bombay, who had actively helped the English in their struggle with the Siddis during the latter's invasion of Bombay in 1689-1690. Dorabjee himself was a Patel of Bombay and Thana and carried on trade with Bassein, Madras, China, Pegu, Rangoon and other places and had thrice made voyages to China. In 1799 on the death of his

(*Continued on next page*)

Mr. Maneckjee Dossabhoy Merwanjee Wadia

(1836—1911)



Mr. Maneckjee joined the firm of Messrs. Dossabhoy Merwanjee & Co. on the death of his father in the year 1865. He possessed great business ability and sagacity and was the guiding spirit of the firm till his death at the age of 75 in 1911. The well-known sportsman, walker and winner of many prizes, Mr. Maneckjee Rustomjee Wadia, B.A., who has written a thesis on "The History of Ship-building in Gujarat and Konkan with Special Reference to Bombay Dockyard" and is an indefatigable worker in all movements for the uplift of the community, is Mr. Maneckjee's grandson.

(*Concluded from previous page*)

brother Cowasjee he obtained contract for supplying boats to the Hon. East India Company to which he was also the cotton and timber supplier. In 1801 he and his partner Cursetjee Manekjee Shroff obtained the contract for supplying all kinds of materials to the Gun-Powder Factory then situated at Mazagon. He was the proprietor of two sailing vessels, *Parshotum* and *Shah Jehan*. It is to the enterprising and adventurous spirit of old-time merchants like Dorabjee Patel and others that the rise of the Parsis in commerce and industry is in a great measure due.

Seth Bomanjee Jeejeebhoy

(1812—1871)

A Well-known Merchant



Seth Bomanjee was the second son of Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy, and was a partner in the firm of Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Sons & Co. He was a Director in several mercantile concerns and owned a ship called *Kharshedjee Cowasjee.*

In 1849 he was appointed the first Auditor of the then newly established Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Institution and later became a member of its Committee of Management.

In 1858 he was elected a member of the Parsi Panchayet but resigned the post in a couple of years on account of the arbitrary methods of his colleagues. He was a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court and a Justice of the Peace. In 1865 and 1870 he built two tanks at Parel for the benefit of the poor.

Framjee Ardaseer Davur

(1827—1900)

Founder, Framjee Ardaseer Davur & Sons





On the death of his father Ardaseer Framjee Davur in 1854, he developed his business with France and Germany and at the early age of 17 obtained the Agency of Messrs. Huschke's Eau-de-Cologne. He became a broker of the well-known French firm of A. C. Gumpert & Co. in 1865 and severed his connection with it five years later. In 1871 he established his own firm of Messrs. Framjee Ardaseer Davur & Sons, which is still running and doing import trade. In the eighties and nineties of the last century this firm did considerable trade in paper and was at one time considered to be the biggest importer of Austrian papers into Bombay.

Mr. Behram Naorojee Karanjia, J.P.

(BORN 1876)

A Self-made Man and a Public-spirited Citizen of Bombay



Mr. Behram joined in 1893 the firm of Merwanjee Sheriarjee & Co., which carried on business with China, Japan and Europe in commodities like silk, ivory, bangles, etc., and on its dissolution in 1903 it was taken up by the firm of Messrs. M. N. Gobhai & Co. With the joint efforts of Mr. Gobhai and Mr. Karanjia the firm made rapid strides in business. In 1911 Mr. Karanjia went to Europe and succeeded in establishing connections in Manchester, France and Switzerland. The firm pays annually to the Government of India as Customs duty a sum ranging between Rs. 20 and Rs. 30 lakhs.

Mr. Karanjia was appointed President of the Japan and Shanghai Silk Merchants' Association on three occasions and it was through his efforts that the malpractices of merchants in Kathiawar States in evading duties on articles imported into India was put an end to by the establishment of the Customs cordon at Viramgaum in 1927.

Mr. Karanjia has played a very prominent part in the civic life of Bombay and has acted as Honorary Secretary to several funds of public utility, and in recognition of his services Government awarded him the Kaiser-i-Hind Silver Medal and a Certificate of Merit in 1922. He was elected Vice-President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber in 1930-31 and its President a year later. He was also President of the Society of Honorary Presidency Magistrates in 1931.

As a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation he has been doing silent but useful work. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the Bombay Port Trust and of the Film Censors. He was Vice-President of the Passengers and Traffic Relief Association in 1934 and its President a year later. He was appointed Vice-President of the St. John Ambulance Association by H. E. the Governor of Bombay. He was Chairman, Improvement Trust Committee, 1937-38.

As Chairman of the Versova Beach Sanitary Association he has rendered valuable services to Versova and Andheri.

Mr. Karanjia is to-day a prominent citizen of Bombay and associated with all important social and public movements. He contributes generously to all deserving objects.

Mr. Framjee Muncherjee Boomlakhau

An Old-time Prominent Merchant of Calcutta





Sardar Khan Bahadur Adarjee Mancherjee Dalal, B.A. (1854—1930)



Mr. Ratanjee Mancherjee Dalal, B.A. (1856—1927)

Two Well-known Enterprising Merchants of Broach

(*Portraits appear on the opposite page*)

Sardar Adarjee Mancherjee Dalal and his younger brother, Mr. Ratanjee Mancherjee Dalal, were born in Broach in 1854 and 1856 respectively. They were educated in Bombay in the Elphinstone High School and College and were graduates of the Bombay University, the elder brother winning several scholarships. They came from an ancient family of Gujarat in Broach, and their forefathers were leading headmen, engaged in trade and commerce, principally shipping. Since the advent of the British they were agents and contractors of the East India Company, and their uncle, Khan Bahadur Rustomjee Sorabjee Dalal, and father, Mr. Mancherjee Dalal, rendered valuable services to Government during the Indian Mutiny, in transporting troops, supplies, treasures and prisoners by the sea route.

Both the brothers after graduation joined their father's business where they showed great industry and enterprise. They traded in the name of Adarjee Mancherjee & Co. and established branches in Bombay, Karachi, Calicut, Cochin, Godhra, Bodeli, Dohad, Jamboosar, etc. They held Government opium contracts in Broach, Ahmednagar and Khandesh. They were also Government Distilling Contractors for several decades in Godhra and Dabhoda until those distilleries were abolished and Government centralized distillation in Nasik. This business was carried on in the name of Dalals Vakil Kothawala & Co. Their masala liquor, prepared from grapes and mowra, was very popular. They also held the distilling contract of the Sind Province for over a decade and this contract is still held by their sons. They were the largest suppliers of mowra flowers which was their main line of business from their forefathers' time, and although through Government's policy of centralization they lost their distilling business, they were the principal suppliers of mowra flowers to the Government Nasik Distillery which business has been retained even after their death by the said firm in open competition.

The younger brother, Mr. Ratanjee, was of a retiring disposition but the elder brother's (Sardar Adarjee's) civic activities were varied, and began as early as 1877 when he was first nominated to the Broach Municipality. He was a member of the Broach District Local Board for a long period from 1901, and was the first Indian to be the non-official President in 1917. For nine consecutive years he held the office of President and left his mark. He had a facile pen and remarkable command over the English language and was a good extempore speaker. He was held in high respect by the Government and the people. The title of Khan Bahadur was conferred on him in 1901, and he was subsequently made Sardar of the first class.

The greatest of the two brothers' services was to the Broach Parsi community of whose Punchayet Sardar Adarjee was the Managing Trustee for 43 years during which time its funds swelled from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 25 lakhs. In this department his brother, Mr. Ratanjee,

was a very valued collaborator and was the Joint Managing Trustee until his death. Both the brothers rendered conspicuous services to the community without ostentation, and as a mark of esteem the Anjuman named the Motlibai Wadia Girls' High School building after their joint names. They took keen interest in education, and through their efforts the Punchayet established and conducted the Girls' High School which from small beginnings has become a flourishing institution. It is the only girls' high school of its kind in Gujarat run by the Parsi community.

Sardar Adarjee was also the founder and President of the Broach Merchants' Association. He carried on great agitation against the levying of block rates by the B. B. & C. I. Railway and in respect of the silting of the Nerbada River.

Sardar Adarjee was also an elected member of the reformed Provincial Council for four years. Both the brothers, though leading very simple lives, visited Europe several times as well as Persia and Australia. Sardar Adarjee was once President of the Zoroastrian Conference, and though very religious and simple in life held advanced views on social matters. One characteristic feature of the two brothers was that excepting their turban and glasses, every article of clothing, including boots, was common to both, and there was exemplary harmony between them, such as is very rare in these days. Mr. Ratanjee Dalal died in February 1927 and Sardar Adarjee in October 1930.

Sorabjee Manekjee Damaunwalla

(1850—1899)

A Highly Respected Citizen of Damaun



He was the son of Manekjee Cowasjee Damaunwalla and was in charge of the *inami* villages of his ancestors including the village of Kanthiria which had a population of about 3,000 people. He was the leader of the Damaun-Udwada Anjuman, but had to sever his connection with the latter body on account of some internal disputes. Like his father he was also held in high repute by the Portuguese Government and was invested with the title of Cavalier of the Military Order of Nossa Senhora de Fonsica Odavilevisore. He was well versed in the Portuguese language and had the honour of translating into Gujrati the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty concluded in 1879. He lived in right royal style at Damaun.

Khan Bahadur Tehmuras Cawasji Bajan of Katni, C.P.

(1851—1923)

"The Grand Old Man of Katni"



Khan Bahadur Tehmuras Cawasji Bajan was born in Navsari in a respectable family on 21st July 1851, and took up his profession early in life as a Mobed. From a very young age he had great aptitude for business, and in the year 1876 his destiny took him to Katni where with a modest beginning of only Rs. 100 as capital he started his career as a Cloth Merchant and Commission Agent, and after many vicissitudes in life he eventually established himself as a Government Contractor and became the owner of Limestone Quarries and eventually the owner of half of the town of Katni. Through his business acumen and great foresight his lime

business prospered. He was of a very quiet disposition and unassuming by nature. He contributed generously towards local charities. During the Great Famine of 1907, he gave daily free food for six months to about 200 famine-stricken persons. At a cost of about Rs. 25,000 he constructed a School building and a Hospital ward in Katni and the School was named after him as the "Tehemuraspji Branch School."

For a number of years the Khan Bahadur was President of the Katni Municipality and member of the Local Board and Jubbulpore District Council. He also held the post of Director, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary of the Katni Co-operative Bank. He was, moreover, an Honorary Magistrate for a number of years and was familiarly known as the "Grand Old Man of Katni." The title of Khan Bahadur was conferred on him in 1915 for his beneficial services in the cause of the public. He also had the honour of being invited to the Delhi Durbar.

The subject of this sketch was a Malguzar and left extended landed properties. He died at Navsari on 2nd July 1923.



A PARSEE CLUB, 1870

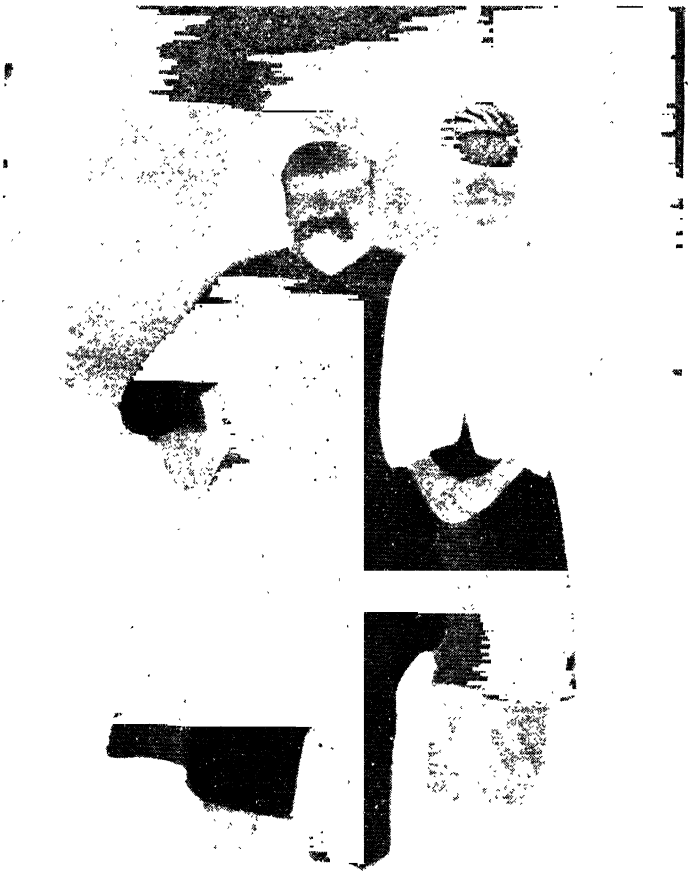
Upper row, left to right :—Maneckjee Sorabjee Wadia, 1835—1895 ; Nusserwanjee Dorabjee Patel, 1840—1893 ; Lowji Muncherjee Wadia (1829—1881).

Lower row, from left to right :—Merwanji Hormusji Patel, 1840—1900 ; Ruttonji Dadabhoy Lowji Wadia, 1835—1907 ; Burjorji Dorabji Patell, 1833—1899 Dorabji Nanabhoy Wadia, 1835—1897.

Mr. Jamshedji Rustomji Irani (Aga)

(1810—1866)

An Old-time China Merchant



Mr. Jamshedji Rustomji Irani (Aga), paternal grandfather of Mr. Burjor Sorabshaw Jamshedji Aga, was born in Iran and came to India in 1824 when only a boy. He was the son of Mr. Rustam Frobux (Plamarz) Irani and his mother was Shirinbanoo,

the eldest daughter ot Mr. Kaikhushroo Yezdyar, and sister of the noted Gulestanbanoo.

Mr. Kaikhushroo Yezdyar had five daughters whom he brought to Bombay from Yezd from time to time. The first one that came out to Bombay with him was Gulestanbanoo The names of the five daughters are as under :—

Shirinbanoo who was married to Mr. Rustam Frobux (Plamarz) in Iran. Gulestanbanoo—married Mr. Framjee Bhikhajee Panday. Nazbanoo (Mithibai)—married Mr. Hormasji Edalji Cama. Khorshedbanoo—married Mr. Namdar Javid Nasrabadi. Pirojabanoo—married Mr. Pestonji Mehervanji Meherhomji.

Mr. Jamshedji married his cousin Miss Jerbai Pestonji Meherhomji. He visited China with Mr. Burjorji Framji Panday shortly after his arrival in Bombay and after having acquired great business experience, in 1840 he joined as a partner the firm of Messrs. Bomanji & Pestonji Framji Cama & Co. which was afterwards transformed into Messrs. P. & D. F. Cama & Co. He remained a partner in the firm till the end of his life. Mr. Jamshedji made several trips to China during a period of 30 years between 1824 and 1854 and had great influence with the merchants of China.

In the year 1839 the Chinese Government definitely resolved to stop the importation of opium into that country but the merchants protested against this order as some of the goods were already on their way to China. The Chinese Government, however, laid siege to the Factory in Canton of all foreign merchants, viz., English, American, Dutch, French and Parsis and detained them. Mr. Jamshedji was also one of those detained along with Messrs. Dadabhai Rustomji Banaji, Hirjibhai Rustamji Patel, Nusserwanji Bomanji Mody, Ardeshir Furdoonji Panday and others. The Chinese Government destroyed all opium of the value of about Rupees three crores.

By the Nanking Treaty of Peace made by Sir Henry Pottinger, the British Envoy in 1842, this dispute with the Chinese authorities was amicably settled and the merchants received full compensation.

Mr. Pestonji Nowroji Pochaji

(1813—1876)

A Well-known China Merchant



The late Mr. Pestonji Nowroji Pochaji went to China in 1834 with Mr. Dadabhoy Rustomji Banaji, and in 1844, with Cursetji and Dorabji Nusserwanji Cama, he opened a firm in China under the name of Messrs. P. & D. N. Cama & Co. He also opened in Calcutta a business under the name of Messrs. P. & C. N. Cama & Co., and in Bombay under that of Messrs. Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama & Co. He was a Trustee of the Canton Zoroastrian Anjuman Charity Fund from 1847 to 1850. He returned to Bombay in 1850 and carried on the above-mentioned firm. He took a leading part with Mr. Cursetji Nusserwanji Cama in establishing several banks and joint stock companies. He was a Delegate of the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court for many years.

Barjor S. N. Cooper, J.P.

(BORN 1874)

A Bombay Social Worker



Mr. Cooper is an Honorary Presidency Magistrate, and a Nominated Member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation; Delegate, Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court; Honorary Treasurer of the Society of Honorary Presidency Magistrates of Bombay; Honorary Treasurer of the Help Our Hospitals Fete; Member of the Improvement Trust Committee, Bombay. He is the son of Mr. Sorabjee N. Cooper of the Bombay Municipality. He is one of the most enthusiastic and prominent social workers, having raised several lakhs of rupees for different charities in Bombay, particularly his efforts to raise funds for the Hospitals of Bombay deserve special mention. He is a Trustee on the Board of Management of the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Women and Children. Mr. Cooper had also played an important part in business, having been one of the senior approved Government Contractors in the Commissariat Department, and as such had supplied goods worth two crores of rupees in the last World War. He also raised several lakhs of rupees by selling War Loans and he himself bought War Loans worth two lakhs of rupees. In recognition of his public services His Late Majesty King George V was graciously pleased to award him the Silver Jubilee Medal in 1936. Mr. Cooper has played an important part not only in the public and social activities of Bombay, but has also given ungrudging services to his community by advancing the cause of many a Parsi youth, some of whom now enjoy high positions in life.

Bapujee Sorabjee Patel, B.A.

(1861—1923)

Sole Proprietor, Framji Sons & Co.



Mr. Bapujee took his B.A. degree at the Elphinstone College in 1884 where he was the pupil of Dr. Wordsworth, the grandson of the Poet, having been Ellis scholar of that year. He had thorough grasp of financial problems and with sound business capabilities he combined literary attainments of a very high order. When his father Sorabjee passed away in 1894 the entire management of the business of Framjee Sons & Co. fell upon his eldest son Bapuji who had already worked with his father for over ten years and who then became senior partner, having his younger brothers Khursedjee and Ardeshir associated with him at the same time. In 1908 the younger brothers retired and sold their interest to Bapuji for Rs. 1,30,000 and from that year forward the latter became the sole Proprietor of this ancient firm which had been the agent for His Majesty's Government of Ceylon for over sixty years. The firm also owned two steamships and one sailing ship, the first having been sunk in the Mediterranean during the Great World War of 1914—1918.

Khurshedjee Sorabjee Patel
(1866—1912)



Ardeshir Sorabjee Patel
(1868—1919)
Merchant and Philanthropist



The two brothers Khurshedjee and Ardeshir who were unmarried, after retiring from the firm opened their own firm in the name of K. & A. S. Framjee, but practically they did little business and only looked after their personal affairs.

Khurshedjee died suddenly of heart-failure in 1912 and left all his wealth to Ardeshir who died in Paris in 1919. Ardeshir left about Rs. 15 lakhs in charity solely for the use of the Parsis.



Group Portrait of the Staff of Messrs. Nadirshaw Printer & Co. (Sitting in the centr is Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee, Sole Proprietor.)

Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee

(BORN 1892)

Sole Proprietor: NADIRSHAW, PRINTER & Co.



Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee is the sole Proprietor of Nadirshaw, Printer & Co., and the International Commercial Corporation, and partner in the firm of Godrej & Co., and Managing Director of Godrej Soaps, Ltd. After receiving training in a local commercial institution he served for a year or so in a business firm and started an independent business in 1914. He specialised in the importation of Dental goods from England, Germany and America. He is perhaps the first Indian to come in personal contact with the Dental Manufacturing Companies of Europe, America and Japan. He has travelled extensively round the world many a time.

In 1921 the firm of Nadirshaw, Printer & Co. was started and branches were opened at Calcutta (1925), Madras (1926), Lahore

(1927), Karachi (1932) and Bangalore (1933). This firm is one of the biggest importers of Dental, Medical and Surgical Instruments and articles. They are also the Sole Agents all over the world for the famous Indian-made Vegetable Godrej Toilet Soaps and Toilet preparations.

Mr. Nadirshaw, who was married in 1931 to Miss Avabai, daughter of the late Merwanjee Dadabhoy, landlord of Parel, Bombay, is a self-made man. He, having travelled abroad and all over India, Burma and Ceylon, has acquired a good deal of experience in various directions.

Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee is also very charitably inclined and is a Trustee of the Godrej Estate Fund and Godrej Memorial Institute. He is a Freemason, a member of the Bombay Rotary Club, and also a member of the Indian Merchants' Chamber. Besides, he is a member of many leading Clubs of Bombay and other places.

We hope and wish that one day Mr. Nadirshaw will come forward and take an interest in public life.

(*Concluded from next page*)

Lamps for Surgical Theatres, Instruments and, as a matter of fact, Hospital Requisites of every description.

All the above appliances which are sold to the hospitals and the medical profession need to be serviced and that is done by a staff of trained expert assistants.

Mr. Behram and Mr. Hirji Malegam are the sons of the late Mr. Ardeshir Hirji Malegam of Messrs. Hirji & Sons, general merchants, having at one time important commercial interests on the Malabar Coast and Northern India.

These two brothers have interest in the Allwyn Steel Equipment Co., Ltd., which manufactures steel furniture for every purpose and which has within the last few years of its existence established a good reputation in the Indian market.

Mr. Behram Ardeshir Malegam | **Mr. Hirji Ardeshir Malegam**

Partners : MESSRS. MALGHAM BROS.





The firm of Malgham Bros. was originally started by Mr. Hirji Malegam on 5th September, 1919, in the present premises at 26, Old Custom House Road, Fort, Bombay.

About a year later his elder brother Mr. Behram joined as a partner. Since then the firm has made slow but steady progress and has expanded its business to its present standing which can be reckoned as first class in the field of specialists of Electro-Medical Appliances, Surgical Instruments and Hospital Supplies.

Mr. Behram and Mr. Hirji have both travelled throughout India and Mr. Hirji has been to Europe at intervals for the furtherance of the business and to keep himself abreast of Electro-Therapy and business in general.

The firm holds in stock scientific instruments such as Electro-Cardiographs for recording heart actions, Diathermy Machines for generating heat within the tissues of the body, Electro-Surgical Tissue-cutting Apparatus—more commonly known as the Bloodless Knife—Hanovia Quartz Lamps for light treatment, Shadowfree

(*Continued on previous page*)



Officials of the Well-known Firm of Messrs. Edward Bates & Co.

Left to right, standing:—

Manekjee Kharsedjee Dadybarjor

(1815—1878)

He was the descendant of the well-known Dadybarjor family and through the influence of his maternal uncle, Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy, he was appointed co-broker with the firm of Messrs. Edward Bates & Co., along with Mr. Jamsetjee Kharsedjee Batliboi. He retired on 19th October 1865.

Rustom Pirojsha Vasania

(1885—1937)

A Well-known Merchant of China and Japan

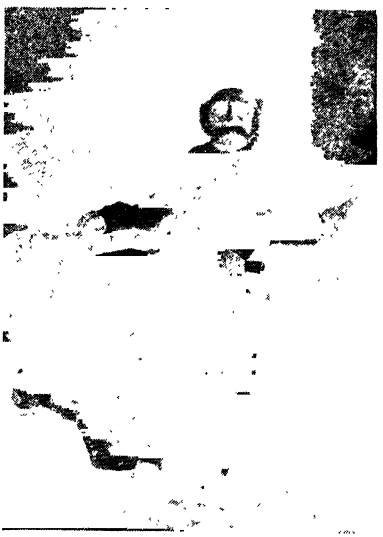


Mr. Rustom was an active partner in the old firm of Messrs. J. E. F. Kavarana & Co., Bombay. After matriculation he went to China at an early age and after an absence of about 20 years returned to Bombay. He was well conversant with the Japanese language and had made himself very popular with his large clients. He established his firm of Vasania and Company in Japan in 1915 and from small beginnings it has now grown into one of the biggest firms in Japan employing a large number of hands. That industry and patience are never unrequited is exemplified in the case of this self-made merchant of Bombay, China and Japan.

Seth Muncherjee Bomanjee Panthaki, J.P.

(1810—1902)

A Big Up-country Wine and Provision Merchant



Mr. Muncherjee's father Bomanjee was an up-country merchant established in Bombay and Nagpur and in 1834, taking his sons Cursetjee and Mancherjee along with him, he opened branches at Jalna, Kamptee, Sagar, Jubbulpore and Secunderabad, and carried on extensive trade in the name of Cursetjee & Co. Their chief business consisted of dealing in wines and provisions. In 1860 Cursetjee severed his connection with the firm and from that year Muncherjee conducted the whole business and amassed a large fortune. He was a Justice of the Peace and was not slow in rendering pecuniary assistance to the needy members of his community. Mr. Muncherjee was intimately connected with the noblemen of Hyderabad and when Sir Salar Jung, Prime Minister of Hyderabad, paid a visit to Bombay, he put up as a guest of Seth Muncherjee at his Chaupati house.

Mr. Dinshaw Cowasjee

(BORN 1882)

Well-known Army Contractor and Philanthropist



Mr. Dinshaw Cowasjee (D. Cowasjee) of Bombay, Khandala and Bangalore, was born of poor parents and is today one of the prominent business men. He started his career in the Commissariat Department and rose to be one of the biggest Army Contractors. During the Great War (1914-18) he rendered good service to the Military and the Government and was once President-elect of the All-India Army Contractors' Association.

Mr. Cowasjee was both a nominated and elected Councillor of the Lonavla Municipality for 12 years, its President and Vice-President, an Honorary Magistrate of the Lonavla Bench, the President of the Bombay Provision Merchants' Association and the Bangalore Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman, a Trustee of the Boyce Trust Fund, Bangalore Anjuman Fund, Athornan Mandal Fund, etc.

Mr. Cowasjee's sympathy for his fellow countrymen is manifest in the foundation, by him, of the Sanatorium at Khandala at a cost of Rs. 50,000, his donation of Rs. 15,000 for a new Maternity Home at Bangalore, of Rs. 6,500 to Shri Narasimharaji Hospital at Kolar and of Rs. 5,000 for a Maternity Hospital at Bangalore.

For educational, physical and religious uplift he has donated Rs. 10,000 to the Boyce School at Surat, Rs. 5,000 to the High School at Kolar Gold Field, and a large sum for the establishment of a Parsi Girls' Boarding School at Khandala.

For his public services the Mysore Government have awarded him the Public Service Gold Medal. Mr. Cowasjee is a Corporator of the Bombay Municipality and his present business is confined to holding large Excise Contracts, especially in the Bombay Presidency and the Mysore State.

Mr. D. Cowasjee is a living example of what industry, activity and integrity could do.



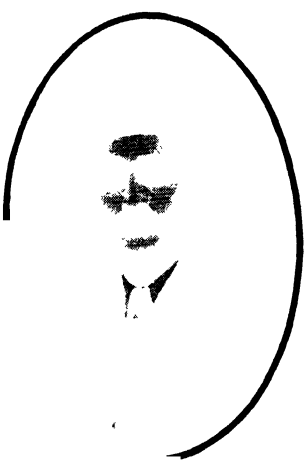
MR. JAMSHEDJI FRAMJI KATHOKE
(1839—1900)



MR. FRAMJI JAMSHEDJI KATHOKE
(1851—1937)



MR. MERWANJEE FRAMJI KATHOKE
(*Born* 1876)



MR. SORABJEE FRAMJI KATHOKE
(*Born* 1886)

Members of an old-established firm of Wine and Provision Merchants.

Jamsetjee Framjee Kathoke

" Boa Causa " Building, Sir Phirozsha Mehta Road Fort, Bombay

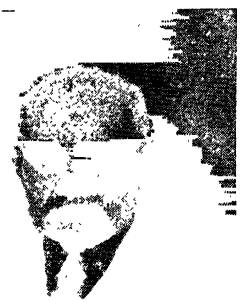
This firm, one of the oldest Wine and Provision Merchants in Bombay, was established by Mr. Hormusji Framjee Kathoke (1804—1859) in 1847 and on his death in 1859 it was continued by his brother Jamshedji who joined it in 1848 on a meagre salary of Rs. 25.

It was well managed by this gentleman for more than 40 years, during which period he was wine supplier to the Indian Navy. On the suggestion of the G.I.P. Railway officials he also established co-operative stores on various stations on the G. I. P., and the founding of these stores tended to bring down the prices of various stuffs which had been sold at these places at prohibitive rates. Jamshedji died at the age of 61 and his son Framji took upon himself the management of his ancestral firm and conducted it efficiently with the help of his sons Merwanjee and Sorabjee until his death in 1937.

The Late Mr. Jamshedji Sorabji Bhumgara

(1854—1934)

A Noted Parsi Merchant of Indian Curios of London and New York



An enthusiastic Parsi merchant who won a reputation as a merchant of Indian curios, was the late Mr. Jamshedji Sorabji Bhumgara.

Mr. Jamshedji was born at Surat on 3rd September 1854. His uncle, the late Mr. Framji Pestonji Bhumgara, had a small shop at "Daria-Mehal" in Surat where he made ivory articles (called Bhum) with artistic skill. From this trade the family name of Bhumgara was derived.

Mr. Framji opened a shop of Indian curios in Bombay in partnership with his brother Mr. Sorabji in the year 1842. The firm was known by the name of F. P. Bhumgara & Co. who had extensive trade with Europe and America. In the year 1869 Mr. Sorabji, the then partner of Messrs. F. P. Bhumgara & Co., sailed to Europe via the Suez Canal, which was just then opened. The journey in those days was hard and trying which the enthusiastic Mr. Sorabji undertook boldly, and traded with several large cities like Cairo, Alexandria, Paris, London.

He was the first Indian to visit and trade with Europe in Indian curios.

Mr. Framji expired at Surat in 1881. Mr. Nusserwanji, the son of Mr. Framji, carried on the business in partnership with his eldest cousin the late Mr. Jamshedji. Mr. Nusserwanji died on the 12th May 1918 at New York. From the name of the firm the late Mr. Jamshedji was known as Mr. Framji in Europe and America. This firm had several branches also in India, such as Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Calcutta, Ootacamund, Darjeeling and Simla, most of them having been established by the late Mr. Jamshedji.

The London firm was founded by Mr. Jamshedji as Messrs. F. P. Bhumgara & Co., 135, London Wall, in the year 1890, and four years later, a branch was opened in New York (America).

The late Mr. Jamshedji was present at the opening ceremonies of the Great International Exhibition at Antwerp, Belgium, which was performed by the late King of Belgium in 1885. The stall of Mr. Bhumgara was decorated with Indian curios and was named "The Bombay Court." The King and Queen visited this Court and admired the masterly workmanship and craftsmanship of India. Mr. Jamshedji was congratulated by the Royal couple on

his enterprising efforts. The Queen appreciated Indian art and bought several articles especially as they were hand-made. A large crowd cheered Mr. Jamshedji when they saw a foreigner talking freely with their King and Queen. The Under-Secretary to the Bombay Government thanked Mr. Jamshedji officially for helping, facilitating and making interesting the work of the Antwerp, International Exhibition of 1885-86.

Mr. Jamshedji had also taken a leading part in the Indian and Colonial Exhibition held in London in the year 1886, the opening ceremony of which was performed by Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Whilst going round the stall the Queen was much interested in Indian articles and appreciated the decorative arrangement of the stall for which Mr. Jamshedji was personally congratulated. Her Majesty bought several articles to show her appreciation of Indian goods. Mr. Jamshedji, under special command of H. M. The Queen, was asked to present himself at Windsor Castle on his return from Brussels with his Indian goods, and was honoured by an invitation to a Banquet at the Palace.

On 9th August 1886, Mr. Jamshedji received a special telegram from Her Majesty to visit her personally and to bring with him exquisite Indian curiosities. There he was well received. As it was too late that day to have the interview with the Queen in the evening he was treated as a guest and stayed in the Palace for the night. The next morning the Indian articles were artistically arranged in the State Room of the Palace. The Queen and the Princesses were much delighted to see the articles and especially to see Mr. Jamshedji in his old Parsi national costume of Pagdi, Jama and Pichhodi. The Queen and the Princesses appreciated the craftsmanship of India and selected several articles.

The firm of Messrs. Bhumgara is well known for exhibiting Indian curios and articles at the various exhibitions of the world. They had the honour to receive many gold and silver medals and a number of diplomas and the patronage of several British and foreign Royalties.

Mr. Jamshedji was Vice-President of the London Parsi Union and a Life Member of the Parsi Association of Europe in which he took a very active part. As one of the oldest residents of London, and the oldest member of the Parsi community, he was of great help to Indian travellers. Most of the Parsis in London have enjoyed the hospitality of his home, " The Surat House," where almost every Sunday the guests did justice to Parsi dinner.

He was also a member of the London Chamber of Commerce. He was initiated into Freemasonry in the " Saint Paul " Lodge, No. 43, whilst on a visit to Birmingham in 1888 ; but after being raised to the degree of Master Mason, he returned to India. In 1895 he became a joining member of the "Empress" Lodge, No. 2581, on the date of its consecration ; was appointed Steward in the following year and had worked up through all the offices until he occupied the

Master's chair. Bro. Bhumgara was also a founder of the "Wandle" Lodge, No. 2699, in 1888, of which he was Senior Warden in the previous year, but wishing to be W. M. of the "Empress" Lodge in the first instance, he stepped aside for the Junior Warden, and doubtless succeeded in that lodge later on. He was also one of the founders of the "Empress" Mark Lodge of which he was then Junior Deacon. He was a member of the "Empress" Lodge, No. 2581, till the end of his life. He enjoyed a good position and was greatly respected in Freemasonry circles.

Mr. Jamshedji stayed in London for about fifty years and came back to Bombay for good in November 1932, where he was not keeping good health and met with a tram-car accident in July 1934. He was treated in Dr. Masina's Hospital, Bombay, where he passed away peacefully on 23rd August 1934, leaving behind him four sons and a daughter.

Mr. Jamshedji by his sagacity, courtesy and zeal had gathered a large circle of friends and had won their affection and confidence. He has made a name for himself, for his family and for the Parsi community throughout Europe and America.



Queen Victoria's Indian Dining Room

Mr. Bhumgara presented the Queen on the occasion of her Jubilee with the set of vases seen on the mantel-piece to the right of the illustration of Her Majesty's Indian dining room, for the decoration of which he also provided some of the most beautiful draperies.

Mr. Pallonji Dadabhoy Chowna, A.M.I.E.E.

(1863—1934)

Founder: DREWET CHOWNA & CO.



The firm of Drewet Chowna & Co. was founded in 1885 by the late Mr. Pallonji D. Chowna, A.M.I.E.E., who was the managing partner of the firm till his death at the age of 71, on the 28th June 1934. The late Mr. Chowna, after passing his first class Mechanical Engineering examination, worked for some time as a Consulting Engineer, and later, in 1885, founded the above firm, in partnership with the late Mr. Drewet (Junior). Mr. Chowna continued with the firm after the death of his partner, till 1912, when he took his two sons in partnership with him.

The firm specialises in Hydraulic Cotton Press Machinery, Steam Engines and Boilers, and oil Engines. The firm has held the sole agency of the well-known Glasgow firm of Duncan Stewart & Co., Ltd., for over 35 years, besides the agencies of other firms. All the partners have been to Europe several times for the betterment of their business. The firm is at present managed by Mr. Dadabhoy P. Chowna, Mechanical Engineer, and Mr. Cawasji P. Chowna, B.A., Electrical Engineer, a student of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.



Jamsetjee Cursetjee Batliboi

(1806—1881)

An old-time merchant of Bombay and broker to several well-known European firms



Framjee Jamsetji Batliboi

(1843—1926)

"Good Old Framjee"

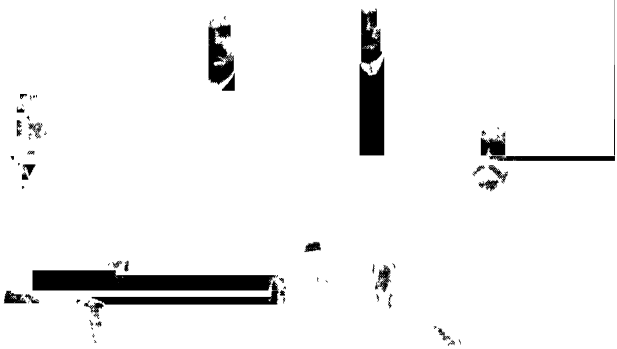
Mr. Jamsetjee was the founder of the well-known Batliboi family. He commenced life as a godown-keeper and by dint of sheer labour and perseverance, rose to the position of a broker to the well-known firm of Messrs. Edward Bates & Sons, with which he kept up connection for nearly half a century. During the Share Mania (1864—1865) when commercial morality had gone down considerably, he so far gained the confidence of Sir Edward Bates, the head of the firm, that he named one of his ships *The Jamsedjee Batliboi* in his honour and hung a life-size oil-painting of the venerable gentleman in their office at Liverpool and pointed out to his English friends with pride the likeness of one of the few natives that he came across in India.

He had three sons and a daughter, viz., Messrs. Cursetji, Limjibhoy and Framji and Mrs. Maneckbai Furdoonji M. Banaji. Mrs. Maneckbai left several children amongst whom were Miss Piroja, M.A. (1st Parsi lady M.A.), Miss Dhunbai, the well-known lady artist, and Dr. Miss Hilla, a prominent physician.

Mr. Framjee Jamsetji Batliboi (1843—1926), his youngest son, was also connected with the above-mentioned firm, having been in charge of the piecegoods department and known amongst his friends

as the "Good Old Framjee." He was an expert valuer of pearls and diamonds. He was a Director of Messrs. Port Canning Co., Ltd., and took a keen interest in the firm.

Mr. Limjibhoy went to China on behalf of his father and on his return to Bombay in 1851 he took his brother Cursetjee as partner and began to trade in the name of Cursetjee Jamsetjee & Co. In 1859 he became a partner in the firm of Pestonjee Framjee & Co., and again went to China where he remained for 2 years. Prior to his return in 1861 he was presented on 23rd March with a Piece of Plate of the value of Rs. 1,000 by the merchants of China. From 1862 to 1873 he acted as the broker of Messrs. Stanhouse & Co., and in the latter year was made a Justice of the Peace. He also paid a visit to England in the same year. His portrait was subscribed for and was hung at the " Gain Uttajan Mandli " by the members of that Club in appreciation of his services to that institution.



Partners of the Firm of Messrs. Jamsetji Ruttonji & Co.

Importers and Exporters, Bombay

Reading from right to left—

Sitting—Mr. Jamsetji Merwanji Tarachand (died 1923).

Standing—(1) Mr. Ruttonji Framji Batliboi (died 1924).

(2) Mr. Meherwanji Ruttonji Batliboi (born 1888) (the surviving partner).

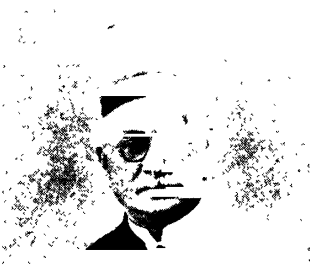
Sitting—A Japanese friend.

This firm which was started in 1885 does business in all kinds of piecegoods, yarn, paper, gold-thread and other sundries. It has connections all over Europe. The surviving partner, Mr. M. R. Batliboi, still carries on the business. It is one of the old outstanding firms enjoying good repute and has a very large clientele.

Mr. Jehangir Framji Batliboi

(Born 1865)

Late Proprietor: Batliboi & Co.



Mr. Jehangir Framji Batliboi was educated at St. Xavier's High School which he left in 1885. He then took to the study of Engineering and was trained in Bombay and in England. On returning to Bombay he worked as a Consulting Engineer and Machinery Merchant having commenced business under the style of Messrs. Batliboi & Co. of which he was the sole proprietor. Mr. Batliboi belongs to a respectable Parsi family and having started his business on a small scale, it showed very good results in a few years' time, his success being due mainly to his perseverance, ability and honest dealings. His integrity secured him the sole agencies of several English Manufacturers whose confidence he fully enjoyed. He is the son-in-law of the eldest son of the late Sir Dinsha M. Petit, the first Baronet, and has a family of three sons and a daughter. He retired in 1920 after a very successful business career. Mr. Batliboi takes a keen interest in the Zoroastrian Physical Culture and Health League, Bombay.



Seth Khodadad Irani and his Wife. The baby is their son Ardeshir whose portrait appears on the opposite page.

Mr. Ardeshir Khodadad Irani

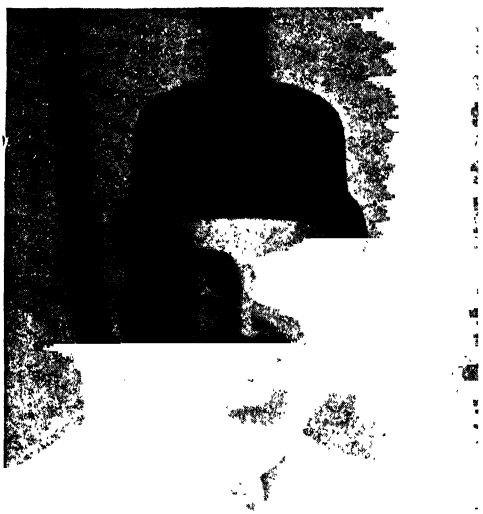
A Well-known Merchant and Prominent Citizen of Poona and a Philanthropic Gentleman



Khan Bahadur Bejonjee Manekjee Hodiwala, J.P.

(Born 1871)

A Prominent Merchant and Landlord



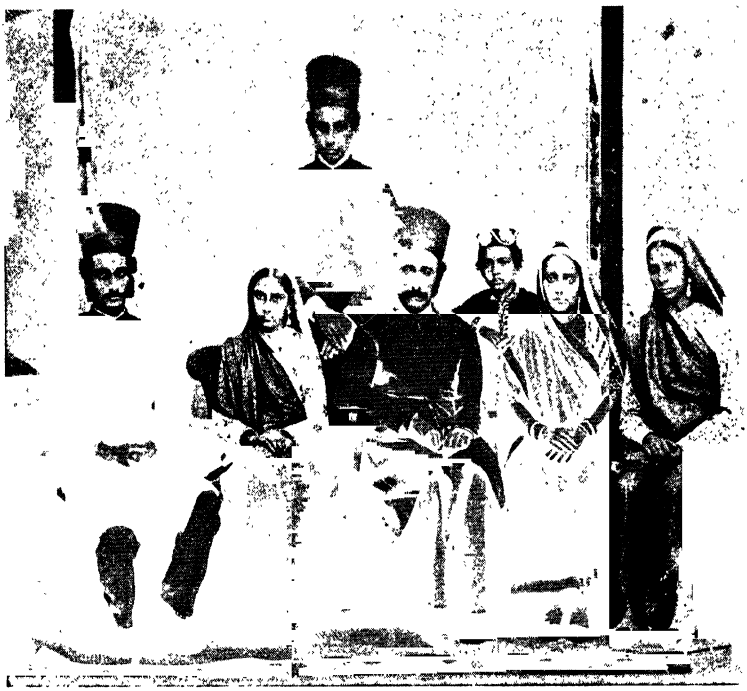
Khan Bahadur Bejonjee is the son of the late Mr. Manekjee Rattanjee Hodiwala and a conspicuous example of a self-made man who has attained his present position by industry and abilities. During the Great War, he assisted Government by collecting large sums of money for War Loans and Government appreciated these services in a Certificate of Merit granted to him. He also helped them in various other ways. He assisted the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, by placing at his disposal his bungalow and garden at Uran for the accommodation of Arab Sheikhs who were kept there as War detenus

under surveillance. He also entertained European and Indian invalid and wounded soldiers at his Uran bungalow and garden and provided them with excursions in the Harbour in special launches. Gifts were also made to the troops by him. When the Liquor Distilleries were at Uran, he was the first to set an example at Government's suggestion by importing special-plant and running his Distillery on modern lines.

Mr. Hodiwala was a Councillor of the Uran Municipality from 1911 to 1920 and its President from 1920 to 1922. He was President of the Bench Magistrates' Court, Uran, from 1917 to 1919; was appointed a Justice of the Peace, Bombay, in 1916, and Honorary Presidency Magistrate in 1925. In 1930 the title of Khan Bahadur was conferred upon him by Government.

Mr. Hodiwala is highly respected in his community and has been known for his salient but catholic charities to deserving institutions in Bombay and in the Districts including the Hospital at Alibag. His generous hospitality is well known. His geniality and good nature have secured for him a large circle of friends in all communities, European and Indian. He has always co-operated with Government authorities and exerted his influence for peace and harmony in times of riots and disturbances.

A Wadia Family Group of about the seventies of the Nineteenth Century



Reading from left to right (sitting) :—(1) Ruttonji Cursetji Wadia (1846—1924); (2) Mrs. Dinbai Burjorji Nanabhoy Daver (1851—1883); (3) Cursetji Nowroji Wadia (1824—1890); (4) Mrs. Motibai Cursetji Wadia (1840—1920); (5) Mrs. Soonabai Kaikhusroo Shavaksha Banaji (1858—).

Standing :—(1) Maneckji Cursetji Wadia (1854—1926) (father of Dosabhoy Wadia of Simplex Mills, Ltd.); (2) Pestonji Cursetji Wadia (1863—1900).

Mr. Cursetji Nowroji Jamsetji Wadia

(1824—1890)

A Successful Head Salesman and a West Scholar



He was one of the sons of the late Master Builder, Mr. Nowroji Jamsetji Wadia, who was in his days the leader of the Parsi community and Chairman of the Panchayat. Mr. Cursetji, a West Scholar, from an early age joined the firm of Messrs. Ewart Latham & Co., as head salesman, but owing to asthma he retired in 1873; his employers, having regard to his meritorious services, granted him a handsome pension of Rs. 4,000 per annum which he enjoyed upto the day of his death. He was a co-sharer in the Inam villages of Irla, Parla and Jhu which were granted by the late East India Company to his grandfather, Mr. Jamsetji Bomanji, for his services to the State.

Dossabhoy Framjee Mama (1797—1854)

A Well-known Merchant



Mr. Dossabhoy was a direct descendant of the famous Dadyseth family, his father being the maternal uncle of the brothers Cursetje and Jehangir Ardesar Dadyseth. The former was known as "Falajee Mama" and hence the family surname.

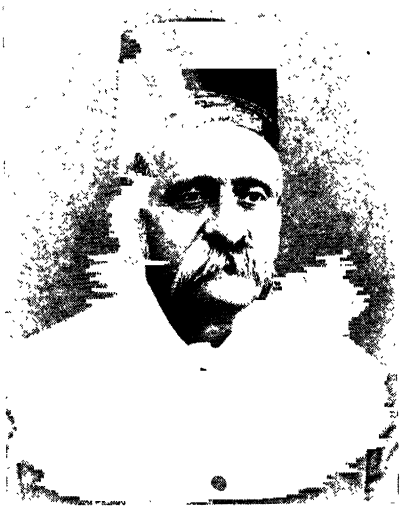
After his father's death Dossabhoy conducted an extensive trade with the Malabar Coast and Muscat with a Hindu partner, Bholarjee Devraj. Thereafter, along with (Sir) Cowasjee Jehangir (1812—1878) he became a Broker (1837—1841) in the firm of Duncan Gibbs, and later on conducted an extensive trade with Ratigar Dolatgar, the *munim* of the famous Marwari merchant, Ravagur Coovergur, and amassed a large fortune.

Mr. Dossabhoy left behind him seven sons and as many daughters. His eldest son, Byramjee, who married Miss Shirinbai Kavasjee Nanabhoy Davar, daughter of the founder of the Mill Industry in India, died in 1927, leaving behind three sons and two daughters, the eldest of them being Khan Bahadur Dr. Jamshed B. Mama, late Director, Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, and the second, Mr. Kavasjee who has been connected with the well-known firm of Messrs. R. Ditmar & Co., Graham's Buildings, Bombay, for the last 30 years.

Nusserwanjee Navroji Bharucha "Icewalla'

(1848—1907)

An Enterprising Business Man of the Deccan

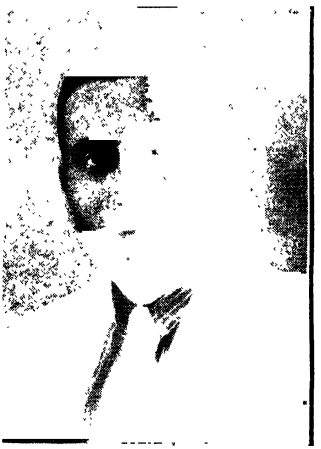


The late Mr. Nusserwanjee Navroji Bharucha "Icewalla," born in 1848 at Poona, was one of the most prominent citizens of Poona living in that period. Endowed with a magnificent mind and an extremely generous nature, he was honoured, respected and loved by all. He held a responsible post in the Engineering Department of the G. I. P. Railway Company for an unbroken period of 40 years and during his regime some important railway lines, stations and junctions were opened. Being a man of good talents and wide culture, he was engaged in manifold social and civic activities of the city. Besides, he was a business magnate in those days. His quick, efficient and resourceful mind was ever at the service of his compeers in business and other fields of activities. He established a flourishing business in Poona and Ahmednagar and other places, which to-day is continued under the able direction of his two daughters Bai Meherbai and Bai Tehmina, who are the proprietors of the Noshirwan Ice Factory.

Mr. Nusserwanjee was also prominent in sports. As a Billiard player he had few equals. He was a great patron of the Turf and at one time owned race-horses which won important trophies in Poona, Bombay and Secunderabad.

He died in November 1907 leaving a large family behind him.

Mr. Dhunjishaw Sorabji Dalal



Mr. Dhunjishaw Sorabji Dalal, the present Manager of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada's Bombay Branch, was born in Colombo on 5th October 1898, and was educated in St. Thomas' College in that city.

He came to Bombay in 1913 and in 1914 joined the staff of the above company as a Junior Assistant, the company at the time being under the joint charge of Sir Phiroze Sethna and Mr. J. A. D. MacBain.

He was promoted Unit Organizer for Bombay City in 1925 and was appointed Manager of the Lucknow Branch in 1929, being further promoted to the managership of the Bombay Branch on Sir Phiroze Sethna's retirement in 1934.

He visited the company's Head Office in Canada and the Administrative Offices in London, in 1932.

Mr. Sorabjee R. Bottlewalla

(1869—1935)

Proprietor: S. R. BOTTLEWALLA & Co.



Mr. Sorabjee R. Bottlewalla, Financier and General Merchant, who started his career as a telephone operator, founded the firm of S. R. Bottlewalla & Co., Bankers and Finance Agents. Mr. Bottlewalla worked as an operator by night and conducted his business by day, and it was through sheer hard work and the practical legal knowledge that he possessed, that his firm was so successful. He was a self-made man, of a cheerful disposition, and led a very simple life.

Sorabjee Eduljee Dubash

A Naval Contractor of Repute



Amongst the old stalwarts of the Parsi community who took to sea and captured the Naval business in the harbour of Bombay, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, were the ancestors of the Dubash family of the firm of Messrs. Sorabjee Pestonjee & Co., Royal Navy Contractors of Bombay, of which Mr. Sorabjee E. Dubash was the pioneer. He established connection with Her Majesty's Royal Navy in the reign of Queen Victoria and since then the firm has had a long and useful record of over seventy years of contracts of service and supplies to H.M.'S. ships in peace and war.

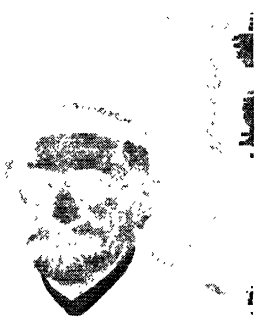
When King George V and Queen Mary visited India in 1911 and also when King Edward VIII, as Prince of Wales, landed in this country in 1921 this old firm had the honour of supplying provisions and stores to Their Majesties' ships.

The contracts of the Dockyard and the Royal Indian Marine were also held by the firm, and later in partnership with others. Besides, other foreign vessels such as American, French, Swiss, German, etc., have also been supplied with provisions, etc., at different times in the Bombay Harbour.

The firm of Messrs. Sorabjee Pestonjee & Co. has been carried on by the grandsons of the late Mr. Sorabjee and the long and cherished connection with His Majesty's Royal Navy has been very creditably maintained by them.

Messrs. Fakirji Rustomji & Sons

Railway Contractors of Repute



SHAVAKSHAW FAKIRJI DHALLA



DADABHOY FAKIRJI DHALLA

Messrs. Fakirji Rustomji & Sons of Carnac Bridge Goods Station, Bombay, have been established over 50 years. They are Contractors to the G. I. P. and B. B. & C .I. Railways and also Clearing Contractors for many Mills and well-known Firms; Handling Contractors of Manganese Ore and other materials. The present proprietors of the firm are Messrs. Shavakshaw Fakirji Dhalla and Dadabhoy Fakirji Dhalla. Their Telegraph Address is "Depmeher."

Sorabjee Rustomjee Subedar (1854—1932)

Dubash and Royal Indian Marine Contractor



His father Rustomjee carried on business as Bumboatman on Royal Naval ships. At the age of 27 Sorabjee went to England on the Troopship *Euphrates*, and there he secured his first Dubash business of the Inch Line Steamship Co. Within a few months he lost his father in 1882. In 1884 he joined Mr. Framjee Burjorjee Chessman and commenced supplying provisions on H.M., ships Canteens. In 1885 he secured the contract for supplying General Mess of Indian Troopships. From 1888 upto the day of his retirement from business in 1916 he secured contracts for the supply of provisions, etc., to Royal Indian Marine ships. In 1897 he joined in partnership with Mr. Sorabjee Eduljee Dubash (of Sorabjee Pestonjee & Co., Naval Contractors) and secured contracts for the supply of miscellaneous marine stores, timber, coal, etc. In 1908 all his brothers and sons were made partners of his business. His was the first and the only Indian firm appointed as Admiraly Tenants to run dry canteens on British Men-of-war. At present his business is being carried on by his sons Rustomjee and Kaikhosru, in the name of S. R. Subedar's Sons.

Mr. Bazenjee Jamshedjee Shroff (Canteenwalla)

(1840—1902) *Army Contractor*



Mr. Bazenjee came to Poona with a British regiment and latterly established himself in Poona. He started Wine and Provision business in the year 1862 in the same building where the firm is carrying on the identical business to-day under the management of his grandson.

He was an approved Army Contractor of repute and had been a Canteen Contractor to no less than 50 units from time to time and was also well known in military circles at Bombay and Poona.

He was also a General Contractor to the Madras and Southern Maratha Railway for a considerable time and had carried out construction and building works on the railways.

He died on 29th October 1902.

Mr. Byramjee Bazenjee Shroff

(1859—1930) *Army Contractor*



Mr. Byramjee was educated in Poona High School and at a very young age joined his father in business. He successfully carried on the business at Poona and Bombay for 50 years, and was well known in military circles in Bombay. He was awarded many testimonials for the help he gave and the work he carried out during the Great War at a personal loss, monetarily as well as in health.

He continually served the Army for over fifty years. In appreciation of his services in general he was highly recommended by his officers for a title, which he gratefully declined.

Sorabji Edalji Wadia

(1836—1894)

A Jaghirdar and a Prominent Merchant, Surat



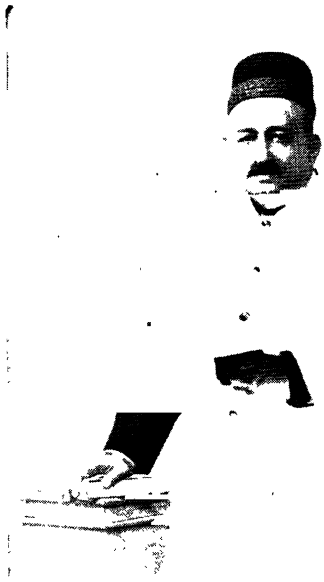


Bai Cooverbai S. E. Wadia

A cousin of the famous Cursetji Furdoonji Parakh, Sorabji was born in Surat in 1836. A jaghirdar and merchant of high repute, he exercised, on account of his connection with the f of Ardeshir Bahadur, great influence in official circles. Throughout his life he a source of strength and consolation to his sister, Bai Dossibai Jehangirshah Behrem khan Sorabji's daughter, Bai Dhunbai Bomanji Wadia, is well known for literary activities and has written the life of Ardeshir Bahadur.

Nasserwanji Rastamji Dubash (Soorty)

(Born 1876)



After serving for a few years in the firm of his uncle, Mr. Framji Cowasji, as General Manager in Bombay, he established his own concern in the name of Nasserwanji & Co., 68, Homji Street, Fort, and undertook, in 1901, the contract for supplies to all the Civil Hospitals under the control of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, as well as Municipal Hospitals and the Jail Department.

During the Great War of 1914-18 his services were availed of by the Government through the late Officer Commanding, Lt.-Col. J. G. Hojel, C.I.E., I.M.S., who was pleased to entrust to his care supplies to the Lady Hardinge War Hospital and the Gerard Freeman Thomas War Hospital. This mission he had the honour of carrying out from the very opening of the hospitals till their closing. Besides, he was selected as one of the suppliers to the Embarkation Supply Office and the Supply and Transport, Bombay.

In recognition of his past services, in 1917 he was selected as contractor for supplies to H.M.I. ships of the Royal Indian Marine, now known as the Royal Indian Navy, in the Bombay harbour, in which post he still continues.

Ervad Behramji Khorshedji Dordi

(1831—1911)

Author and Landing Contractor



Ervad Behramji's ancestor was given a *Jaghir* and title by the Moghul Emperor Jehangir in A.D. 1618. The *Jaghir* and the Emperor's original *Firman* are still in the possession of the Dordi family of Navsari. The late Grand Old Man of India, Dadabhai Naoroji, belonged to this Dordi family. Beginning life as a Priest, the late Ervad Behramji became a Contractor and built the Bela Mill of Surat, etc. For the last 35 years of his life he was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Pestanji Dhanjibhai & Co., Bombay, Landing Contractors to the B. B. & C. I. Railway. He was the author of several books on Parsi questions in which he took a very keen interest. His portrait has been hung in the Hall of the Navsari Atesh Behram for his services to the Bhagarsath Anjuman.

Mr. Jehangir Cowasjee Karaka

(BORN 1878)



Mr. Jehangir Cowasjee Karaka is the Joint Proprietor of Messrs. J. C. Karaka & Co. of 127, Fort Street, Bombay. The son of a well-known member of the Stock Exchange, Mr. Karaka after passing his Matriculation Examination joined the Diamond Mills office and then the Dhun Mills as a clerk under the late Mr. Nusserwanjee Ardesar Wadia, and subsequently became a Salesman in the Royal Dutch Oil Company. Some years later Mr. Karaka joined the firm of Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. and organized the Burma Oil Co.'s business in the Bombay Presidency. He then went to Karachi to assist Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. in their oil business. When he left this firm he joined Messrs. W. & A. Graham & Co., Bombay, who employed him in their Insurance Department. He also handled successfully the Sundries Department of the firm to the entire satisfaction of the management.

In 1916 Mr. Karaka started his own business and during the last 20 years his firm has obtained some very good Agencies, including that of "Deka" Wires and Cables for India, Burma and Ceylon. These wires and cables are used by the leading railways throughout India.

Mr. Karaka is an enterprising member of the Parsi community and we wish him every success in his business.

Mr. Pheroze Sorabji Gazdar

(BORN 1882)

Well-known Cotton Merchant and Social Worker



Mr. Pheroze Gazdar is well known in his community for his social services in various directions and for his zeal to promote physical welfare amongst the rising generation. As such he is the President of 10/12 Boy Scouts Troop Council; Vice-Chairman of the Zoroastrian Physical Culture League's Rifle Club; Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Parsi League of Honour; Managing Trustee of the Cotton Labourers' Fund; Trustee of the Zoroastrian Brotherhood; Patron of the Bombay Jashan Committee: Member of the Managing Committee of the Zoroastrian Association; Dhynan Prasarak Mandli and many other associations. He is the pioneer of running excursion trains in our country and as such has been providing free joy-rides to a number of poor Parsi families every year.

Before the reclamation scheme was completed he used to erect *shamianas* on Avan feast on the sea face for Parsi families to pray in comfort. He has been entertaining hundreds of poor and rich Parsi families every year on Jamshedi Navroz and Pateti holidays and is well known for his unostentatious manner in giving private help to needy persons.

In business he commenced his carrier in the cotton line in 1904. In 1911 he visited Japan and formed partnership with the famous firm of Mitsui Bushan Kaisha in the Cotton Jetha Department of their Bombay branch. Subsequently in 1915 he established his present firm of Bombay Cotton Co., and carried on large business with different centres of India and also with Europe and Japan. Mr. Gazdar is a well-known figure in the cotton trade and is loved and respected by all classes and communities for his integrity and sociable nature. Very often he acts as Surveyor and Arbitrater in disputes amongst cotton merchants.

Framroze Shapoorji Avari (of Navsari)

(Born 1866)

An Expert in Horology



Educated at Navsari High School and having natural tendency towards watch repairing, he studied watch-making thoroughly by getting books on Horology. Came to Bombay in 1906 and joined Marcks & Co., Ltd., as an assistant watch repairer. He soon became an expert in the line and within 10 years he was placed in charge of the watch and clock repairing department in 1917. Europeans as well as Indians, watch and clock repairers, were working under him till 1929. In 1930 he bought Marcks & Co. in partnership with a Hindu friend, and in 1934 he became sole proprietor of the firm and since then has been carrying on the firm in the name of Marcks & Co. at Esplanade Road, opposite Clock Tower, Bombay. It may be added to his credit that he has done repair work of the type which cannot be done in India and elsewhere and those who have sent their watches and clocks of complicated machinery to this firm instead of forwarding them to England and Switzerland were entirely satisfied with the repairs effected under the supervision of Mr. Framroze who, as mentioned above, is one of the best watch and clock repairers in Bombay, if not in the Presidency.

Mr. Dadabhoy Rustomjee Pundole

(1856—1925)

Mr. Nowrojee Dadabhoy Pundole

(Born 1881)

Well-known Dealers in Watches and Clocks





A comparison between the insignificant business of watch-repairing and jewellery founded by Dadabhoy Rustomjee Pundole in 1886 and the fine up-to-date establishment and trading concern of that firm to-day at 369-371, Hornby Road, Fort, gives one an idea of the enterprise and business acumen of this well-known firm. Mr. Dadabhoy, one of whose ancestors, Pestonjee, having been employed at a Brahmin banker's named Pundoljee, was known by the ancestral surname of Pundole. In about the year 1879 he opened a clock-repairing shop at Forbes Street and about six years later went to Europe to make himself proficient in his business. He returned to Bombay in about a year's time and for full four decades carried on his firm with great experience and ability and made his concern one of the best in Bombay.

The concern is now owned by his eldest son Mr. Nowrojee Dadabhoy Pundole, the Sole Proprietor of the firm of Messrs. D. R. Pundole & Sons and Sincera Watch Co., who had joined the firm in 1900. In 1907 he proceeded to Europe to further his studies in horology (watch and clock making) and obtained Diplomas both in England and Switzerland. On his return to Bombay in February 1910 he took over the whole business of the late Messrs. Kanny & Co. and conducted it under the name of Sincera Watch Co. He also opened an office at La Chaux-de-Fonds, the cradle of the watch-making

industry in Switzerland, and this alone is sufficient to account for the superior quality of their stock in trade.

Messrs. D. R. Pundole & Sons are themselves makers of the popular "Beaumont" watches which have been well known for the last half a century. This firm have by their strictly honourable conduct and unswerving devotion to the interests of their vast clientele, secured an honourable position in the commercial world of Bombay.

Mr. Jamshedji Navroji Shroff

Proprietor : ASIAN HOUSE AGENCY



Mr. Jamshedji Navroji Shroff, present proprietor of the Asian House Agency, was born and educated in Bombay. He began his career in 1900 at the office of Messrs. Jehangir B. Petit & Co. as Ledger-keeper and General Clerk. Later he joined Messrs. James Finlay & Co. as Book-keeper and thereafter served Messrs. H. Blascheck & Co. as Head Cashier.

In 1916 he started his own business, and is still the sole proprietor of the Asian House Agency. He incorporates with his House Agency Business that of Estate and Finance Agent, and General Contractor and Painter. From the beginning, his business has been patronised by the Government of Bombay and by several Ruling Chiefs of India.

Rustomji Nowroji Bapasola

(Born 1890)



Mr. Rustomji Nowroji Bapasola of 62, Forbes Street, Fort, Bombay, the Manufacturers' Representative, started his own business concern in 1909 and obtained very great success in various commercial activities as important Importer and Exporter in different trades, in machinery, hardware, electrical, chemical, pharmaceutical lines, textile stores, mill gin, railway stores, carrying on business as contractors, store suppliers and commission agents, to which the department of Insurance was started in 1909 for Life, Fire, Accident, Marine, Fidelity, etc. He also started the Advertising and Publicity Bureau which is still working and obtained very great success. Mr. Bapasola also conducted the British and Foreign Trade Advising and Information Bureau with the object of giving free advice and information to merchants and trading classes in India free of all charges.

Indian Commercial Intelligence Business Organizing and Industrial Development Bureau was also started by Mr. Bapasola in the year 1914 purely with the object of increasing Indian economy by giving useful information after obtaining condensed and classified records of facts from the various departments, offices, etc. This office is also giving free advice during particular hours.

Mr. Bapasola is conducting the Medicine and Drug Advising Bureau which was established in 1909 with the object of giving information free of all charges to important medical practitioners and chemists regarding the genuineness of the important drugs and medicines. Any new changes in the medical science when received by

Mr. Bapasola is communicated to various doctors and important medical authorities from time to time. Mr. Bapasola distributes this information free of all charges and in the most disinterested manner.

The Bombay Techno-Chemical Science and Research Bureau was started in the year 1909 with the object of making researches on various herbs, drugs and also different types of minerals and a laboratory was also fitted but unfortunately this Bureau could not do any useful work as contemplated. However, serious attempt is being made by Mr. Bapasola to disseminate the information by series of articles.

Mr. Bapasola is in close touch with leading chemists, research students, science colleges throughout India, Europe, America and the United Kingdom and thus he is endeavouring to gather valuable information which he disseminates by way of articles, etc. Mr. Bapasola expects within a few years to make the Bureau a very successful one.

It is the desire of Mr. Bapasola that some right path should be shown to merchants and trading classes as how to increase their efficiency to trade on perfectly sound and reliable basis and also to give advice, information and guidance to young men with a view to increase the economy of India.

Messrs. Hormusji & Sons

(Estr. 1924)

of New Charni Road, Bombay, are direct importers of Chinese, Japanese and Continental Silks. They have risen to their present high position from small beginnings, and now command a very large clientele, amongst Europeans and Indians, whose patronage they gain by their integrity, straightforward dealings and the courtesy they show their customers who place orders with them from all parts of India. Their rates are very reasonable and compare favourably with those of their competitors in the market. The Silk Goods, Jari Embroideries, etc., they deal in are of the very best and it is on account of their unquestionable quality that they have earned a notable reputation all over India.

Mr. Cooverjee Nanabhoy Banajee

(1867—1922)

Mr. Hormusjee Nanabhoy Banajee

(Born 1880)

Reputable Piecegoods Merchants





Mr. Cooverjee belonged to the well-known Banajee family of Bombay. After finishing his school education he entered the piecegoods business in 1892 in partnership with Mr. Kashinath and carried it on successfully till 1908 under the style of Kashinath, Cooverjee & Co. In the latter year the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Cooverjee continued the business under the name of Cooverjee & Co., and through sheer tact, talent and keen business instinct he soon made his firm a flourishing concern.

Mr. Cooverjee was a Trustee of several Agiaris, a God-fearing and a religious-minded man, and though inclined towards orthodoxy, he was never slow to realize the advantages of advanced views. He died in 1922 leaving the management of his firm to his youngest brother Hormusjee (born 1880) to whose ability, energy and keen commercial acumen its subsequent prosperity is largely due. He is also connected with the management of several Agiaris.

Messrs. Cooverjee & Co., who are Cloth and Silk Merchants, have their shop next to Mangaldas Cloth Market, Bombay.

Pestonjee Dadabhoy Karkaria (Dodhikhao)

(1852—1924)

A Popular Merchant of Navsari



Mr. Pestonjee started his Europe Shop and General Merchandise business on a small scale in 1871 and through sheer labour and honest dealings enlarged it on a very grand scale and it is now conducted by his eldest son Naorojee.

Mr. Pestonjee was the pioneer of manufacturing vinegar from sugarcane. He was indeed an enterprising man and along with his brother secured the contract for the cutting of the jungles of Vajpin in the Baroda State, and carried on a large business in all kinds of jungle wood. Mr. Pestonjee was also a Shroff and a money-changer and a licensee of the Postal Department and dealt in kerosene oil. During the Great War (1914-18) the price of kerosene oil was far too high for persons of ordinary income to use it. At that time, at the instance of the Suba Sahib of Navsari (Gaikwad), he sold kerosene oil to the public in general at cheaper rates, so doing yeoman service to the poor and needy in general.

Mr. Framjee Byramjee Vasaigara

(Born 1857)



Mr. Furdoonjee Framjee Vasaigara

(Born 1885)





Mr. Behram Furdoonjee Vasaigara

(Born 1915)

Partners: Messrs. Framjee & Son

Well-known Firm in the Bombay Drug Market

Mr. Framjee B. Vasaigara is a living instance of a self-made man who by his personal effort, perseverance and patience distinguished himself in his business career. He began life by working under two Parsi firms for a few years but soon established his own firm in the name of Messrs. Framjee & Son in the year 1896. He has been dealing in Patent Medicines, Drugs and Provisions as a representative to several well-known foreign manufacturers.

He is the oldest living person in the Bombay Drug Market which celebrated his Golden Jubilee in the year 1929, and presented him with a silver casket in appreciation of his long connection with and keen interest in the mercantile line.

He has recently retired from business after 58 years of service and the firm is now working under the direction of his only son Furdoonjee and his grandson Behram. Mr. Furdoonjee joined his father in the year 1904 at the early age of 18 and showed an aptitude for this line. He worked persistently and unselfishly throughout, maintaining the interest of everybody, and overcame the many difficulties that surrounded him especially during war time.

Both father and son have won high esteem and respect from their dealers in the market. Mr. Behram, the eldest son of Mr. Furdoonjee, joined his father after graduating in Arts from St. Xavier's College in 1937. He is a promising young man of 22 with high hopes for the future and a bent for innovations.

(Mr. Framjee died in 1938 while this book was being printed.)



Group taken on the occasion of the opening of Messrs. J. B. Patel & Co's Service Station at Cadell Road, Dadar, 1935.

Mr. Jehangir Bapuji Patel

Proprietor : MESSRS. J. B. PATEL & CO.



Mr. Jehangir Bapuji Patel (Proprietor, Messrs. J. B. Patel & Co., Bombay, Dealers in Petrol, Lubricating Oils, Tyres, Tubes, etc.), commenced business in 1915 at Chowpatty with a Solid Tyre Press and Vulcanizing Equipment. The business having steadily increased and the premises proving inadequate, Mr. Patel established his headquarters in 1921, at 1A, Lamington Road, which is nearer the centre of the motor trade. Three years later, on account of increased business, a branch was opened in Reay Road with a second press to provide facilities for cotton transporters. Since 1924 petrol supply stations have been acquired at both Lamington and Reay Roads with two additional sites in important traffic thoroughfares of the city. Having secured an exceptional position in the motor trade, Mr. Patel can boast of an influential clientele in Bombay and elsewhere and a very large section of the general public look to this firm to fulfil their requirements for all motor accessories.

Mr. B. J. Mistry

(1854—1928)

Founder of the Firm of Messrs. B. J. Mistry, Dealers in Parsi Fentas (Headdress) and Caps



Mr. Burjorji Jeevanji Mistry began his career in 1876 as a dealer in Parsi Fentas at Kalbadevi Road, Bombay. In the beginning it was a very small concern but through zeal and hard work he succeeded in building it up to its present flourishing state which is now carried on by his eldest son, Mr. Jeejeebhoy, who joined his father in the year 1912. This is the oldest and biggest concern in existence to-day in this line in the city of Bombay. The year 1936 was their Diamond Jubilee Year and they can pride themselves that their firm, established over 60 years ago, still enjoys the highest reputation and confidence of their patrons.

This firm is one of the oldest Parsi concerns in existence and is carrying on business at Mistry Building, 491, Kalbadevi Road, Bombay.

Mr. Bomonshaw D. Bomonji Dah (of Bulsar)

(Born 1878)

A Self-made Merchant



Mr. Bomonshaw, Senior Partner of Messrs. Bomonshaw D. Bomonji & Sons, one of the well-known Parsi firms at Balaram Street, Grant Road, Bombay, was in the early days of his life, the poorest of the poor.

After completing his school education he was sent out by the Jamsetji Nusserwanjee Petit Parsi Orphanage to eke out his livelihood.

He worked in many places, first as despatch clerk, then as ledger-keeper, cashier, book-keeper and general assistant. As is natural in persons who are gifted with inborn business tendencies, he felt the clerical line unsuitable for his superior talents and high ambitions. He therefore joined Messrs. Bradford & Co., Tea Merchants as Assistant Manager, afterwards Messrs. L. & F. Barraclough & Co. Ltd., Import and Export Merchants, as Salesman, where he worked with a cool mind, dogged perseverance and inherent courtesy, earning excellent opinions of his masters because of his steady, conscientious hard work and honesty. Side by side he also started a small Tea Business as a side-line, working mostly at night, and by his exemplary zeal and efforts he flourished.

The name of Bomonshaw D. Bomonji & Sons is now a household word for their really wholesome tea They are now Sole Agents for the following well-known Estates in Nilgiris whose teas are universally acknowledged to be superior to those of other makes on account of their excellence in taste, liquor and aroma: Woodbriar Tea Estate, Rob Roy Tea Estate, Carolina Tea Estate, Karamalai K.T. Estate, Prospect Tea Estate.

They are also Agents for Messrs. Gordon and Gotch Ltd., London, for Printing Papers, etc., and Messrs. Usher Walker Ltd., London, for Printing Inks, etc.

In 1901 Mr. Bomonshaw was working in a mill drawing a salary of Rs. 17 8 per mensem. From 1902 to 1907, as a General Clerk he was a useful hand to the firm of Messrs. Max Breslauer & Co. He got started in the realization of his ambition when he entered the firm of Messrs. Bradford & Co., Tea Merchants, and served there from 1907 to 1913. He hardly knew at that time that he would be a bigger merchant than Mr. Bradford himself after a lapse of a decade or two. From 1914 to 1920 he worked as a Salesman for Hardware, Paper, Printing Inks and Sundries in Messrs. L. & F. Barraclough & Co., Ltd.

The turning-point of his ever prospering career came in 1923 when he started a Tea concern of his own quite independent of any monetary assistance from others.

Mr. Bomonshaw is a standing specimen of a man who by his ever assiduous efforts and zeal rose without either monetary aid or alien influence to the pinnacle of a distinguished merchant and whose career furnishes us an example of what industry and experience could achieve if one is patient, laborious and honest.

(*Concluded from next page*)

Phonograph Selling Agents, *Pateti*, Christmas and New Year Cards Manufacturers, Musical Box Dealers, etc. Mr. Hormusjee is a great believer in *Fasli Sal* and has erected a building at Jogeshwari for the celebration of *Fasli Muktads*.

The Parsis are by nature enterprising. We see from this life-sketch how Hormusjee tried his luck in several departments of life until success crowned his efforts. If his brother co-religionists could only emulate this line of action, a new epoch would dawn on the community and the spectre of unemployment now rampant everywhere, would soon vanish.

Hormusjee Nusserwanji Mehta

(Born 1861)

Founder: James & Co. of Kalbadevi, Bombay



Mr. Hormusjee lost his father who had his own firm in Bombay, Calcutta and China when he was only three years old, and was brought up under the care of his mother. He matriculated in 1880 and was employed first as a teacher in a school, then as a clerk and a private tutor, as a Supervisor in a Cotton Mill, and lastly as a correspondent clerk in an Insurance Company. Hormusjee had a natural gift for mercantile pursuits and he bought over the goodwill of James & Co. in 1880 and ably conducted it till 1920 during which period he handled several lines such as Rubber Stamp Manufacturers, Die-Sinkers, Manufacturers of Patent Medicines, Aerated Waters,

(*Continued on previous page*)

Mr. Kekie Hormuz

Proprietor: THE PERSIAN AMERICAN TRADING CO.
SAN FRANCISCO, U.S.A.
Who fought in the American Army and saw Active Service in the Great War

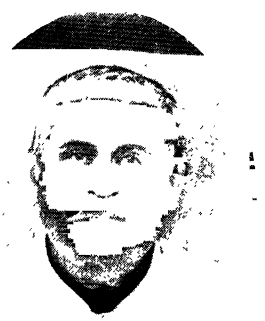


Mr. Kekie Hormuz is a Zoroastrian merchant in America and is the sole proprietor of the firm of The Persian American Trading Co., in San Francisco, California, U.S.A. Mr. Hormuz founded his firm in 1925 and since then has been actively associated with it. Before Mr. Hormuz ventured in his business enterprise, he served the British Government as a storekeeper in the Army Headquarters at Brighton, England, and saw active service at Kantara and Ismalia on the Suez Canal during the Great War. Mr. Hormuz soon gave up his job with the army to start his own export and import business in Milan, Italy, and in this connection he visited New York. His visit to this city proved to be the turning-point of his life and instead of negotiating for business connections, he joined the United States Merchant Marine as a storekeeper. He soon applied to the United States Government for naturalization papers and when America joined the Great War, he immediately enlisted in the United States Machine Gun Battalion No. 140, 28th Division, and saw active service in France at the Battle of Verdun, St. Meheil and Argonne. On the battlefield of Argonne, during heavy fighting, he was gassed and shell-shocked and was immediately sent to the base hospital at Commercy and then to Bordeaux, and after the Armistice was sent to New York. On his return he received Military Honours, the United States Government decorating him with the Overseas and

Good Conduct Service Medals and he also receives a military pension since 1919. Mr. Hormuz was the only Zoroastrian who served in the Great War as a machine-gunner and was also the only Zoroastrian to serve as a cadet in Heavy Artillery in the California National Guard. He has the honour of being a member of the American Legion of Veterans of the World War.

Mr. Kaikobad Cowasjee Shroff

A Coal Merchant of Repute



Mr. Kaikobad was the son of an Engine Driver who being of slender resources and father of a large family his sons had to find their livelihood from an early age. After passing his 7th standard Mr. Kaikobad joined the firm of his uncles, Messrs. Cursetjee Jehangir Khambatta & Co., Coal Merchants, which he left after serving it for about 5 years on account of the death of one of his uncles. Mr. Kaikobad then joined the firm of Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. and after serving it for nearly 15 years, he worked with Messrs. Nanu N. Bharucha & Co., Coal Merchants, with which firm he was connected for some years. Mr. Kaikobad then started his own firm and his present office is situated at Amrut Building, Ballard Estate, Bombay. In 1934 Mr. Shroff's son, Mr. Rustomjee, joined his father's firm.

Dr. Darabshaw Dinshaw Writer, L. M. & S.

(1863—1935)

Founder of a Flourishing Sweet Factory



Dr. Darabshaw Dinshaw Writer, L.M.&S., a graduate of the Bombay University, was Chief Medical Officer to the Assam-Bengal Railway when it was first laid in 1897. He was also family Physician to the late Mr. Bomanji Dinshaw Petit and the Allbless family during the years 1900-1905.

Dr. Writer commenced manufacturing sugar-coated Quinine Tablets under the trade mark of "Tikli Brand" in 1909 on a small scale, and after many set-backs was on the point of closing down, when the World War started in 1914. During the War he established a sweets factory, which flourished considerably. He then succeeded in establishing a big factory at Bhavani Shanker Road, Dadar, Bombay, turning out sweets by tons. He was a very enterprising man and established a Depôt at Calcutta in 1923. He died in 1935, leaving 4 sons and 2 daughters who are now conducting the business.

Mr. Ratanshaw D. Shroff

Proprietor : WESTERN INDIA CONFECTIONERY C(



Manufacturers of High Grade English Confectionery, viz., Fruit-Drops of various flavours and designs, Barley Sugar Sticks, Sugar-coated Comfits, Butter Toffees, Fruit Syrups, and Cordials, etc., etc. Started in 1917 at Byculla Bridge with a capital of 2,000 rupees by Mr. Ratanshaw D. Shroff of Amraoti, East Berar, the sole equipment of the Factory then consisting of a few hand-worked machines and 3 or 4 labourers. A year later he removed to much larger premises at Khetwadi Back Road, where power-driven machinery was employed for the first time. Further development took place and a partnership was formed in 1923 with Mr. Shroff as the Managing Partner, with a capital of over Rs. 30,000. Removed and re-erected in 1925 with additional machinery with a larger capacity of production, exceeding a ton of sweets per day, at the present premises in Lal Chimney Compound (old Sunderdass Mills), Lamington Road (North).

The firm specialises in the manufacture of Boiled Sweets which are sold in bulk to dealers all over the country.

Mr. Kharshedji Framjee Dalal (Born 1877)

Proprietor of the firm of Kharshedji F. Dalal

Well-known Timber Merchant



Mr. Dalal was born and educated at Broach and matriculated in 1895. He joined the Elphinstone College of Bombay in 1896 and took up Avesta and Pehlavi as second language which was recognized for the first time by the Bombay University as a second language in colleges due to the indefatigable zeal and advocacy of the Oriental scholar, the late Mr. K. R. Kama. Mr. Dalal passed his B.A. Examination in 1899 in the second class.

In 1900 Mr. Dalal joined the commercial firm of his uncle, Sardar Khan Bahadur Adarjee M. Dalal, known as Messrs. Adarjee Mancherjee & Co., and represented the Bombay Branch for 16 years, exporting from Bombay to Gujarat, Malabar and Sind ports and to various other places thousands of bags of rice, salt, thousands of tins of kerosene oil, hundreds of chests of opium for the opium contracts of the firm at Broach, Khandesh, Sholapur, Surat and Ahmednagar, and various kinds of sundries. In 1903, with the consent of his uncle, Mr. Dalal began timber trade on his own account, importing various kinds of timber from the Malabar ports, and in 1905 he started, under his own name of Kharshedji F. Dalal, timber trade, dealing in various kinds of teak and other timbers imported from Burma.

During the Great War of 1914-18, teak timber being very scarce and costly, Mr. Dalal imported from Bangkok another timber similar to teak, called "Golden Teakien," and this was much used by Railways and the Military authorities, hundreds of tons being sent to Basra, Egypt, etc.

Mr. Cooverjee Hormusjee Gazdar

(Died 1924)



Mr. Cooverjee was the eldest son of Hormusjee Dorabjee Gazdar who was a well-known merchant and landlord. Mr. Cooverjee after the death of his father, conducted his business in "Tiles" in Bombay under the name of Gazdar & Co.

Mr. Adt Cooverjee Gazdar, the well-known Air Pilot, is the second son of Mr. Cooverjee. He was Chief Instructor of the Bombay Flying Club.

At present he is serving in the Air Force of H. H. The Maharaja of Kashmir as an Air Pilot.



Mr. Nusserwanji Kavasji Patel

Proprietor : ADAR TEA ESTATE, NILGIRIS

and

Mr. Sorab Nusserwanji Patel



MR. N. K. PATEL
(*Born* 1876)



LATE MR. S. N. PATEL
(1913 –1935)

The existence of the tea plant was unknown in India until 1780 when during the regime of Warren Hastings, Governor-General, Colonel Kyd, one of the earliest of Indian botanists, first planted the tea seed in the garden of his house near Calcutta. The land received the seed from China brought by the East India Company's vessels plying between Calcutta and Canton. The Company thereafter determined, at the instance of the British Government, to make some experiments in tea cultivation in India. Under Colonel Kyd's care the plants flourished notwithstanding the unfavourable climate. He reported the results to Sir Joseph Banks who prepared a Memorandum on the subject for the Governor-General, and tea plantation after some years became general in certain parts of India.

There also seems to have been a feeling that an indigenous plant existed in the country but it is not easy to decide definitely who discovered it, on account of conflicting records.

The Adar, one of the finest of tea estates, is situated on the highest and most picturesque peaks of Coonoor in the Nilgiri Hills, at an elevation of 7,000 feet. It covers over a hundred acres, and was first opened in 1925. In 1929 a most up-to-date factory was built, embodying the most modern and hygienic methods of tea manufacture.

Out of thousands of estates owned by European individuals and companies, this is the only Parsi-owned estate, manufacturing tea on a large scale, and exporting it to European markets.

Owing to its enviable position and fully equipped factory, it has been successfully able to enter into competition with the oldest established estates, and disposes of a heavy output of about 10,000 lbs. per month.

The present system of cultivating the tea plant and of making tea is the outcome of many years of experiment and invention, and the story of the last hundred years and more is full of the failures of those on whose experience the present sound structure has been built.

The tea turned out in the Adar Tea Estate is of the highest quality, which has made it highly popular in the Indian markets, and is greatly appreciated for its delicate flavour for which genuine Nilgiri high-grown tea is world-famous. Foreign markets have received it with very gratifying results.

By the recent death of Mr. Sorab N. Patel, the Estate has lost one of its best organizers. He was the life and soul of the Estate and his sad and premature demise has deprived it of one of its best workers who devoted his time whole-heartedly and diligently, day in and day out, for the welfare and prosperity of the concern.



ADAR TEA ESTATE

Mr. Dinshaw P. Printer

(Born 1887)



Mr. Printer started his commercial career as a General Clerk and Salesman in the year 1904 in the firm of Messrs. Holland Bombay Trading Company for a period of seven years and afterwards in August 1911 he joined the firm of Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. as a Chief Canvasser for their Petroleum by-products uptil the end of 1937 and subsequently the charge of the Petroleum Departments of the firm was handed over to Messrs. Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co. of India Ltd. where Mr. Printer is still working as their Chief Canvasser for all Lubricating Oils and other by-products. In the year 1915 Mr. Printer started Import and Export business and specialized in the import of soap, heavy chemicals and other sundry lines under the style of Printer & Co. in partnership with Mr. Dorabji Contractor (Mobedji), and, later on, with Mr. Vazirally Bundeally. Mr. Mobedji and Mr. Vazirally dissolved their partnership when Mr. Printer took

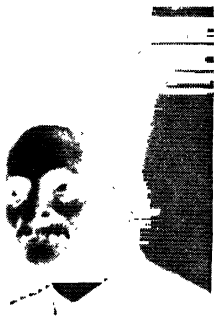
up Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee as a partner in the year 1923 and began to do business on a very large scale under the style of Nadirshaw Printer & Co.

In the year 1924 they took up the agency of Godrej Soaps Co. and continued to do extensive business uptil April 1935 when Mr. Printer gave up the partnership with Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee and the sole charge of the original firm of Nadirshaw Printer & Co. was given to Mr. Nadirshaw Kawasjee who is now the sole Proprietor of the firm of Nadirshaw Printer & Co.

Mr. Printer then started the Indo-Foreign Commercial Corporation which was originally started in 1928 by the old firm of Nadirshaw Printer & Co., and by mutual consent Mr. Printer was given the sole charge of the Indo-Foreign Commercial Corporation in partnership with Mr. Vazirally. He then started another firm under the style of Dinshaw H. Vazirally & Co. in partnership with Mr. H. Vazirally for Indian manufactured products such as Soap, Perfumery, and also for Indian Tea, and all foreign business is done under the style of the Indo-Foreign Commercial Corporation. This firm is highly specializing, even to-day, in toilet and household and washing soaps.

Mr. Jehangir Sorabjee Patel (Born 1876)

Proprietor : Messrs. Patel Nallaseth & Co.



Mr. Jehangir Sorabjee Patel was born in very poor circumstances and was only able to study upto the IVth English Standard in the Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Benevolent Institution. He started his working life in 1887 when he was yet at school, with a capital of Rs. 25, by selling Jubilee Medals manufactured by The Waterbury Watch Co. Subsequently he began dealing in Toys, Perfumery, Hosiery, Millinery, Haberdashery and Stationery, etc., on a small scale, and gradually dealt wholesale in the world-renowned Price's Eau-de-Cologne and also that made by Messrs. Huschke of which commodity he became sole agent in India, Burma and Ceylon from 1895 to 1910 and again in 1921. In 1900 Mr. Patel established his firm under the name of Rustomjee Maneckjee & Co., and a year later opened the Bombay Perfumery Mart which flourished for several years, the firm importing direct from England, France and America.

In 1910 Mr. Patel's eldest son, Khoorshed, joined his father in business, but on account of his unfortunate death in 1918 his second son, Keki, joined the firm, and the famous firm of Patel Limited was then opened in 1919. Their business flourished but Mr. Keki also passed away, which was a great blow to the bereaved father who, however, continued the business.

Mr. Patel, though old, is still trading under the name of Patel Nallaseth & Co., which firm is also running hotels in Matheran, Deolali and Golwad. Mr. Patel is indeed a man of resource, and it is to his credit that from a small capital of Rs. 25 he has built up such a large business which is mainly due to his patience, perseverance and hard work.

Mr. J. C. Godiwala

(BORN 1901)



Mr. Jehangir Cawasji Godiwala was born of a poor respectable Parsi family at Bombay. He started life at the early age of 18 as a Stenographer, and after a successful career as a salesman, Sales Manager and General Manager of two well-known firms of Bombay and Calcutta dealing in Dental and Medical Supplies between 1922 and 1930, he started his own business on a very small scale at Calcutta in the name of J. C. Godiwala & Sons, dealing in Dental and Medical Supplies. The business increased considerably during 1931-33 and the two well-known English and American firms in Calcutta dealing in the same lines were bought by Mr. Godiwala with the goodwill and entire stock-in-trade.

To-day the business is run in the name of the Associated Dental and Medical Supply Co. at 9, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta, and commands one of the largest clientele in India, Burma and Ceylon with Agents at Madras, Rangoon and other important cities in India and Burma.

Mr. Framroze Cowasjee Batliwalla



Mr. Batliwalla is very fond of Agriculture and spends his considerable amount of time and money in its study, and in the purchase of seeds, etc., from overseas.

He owns a large estate in Damaun which is one of the finest in Western India, where he pursues his hobby. Here, among crops of every description, he employs a number of powerful oil-engines to supply the motive-power to the agricultural machinery.

By profession he is the sole selling agent for sugar, for Messrs. Ralli Brothers, a position he has held for the last 35 years.

He is of a very charitable disposition, and is the Managing Trustee of the Batliwalla Fire Temple at Tardeo.

He is the President of the Bombay Presidency Fruit Growers' Association and in that capacity tried to establish business connections

(*Continued on next page*)

Kavasji Bhicaji Pavri

Who Introduced Electric Mortar Mill in Bombay



Mr. Pavri first started the business of calcinating chunam clinkers in the kiln and selling the same in the bazar in 1905, and opened his shop in Ranji Building and started grinding mortar as well as fine grinding (*neru*) in the usual Indian-made *ghani* and selling wholesale and retail to contractors, etc. He also first introduced the Electric Mortar Mill and named and styled the business the "Pavri Mortar Mill." The mill has completed 25 working years. Mr. Pavri is the only Parsi in the business. The Pavri Mortar Mill is patronised by many well-known firms of Engineers and Contractors.

(*Concluded from previous page*)

in England for the sale of Indian mangoes. He visited England for this reason in 1933 and exhibited this Indian fruit at the India House where it was highly appreciated by the English public. Owing to lack of suitable facilities for transport the mission was not as successful as expected, but he is still negotiating with Steamship Companies for the better transport of Indian mangoes.

Born of a once very influential and respectable family, he started his working life at the age of 17 years. He lost his father at the age of seven, and being unable to avail himself of high education was forced to earn a living as a clerk. With his advanced ideas in business he left the service and became an independent Salesman in Iron, Steel and Sugar. He also turned his attention to the seed business and worked for a long time as Muccadam in the Japanese firm of Messrs. Mitsui Bushan Kaisha.

Mr. Nusserwanjee Rustomjee Dalal

(Born 1867)

Proprietor : The Diamond Shoe Co.



Joined the Grant Medical College after passing his Matriculation in 1886, but had to leave on account of ill-health. He then joined the B. B. & C. I. Railway in the Survey Department and gained great experience in Drafting and Surveying when on duty in the Tapti Valley. Later he was appointed Surveyor to the Rutlam-Nagda, Nagda-Bara Railway and Bara-Alighar Railway, and was thereafter appointed to the Engineering Department as P. W. Inspector. As Senior Inspector he was engaged in converting broad-gauge to metre-gauge from Viramgam to Wadhwan and when the Narbadda rose to its highest level in 1906, his services proved of great use. He was P. W. Inspector at Broach when the double lines between Baroda and Broach were being constructed and the remodelling of the Broach, Udvada, Navsari and Bilimora stations took place. He retired in 1926 after a meritorious service of 36 years. After a tour in Europe he started the Diamond Shoe Company at Carnac Road, of which he is the Proprietor. He is also one of the partners in the firm of Ginwalla, Dalal and Company, dealing in Abkari, at Ahmedabad.

Mr. Nasserwanjee Eduljee Punegar

(Born 1863)

Founder: N. E. Punegar & Co.

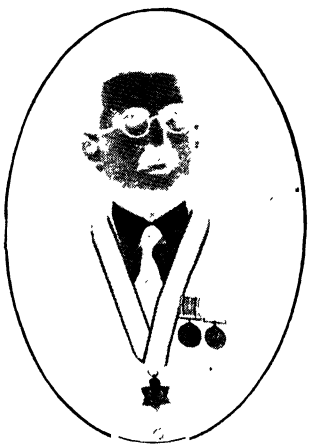
Mill Store Suppliers



Mr. Punegar passed his Matriculation examination at the age of 17 and then went to China for a commercial pursuit. On his return from that country he started his own business of exporting cotton waste and importing American stripping under the name of N. E. Punegar & Co. The firm, under the supervision of Mr. Punegar's eldest son, is still engaged in the mill store line. Old Mr. Punegar is well conversant with the Persian language.

Khan Saheb N. C. Cama **Mr. Khurshedji N. C. Cama**

Founders : THE UNIVERSAL EXPORT AND IMPORT CO.
(Cama & Co.)





Beginning with small Export Continental trade, the Company which was established in 1924, soon extended its activities to Imports of Foreign and Continental goods, especially from England, Holland, Germany, Belgium, China and Japan. The business having been further developed the firm secured agencies for Vegetable Products (Ghee), Mineral Oils, White-Oils, Lubricating Oils, Fish-Oils; from Holland, Belgium and Japan, Beer, Wines, Spirits, etc., Chemicals, Drugs, and Hardware, Cutlery, Toilet and Rubber-goods, Beauty Products, Lacquer Paints and Varnishes, Etc., Etc., Etc.

The Company are Sole Agents to :—

Messrs. Dakin Brothers, Ltd., London, Manufacturing Chemists.

Messrs. Starline Varnish and Enamel Co., Ltd., England (Starline Chinese Lacquer).

Messrs. Henry C. Miner, Ltd., England (Hollywood Beauty Products).

Messrs. Dominion Steel Corporation, Ltd., London (Good-Luck Razor Blades, etc.).

Messrs. Doremans & Co., Holland (for Mineral Oils, etc.).

Messrs. Ray & Clarke, Ltd., London (Perfumes and Druggists Sundry), etc., etc., etc.

Cawasjee E. Bhandara

(BORN 1892)

The Manufacturer of the Famous Indian Medicine "Tharsa"



Mr. Cawasjee E. Bhandara took up service at the early age of 18, as an assistant in a European shop in the Punjab and after serving there for two years returned to Bombay. He then served as Manager in the firm of Messrs. M. A. J. Noble & Co. for five years, later joining the firm of Messrs. F. Ratanshaw & Co. where he also served as Manager for another five years.

About 1920 Mr. Cawasjee came to know about a medicine called. "Tharsa," manufactured by an old Parsi Priest, but at that time, although fairly well known, was not so easily available. Mr. Cawasjee was able to obtain the recipe of this preparation, from the son of the manufacturer, Mr. R. B. Sahiar, by paying handsomely for it; since then it has been manufactured and marketed by Mr. Cawasjee himself.

In the year 1928, Mr. Cawasjee started his own firm in the name of Messrs. M. Cawasjee & Co. at 11 Oak Lane, Bombay, doing business in both Dental Goods and "Tharsa." A Branch Office was later opened at Bangalore in 1932.

This preparation "Tharsa" which has been in existence over 50 years, is to-day being sold in all parts of India. It is a proved cure for Pneumonia and all Rheumatic Pains.

Mr. Jehangir Framji Madon

(1868—1911)

Manufacturer of "Khaki Oil"



Mr. Jehangir Framji Madon was the youngest son of Mr. Framji Madon and the brother of the Calcutta merchant, Mr. Jamsedji Framji Madon. Mr. Jehangir from a very young age took to the stage in Calcutta along with his brother Mr. Jamsedji. Not finding this line to his liking he came down to Bombay and opened a Dispensary for indigenous as well as English medicines. One day through his good fortune he came in contact with a very religious and saintly *sadhu* named Khaki Shah. This *sadhu* gave him many recipes of his efficacious remedies for various diseases. Out of these he continued to deal in what is named as "Khaki Oil" till the end of his life. This "Khaki Oil" is a most effective cure for Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Sciatica, &c., and is also very efficacious in the early stages of Paralysis. This remedy became very popular not only in Bombay but throughout India. Thereafter Mr. Jehangir opened a Dispensary at Lonavla and his life was cut short at the age of 48 owing to heart failure.

He left behind him three daughters, of whom the eldest, Mrs. Avanbanoo Rustomji Sorabji Katrak (No. 237, Bazar Gate Street, Fort, Bombay) has kept alive her father's memory by continuing to prepare his "Khaki Oil" for the benefit of sufferers.

"Khaki Oil" is a sure remedy for all affections of Cold, Rheumatism, early Paralysis, Pain in the Joints, &c., and can be had from Perry & Co., Madon & Co., and other Chemists.

Jehangir Dhanjishaw Master

(1872—1928)

Proprietor : JEHANGIR M. DESAI Co.

The Leading Washing and Dyeing Concern of Bombay



Mr. Jehangir founded this Washing Company business in 1899, which subsequently became so successful that he had to open two other Branches to cope with the increased work. His untimely death deprived the firm of a very energetic able worker and caused a loss which was hard to replace.

Jamshedjee Bejonjee Sunavala

(1873—1931)



Mr. Jamshedjee succeeded in 1926 to the ownership of the Bombay Ice Manufacturing Co., which is one of the leading Ice factories in Bombay. Now the business is being conducted by his son, Mr. Ardeshir Jamshedji Sunavala.

Mr. Jamshedji Rustomji Noble (1875—1936)

Co-Founder of a Flourishing Aerated Water Factory



Messrs. Noble & Sons are one of the oldest Aerated Water Manufacturers in Bombay, the business being of over 45 years' standing, the founders of which were the late Mr. Jamshedji and his elder brothers Bomanji and Hormusji and his younger brother Edulji. They were born of a very humble family and commenced the business on a very small scale at Girgaum. By dint of hard labour and perseverance it gradually expanded, and in or about 1910 the factory was transferred to Khetwadi Main Road, where it still thrives. The success of the venture was in no small measure due to the ability and foresight of the late Mr. Jamshedji, ably supported by his industrious brothers Hormusji and Edulji.

Mr. Jamshedji was of a very genial disposition, a large-hearted gentleman and a true friend of the poor. He never failed to give his support to any needy person, cause or institution that appealed to him for assistance. He was for years a regular contributor to several charitable institutions to which he gave freely but unostentatiously.

He died in Bombay on 15th of February 1936, leaving a widow, two sons and a daughter. In his death Messrs. Noble & Sons lost an extraordinarily active and painstaking partner.

Always ask for —

KATRAK'S

HIGH CLASS
AERATED
WATERS

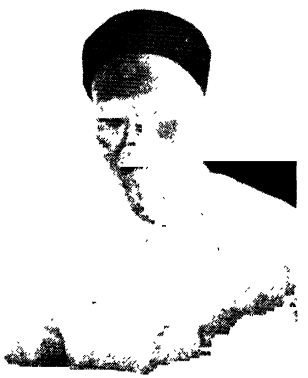
Gaiwadi, Girgaum, BOMBAY.

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Mr. Nusserwanji Jehangirji Katrak

(BORN 1883)

Joint Partner, Katrak & Co., Aerated Waters Manufacturers



Mr. Katrak matriculated from the New High School, Bombay, and joined as a Teacher in the Esplanade High School in 1907 and started the Aerated Water Factory named Katrak & Co., in partnership with Mr. Edalji Bhicaji Panthakey, at Gaiwadi, Girgaum, Bombay. It is one of the leading firms of manufacturers of high class aerated waters and is still going strong.

H. J. Ratanji & Co.

Colour and Chemical Merchants and Dyeing and Bleaching Contractors





C. J. Billimoria **H. J. Billimoria**

Founded by Cawashaw Jivanji Billimoria in partnership with his brother Hormusji Jivanji Billimoria in 1915.

Mr. C. J. Billimoria served in the well-known firm of Dyestuff manufacturers, Messrs. Leopold Cassella & Co. under the late Mr. E. A. Goll for 9 years, where he studied the various methods of dyeing as applied to the Cotton Mill industry in Bombay and the mofussil.

He travelled securing business on behalf of his firm to many parts of India where he opened up Dye Works and introduced Cassella's goods in the Mills and the Bazars.

During the Great War when the firm of Cassella was closed he started business on his own account under the above name and style and has since built up a large trade from a modest beginning in doing Dyeing and Bleaching Contract Works.

The younger brother Mr. Hormasji having studied accountancy took his F.C.R.A. diploma in 1913 and joined the business with his brother from its inception.

He has also travelled round the world in 1934 visiting China, Japan, U.S.A. and Europe, with the dual purpose of sight seeing and gaining a good knowledge of his business. During his tour he visited

the factories of the world's two largest colour and chemical manufacturers, namely I. G. Farbenindustrie Aktiengesellschaft in Frankfurt (Germany) and Imperial Chemical Industries Limited in Manchester (England). The personal visits to these two gigantic works proved to be impressive and instructive.

Messrs. Billimoria Brothers come of a middle class family and are of sober habits with religious, charitable and orthodox trend of mind and are honest and straightforward in their dealings.

This firm enjoys a good reputation in the Dyestuff trade in Bombay and the mofussil as well-known Dyeing and Bleaching Contractors.

Address :—114, Cawasji Patel Street, Fort, Bombay 1.
Telegrams :—" COALTAR."
Telephone Nos : Office :—24821. Private :—40421-40648.

The Regal Electric Co.

Proprietor : DARABSHAW S. BHARUCHA



Mr. Bharucha, on completing his education, joined the Empress Iron and Brass Works, Bombay, as an apprentice mechanic, and later the Eastern Electric Light and Power Co., Ltd., as an apprentice wire-man, and passed his Second Class Wireman's Examination held by the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institution and the Government of Bombay and in 1933 passed the 1st Class Examinations of these bodies. He was, for some time, an Electrical Supervisor for Sir Dossabhoy H. Bhiwandiwalla.

In 1933 he founded the registered firm of " The Regal Electric Co."

Mr. Pestonji Nusserwanji Pavri

(1895—1919)

A Well-known Pioneer Caterer

Mr. Pestonji Nusserwanji Pavri who died in 1919 was a well-known caterer and conducted the business started by his father, the late Mr. Nusserwanjee Pestonji Pavri, for nearly 50 years. The business is now being managed by the founder's grandson, Mr. Jalbhoy Pestonji Pavri (born 1895), (of Tapia Building, Grant Road, Bombay) to the entire satisfaction of its clientele. He is a specialist in *Navjot* and Wedding Catering and is patronised by almost all high class families and has been the recipient of many certificates, one of which, received from Sirdar Khan Saheb Dastur Nosirwan Dastur Kaikobad of Poona in April 1935, runs as follows :—

> " As you want to know my opinion about your catering at the *Navjot* of the children of Mr. & Mrs. Jhabux Bawa-Adam I have no hesitation in stating that the food was of the best quality and the management very efficient and that all concerned were quite pleased and satisfied."

Ratanjee Jamshedjee Bhoot

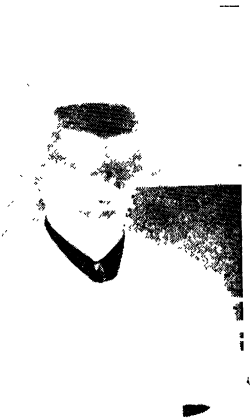
(1868—1916)

and

Kaikhasru Ratanjee Bhoot

Well-known Parsi Caterers Past and Present





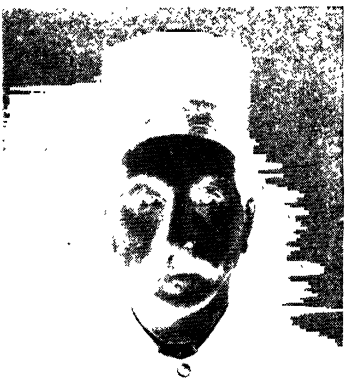
What pluck and enterprise could achieve if a man has the grit in him is manifested by the career of this humble Parsi caterer, Ratanjee. Born in Navsari of poor parents, Ratanjee had to earn his own living and went to Penang on a very meagre salary. On his return to Bombay he got the post of the Manager of the Phœnix Club, a leading Parsi institution. Here he mastered the culinary art and became proficient in his calling. He then took small contracts for catering for *Naojot* and marriage ceremonies, and due to his excellent management and kind nature was liked by all, rich and poor. His reputation in the catering line reached its highest mark when he was entrusted with the catering arrangements for the Delegates of the Indian National Congress held at Surat in 1907. His ability as an organizer of big dinners was fully in evidence at this time and he was awarded certificates and presents by Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and Sir Dinshah Wacha for his excellent management. At the foundation and opening ceremonies of the Tower of Silence at Bulsar in 1906 and 1908 he also showed his organizing powers and resourcefulness.

He died in 1916 and his business is carried on by his sons Kaikhasru and Darabshaw. The handling of the food arrangements made for the camps of the Parsi Battalion in 1924 and 1935 by Mr. Kaikhasro won for him a Government Certificate from Major Hinds.

Mr. Nasserwanjee Barjorjee Pagdiwalla

(Born 1874)

Well-known Turban and Phenta Manufacturer



After leaving school, Mr. Nasserwanjee started the firm of "N. B. Pagdiwalla" which dealt in *Pagdis* and *Phentas* in 1894, and soon became a specialist in the line. His firm is now considered one of the oldest in Bombay. The present address is: Opposite Cama Baug, New Charni Road, Bombay.

Mr. Jamshed M. Fatakia

Finger Print and Handwriting Expert



Mr. Fatakia was born in Bombay and was educated at the Bharda New High School. After leaving school he took up the study of finger-prints and the detection of forgery. He is one of the few Parsis who follow this profession.

He is now practising as a finger-print expert and also gives expert advice as to the genuineness of documents, suspected forgeries of handwritings and signatures, and anonymous letters. Graphology (character reading from handwriting) is his hobby.

Address: MISTRY BUILDING, JERBAI WADIA ROAD, PAREL
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Mr. Homi Nusserwanji Vakharia

Proprietor : THE VAKHARIA ELECTRICAL WORKS

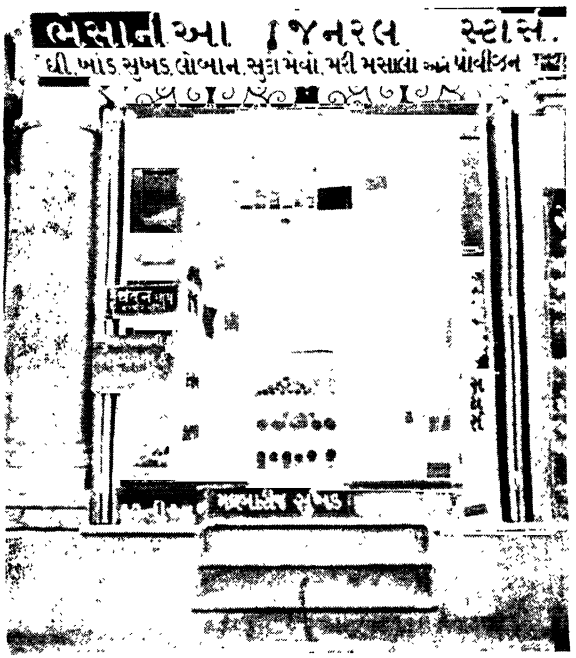


" *Lives of great men all remind us,*
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints on the sands of time."

LONGFELLOW.

This is not the life story of a great man, but a simple narrative of how a man can by his own efforts succeed in life by acknowledging the dignity of labour and putting it into practice. Mr. Vakharia was born in Broach in 1910, but not with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth. He was educated in the Imperial High School of Bombay and passed his Matriculation Examination with distinction in Mathematics from the same school. He passed his Book-keeping course of the National Union of Teachers of London. He then served in various workshops for acquiring varied experience in the diverse electrical and mechanical lines and finally was appointed as a regular apprentice in Messrs. Alcock Ashdown & Co. He obtained a job in an electrical workshop, during which time he studied for his First Class Electrical Course which he passed successfully. Mr. Vakharia then started his own business in partnership, but it proved a complete failure and he started his own independent business under the style of THE VAKHARIA ELECTRICAL WORKS which fortunately proved a complete success, and is now flourishing well and gaining the confidence and patronage of his many clients. Their head office : Russi Mansion, opposite Cumballa Hill P. O., Bombay 6. Branch : Alpaiwalla Building, New Station Road, MAHIM.

Bhesania General Stores



Mr. Perojsha Pestonjee Bhesania (born 1895), Proprietor, Bhesania General Stores, situated opposite the Cama Baug, Bombay, after receiving his education, joined the firm of Mr. Bhikajee Cooverjee Tavadia, Provision and Perfumery Merchants, as a salesman, which post he held for 15 years, gaining great business experience. In 1923 he started his own business on a humble scale, and to-day it is well established due to Mr. Bhesania's hard labour and honest dealings. We wish the Proprietor all success in his venture.

Allwyn Steel Equipment Co., Ltd.

Manufacturers of Cabinets, Safes, Strong-rooms, Strong-room Doors, Safe Deposit Lockers, Cash Boxes, Locks, Shelvings, Hospital Furniture, etc.

THE industry of Steel Furniture Manufacture not being developed in India to the extent that the needs of the country demanded encouraged four Parsee business men, Messrs. Byramji Ardeshir Malegaum, Aspandiar Merwanji Aga, Hirji Ardeshir Malegaum, and Kaikhusroo Hormusji Erani, to commence business with a nominal capital and a few men.

The result of the energy and labour that the originators of the firm have put into the business, is reflected in the fact that to-day it is one of the foremost concerns of its kind. The attainment of the present position of the company has not been an easy task, since they have had to face keen competition from well-established competitors, who not only vied on the strength of their long-standing name, but also reduced their prices to offer a strong opposition.

At the time of the company's conception, it was the aim of the promoters to manufacture only light steel furniture such as cabinets, shelvings, cash boxes, etc., but time and experience proved that this industry could make headway in other directions also, and, consequently, they resolved to produce heavy articles such as safes, strong-rooms, strong-room doors, safe deposit equipment, etc.

This company is well known for the high quality that is maintained and of which they have received practical recognition by Government Offices, Indian States, and well-known commercial and business concerns, so much so that they merited an unsolicited place in the Engineering Supplement of *The Times of India* of October 19, 1905, in which it is recorded, "Notable amongst these is a concern which, though comparatively recently established, has now one of the most up-to-date factories in India..."

Their claim to premiership in the trade is still further vindicated in their enjoying the patronage of such responsible bodies as the Bombay Bullion Exchange, Limited (who, during the recent extension of their Safe Deposit Department, deemed it expedient to entrust the fulfilment of their requirements of safe deposit lockers to Allwyn), National City Bank of New York, Central Bank of India, Ltd., Bombay Government, Home Department, Police Commissioner, Army Headquarters, Government of India, etc.

Also, after the completion of the new Secretariat building at Jodhpur, Allwyns were called upon by the Government of Jodhpur to equip it entirely with their products, to the value of thousands of rupees; the Rajasaheb of Jamkhandi was extremely pleased to have had his new Palace furnished with Allwyns. These are but a few names from their large clientele.

The Allwyn Factory is completely equipped with up-to-date machinery, conducted on the most modern principles of manufacture, and employs only operatives possessing a high degree of efficiency. Immunity against rust is afforded by chemical baths, various mechanical processes, and a final coat of anti-corrosive paint on all equipment. The steel sheets are rolled smooth, and so accurate is the machinery employed that all parts fit to the minutest fraction of an inch, precluding the possibilities of vermin, dust, etc., being admitted. A handsome and durable finish is given by three coats of high quality enamel, sprayed under pressure and oven-baked.

Branches are gradually opened, and agencies formed, all over the country. Extensions of factory are undertaken step by step, on account of the old premises proving inadequate to meet the ever-increasing demands made upon them by the development of their business, which, though steady, is substantial. It should also be noted that the originators of the company are competently in a position to offer suggestions and ideas as to how a particular construction should be furnished, and it would be a pleasure to them if prospective clients avail themselves of this opportunity.

Mr. Darabshaw Byramjee Mistry

Mr. Darabshaw Byramjee Mistry is the Sole Proprietor of Messrs. D. Mistry & Co. Leaving school at an early age in 1915, he joined his father's auctioneering business and successfully managed it. Mr. Darabshaw then started his own business as Selling Agents, Auctioneers, Valuers and Furniture Dealers in 1931 in the name of D. Mistry & Co. at the Elphinstone Circle, Fort, Bombay.

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A K T Restaurant (Regd.), Estd. 1934.
Perry & Co. (Regd.), (Provisions 1919, Chemists 1925.)
A I Toy Mart.
A I Sweet Meat Mart.

Messrs. Perry & Co. are direct importers of all kinds of Oilman and Provision Stores, Medicines, etc., and one of the leading chemists and oilman store suppliers in Bombay and the Mofussil.

Messrs. Perry & Co. (Regd.), Chemists, are the Sole Agents for many English and other Brands of Medicines, etc.

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and wholesale stockists of

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Also wholesale distributors of well-known

Carson's Milk (English) Drops Chocolates, and other Drops in packets.

Messrs. Perry & Co. (Regd.) are also dealers in high class Dry Fruits imported from the Continent.

Messrs. Perry & Co. (Regd.), Grant Road, Bombay, have risen to their present high position from small beginnings and now command a very large clientele. They have customers amongst both Europeans and Indians whose patronage they have won by their integrity, straightforward dealings and the courtesy they show their clientele who from all parts of India place their orders with this firm. Their rates are very reasonable and compare favourably with those of their competitors in the market. The Medicinal Goods, Oilman Stores, etc., they deal in are of the best and it is on account of their unquestionable quality that they have earned a notable reputation all over India.

Jehangir Brothers of Ahmedabad

The firm of Jehangir Brothers was founded in 1922 by Mr. Jehangir D. Mehta with the co-operation of his cousin, Mr. J. J. Kerawalla, a resident of Ahmedabad. Mr. Jehangir D. Mehta himself got his experience by working for some time with a couple of firms in Bombay and the year 1922 saw him established with a small shop just opposite the railway station in Ahmedabad, under the name and style of Jehangir Bros.

The foremost line to fall into the hands of Mr. Jehangir was that of Messrs. T. Stanes & Co., Ltd., Coimbatore, with their famous " Ensign " Teas and Coffee. Small lots of loose tea were also imported from Calcutta and the Nilgiris and by hard work and strenuous efforts he soon found a way into the tea markets of Kathiawar and Gujerat. With the lapse of a few months he acquired the agency of Polson's Coffee and Butter, and his business soon became firm and steady with another addition of an equally famous line—the renowned Godrej's Toilet Soaps.

Through his straightforward way and clean and honest dealings with his clients Mr. Mehta soon won a worthy reputation amongst the merchants as well as the public. With the increase of trade the firm soon marketed their own packeted teas under the style of " O. K." Teas, and with great patience and personal efforts on the part of Mr. Jehangir himself, " O. K." Tea became a household word in the whole of Gujerat and Kathiawar.

The firm handles many other lines, chief of which are the Steel Products of Messrs. Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co., Ltd., and also deals in medicines, confectionery, etc. The zealous and enthusiastic Mr. Jehangir has recently been interested in the cinema business and has opened, in partnership with other prominent citizens of Ahmedabad, a grand Theatre on the most modern scale, the biggest and best in the whole of Gujerat.

Cyrus Hotel

SLEATER ROAD, GRANT ROAD, BOMBAY

FOR PARSIS ONLY

This hotel, the first to be started in Bombay for Parsis only, was begun on a modest scale at Dhobi Talao in 1903 by two Parsi gentlemen.

In 1904 the present proprietor, Mr. Framji Pestonji Mogul, joined the two founders as a partner.

Before taking to this business Mr. Mogul was the Proprietor and Head Master of a Government Grant-in-aid English School at Nadiad near Ahmedabad, for nearly 20 years. During his educational career he radically revised, expurgated and enlarged the " Standard English-Gujarati Dictionary." This work has earned much praise from many eminent English and Gujarati scholars and the general public, as will be seen from the preface to its first edition, besides receiving kind recognition and patronage from the Government Educational Department, it being recognized for Departmental School Library and Prize-book use.

After the retirement of one of the partners from the hotel business in 1907 and the decease of the other in 1911, Mr. Mogul became the sole proprietor, and was assisted by his sons in the conducting of the business.

During the 32 years of the Hotel's career it has successfully managed 12 marriage celebrations, and several M.A.'s L.M. & S.'s, LL.B.'s, B.Sc.'s, who are at present enjoying brilliant careers in Bombay and elsewhere have remained in this hotel as boarders during the period of their college careers. This hotel also enjoys the popularity of supplying wholesome meals daily on reasonable terms throughout Bombay.

The hotel proprietor humbly appeals to a more generous sympathy and greater kind patronage from his worthy community in view of the fact that his business has to be restricted to the Parsi community because all his life he has firmly clung to the idea of respecting the social and religious susceptibilities of the Zoroastrians, though he is often being offered but does not accept, higher terms by the members of the sister communities.

Mr. Darabshaw N. Cooper

Mr. Darabshaw N. Cooper is the proprietor of Messrs. The Elite Cleaning and Dyeing Company, Causeway House, Causeway, Fort, Bombay 1. After leaving school he joined the Standard Oil Co. of New York as an assistant godown keeper and after receiving fair knowledge of lubricating oil and other petroleum products started his own business of petrol and oil in 1923 at Colaba Causeway under the name of English Cycle and Motor Co.

Side by side with his Petroleum business he started in 1924 the Dry Cleaning business now known as the Elite Cleaning and Dyeing Co. which is conducted on most up-to-date lines, a branch having been opened at Cusrow Baug, Colaba, under the name of Majestic Cleaning and Dyeing Co.

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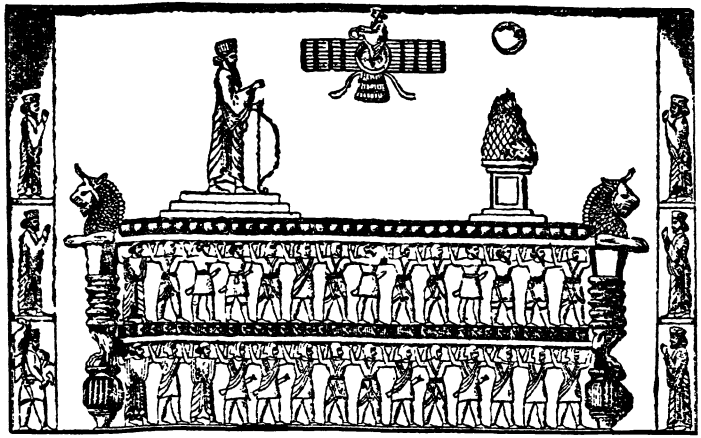
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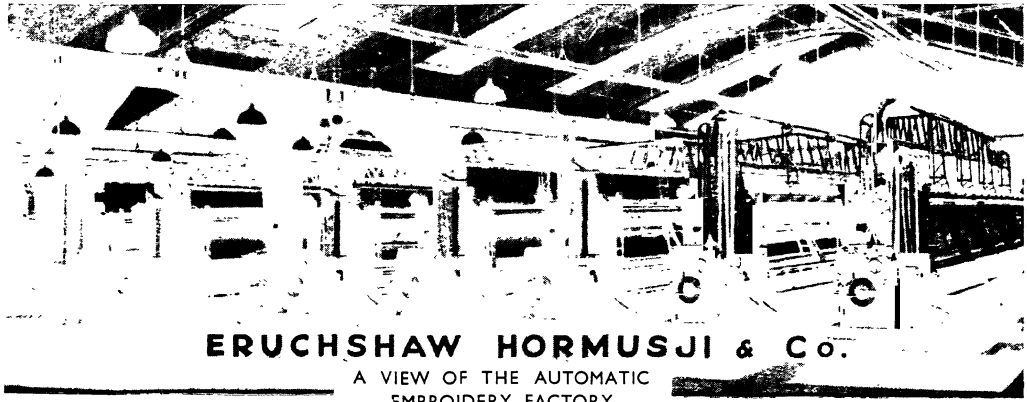
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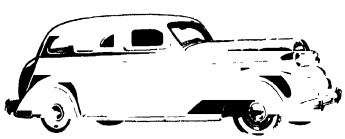
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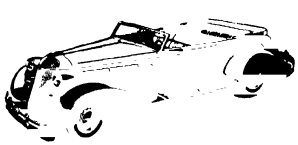
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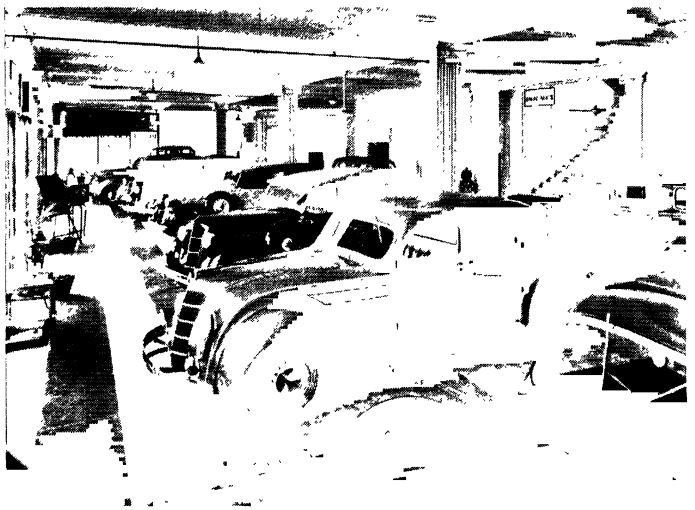
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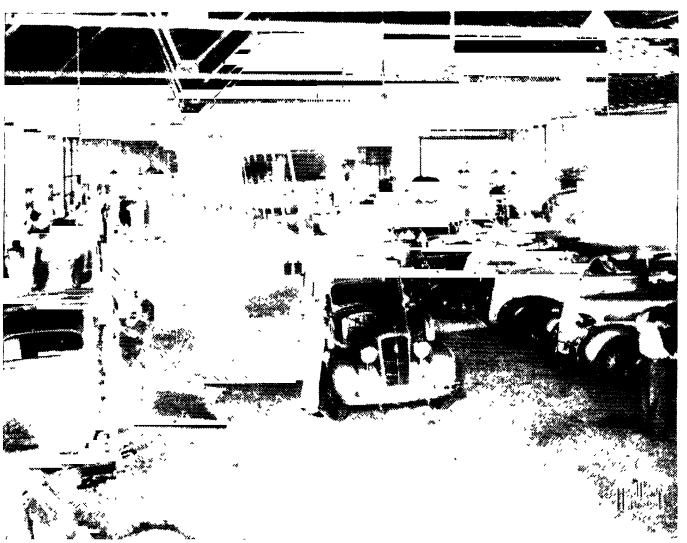
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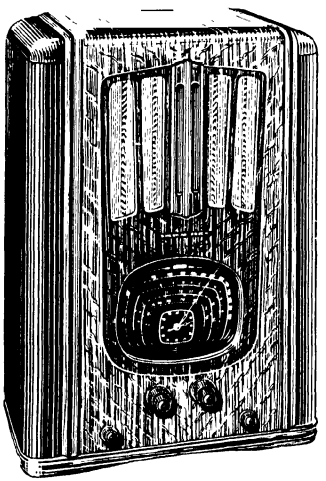
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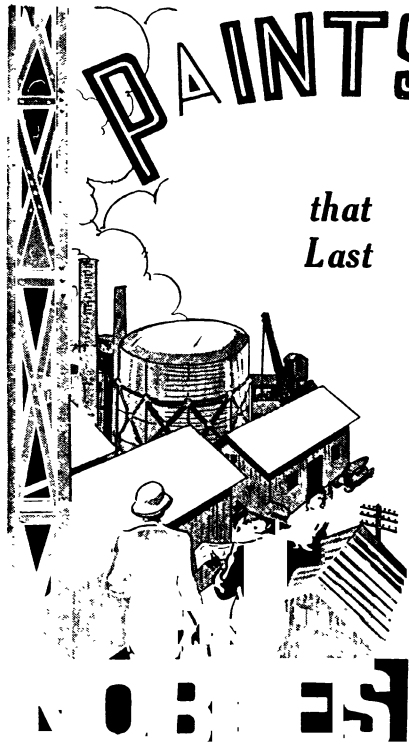
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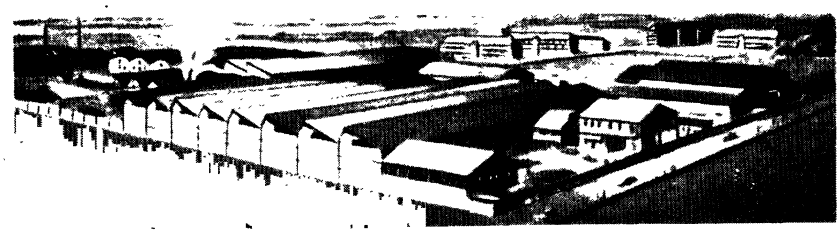
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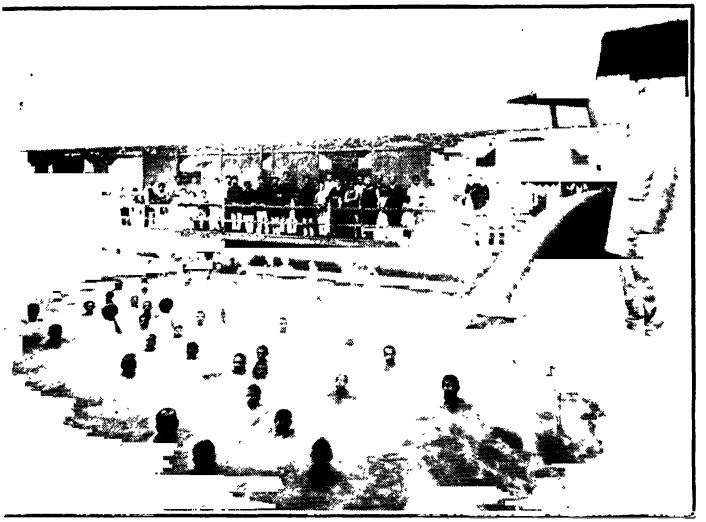
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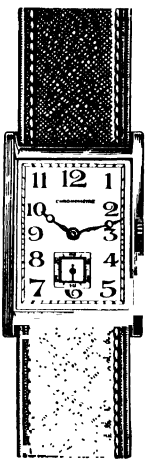
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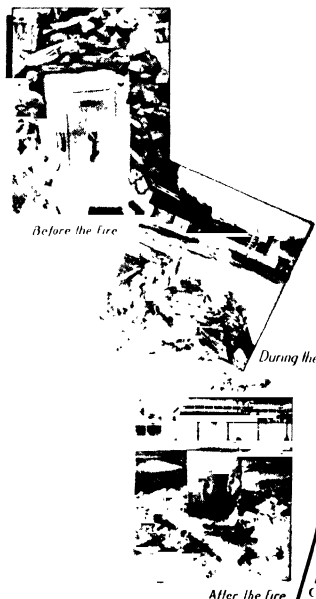
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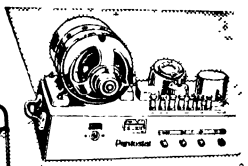
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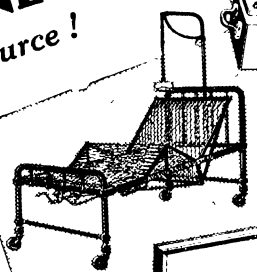
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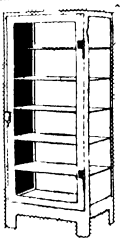
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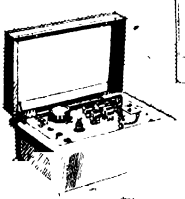
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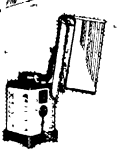


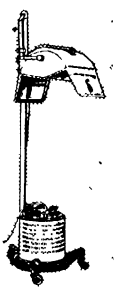


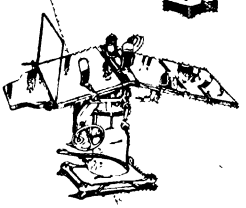












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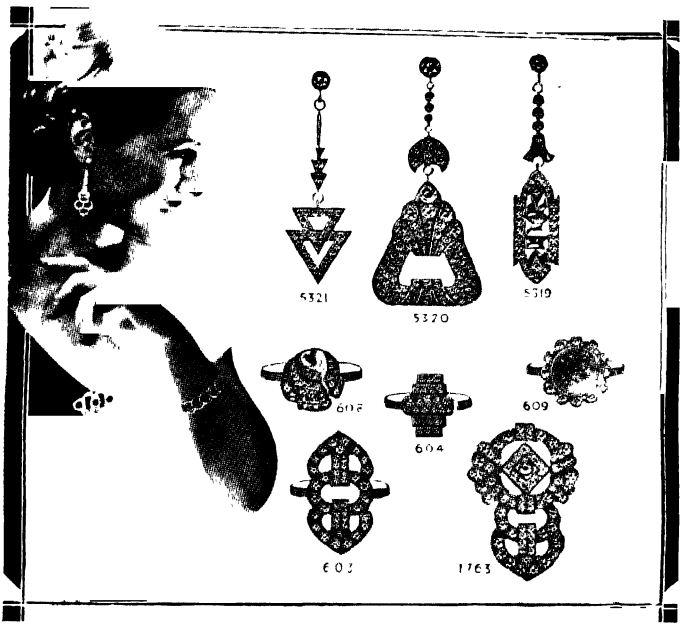
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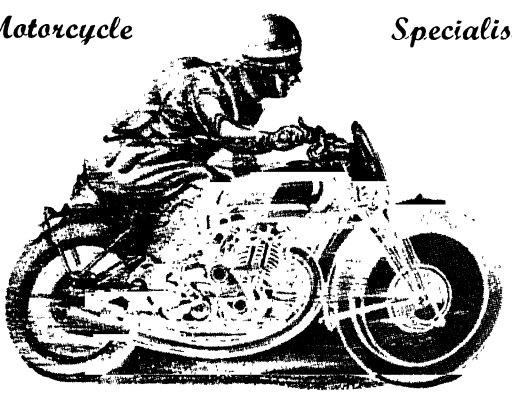
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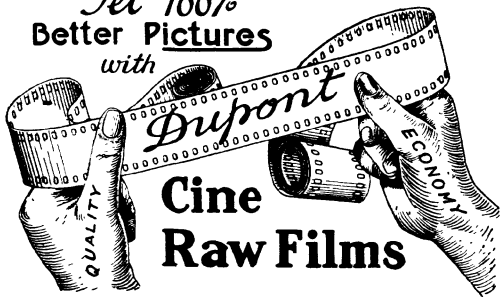
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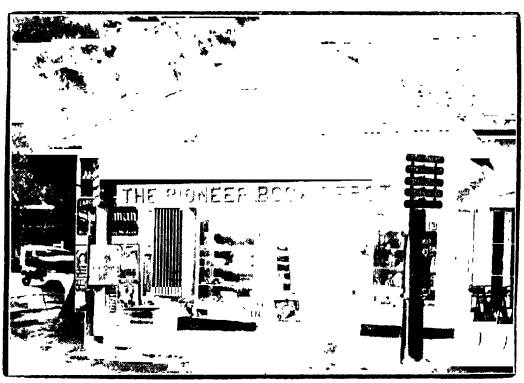
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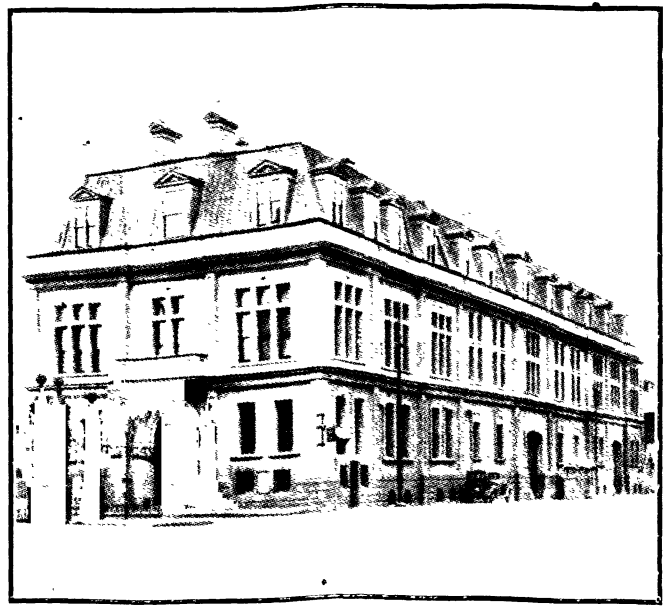
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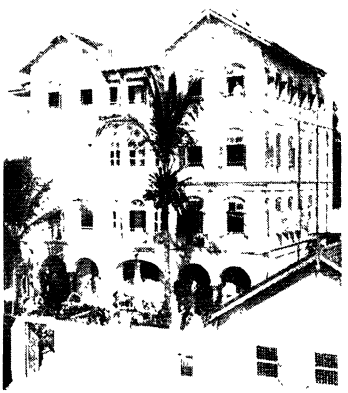
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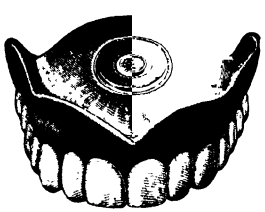
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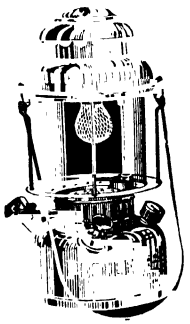
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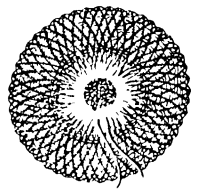
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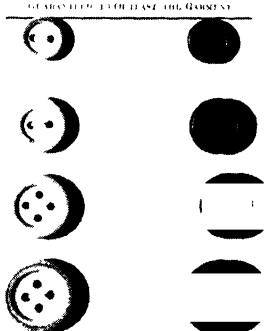
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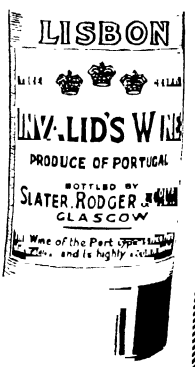
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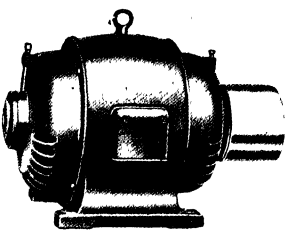
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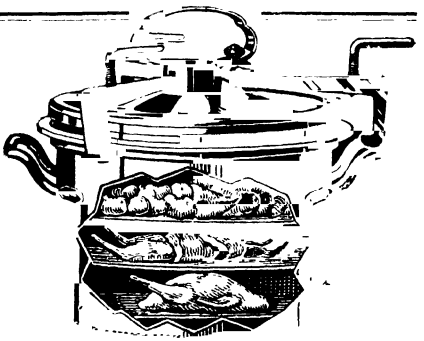
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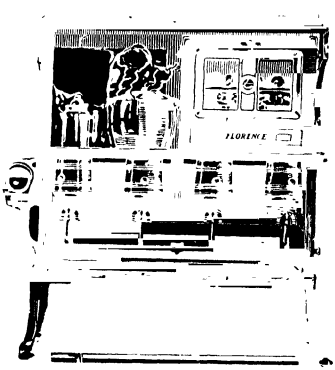
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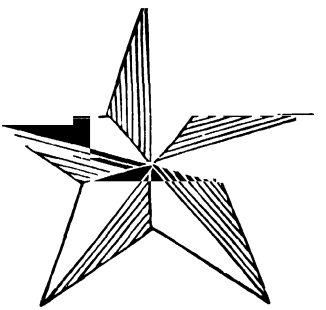
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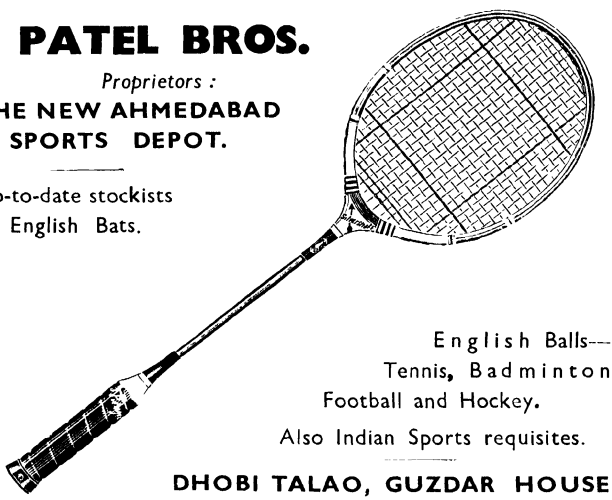
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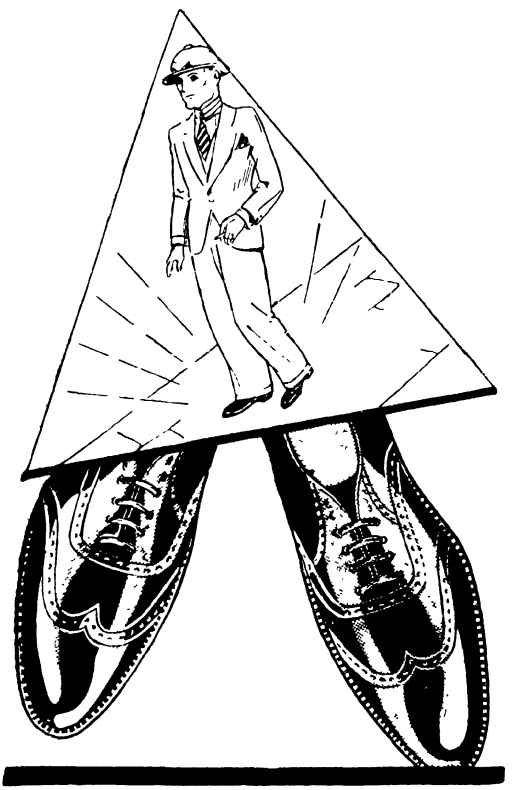
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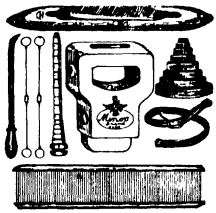
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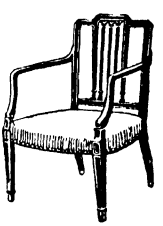
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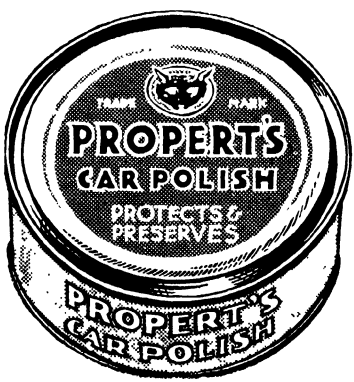


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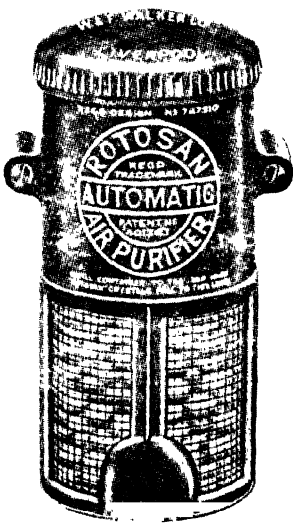
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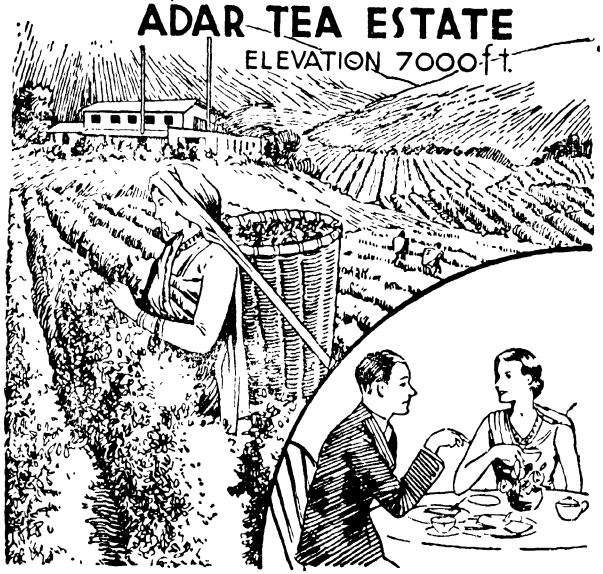
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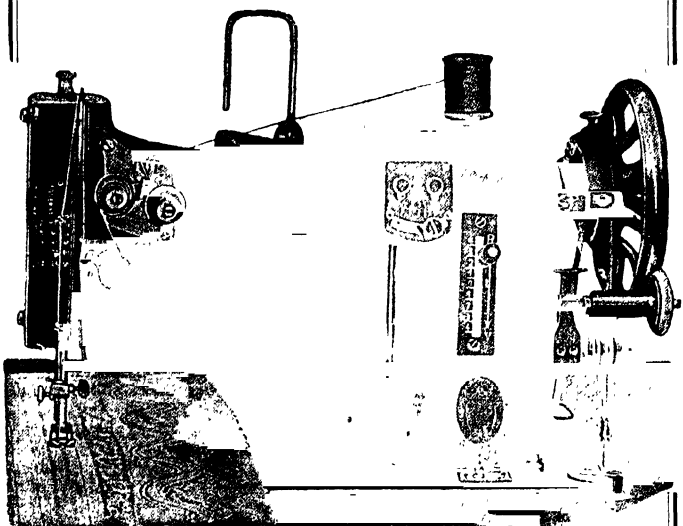
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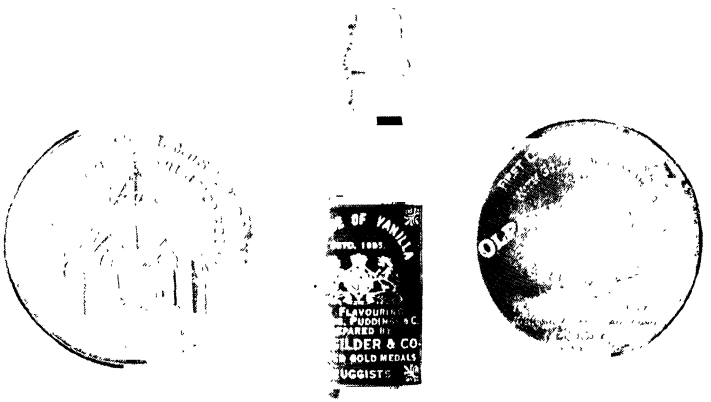
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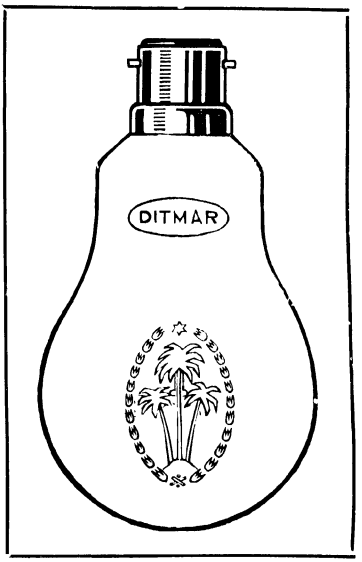
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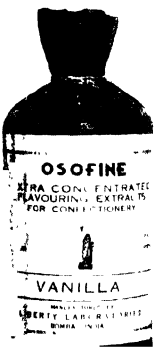
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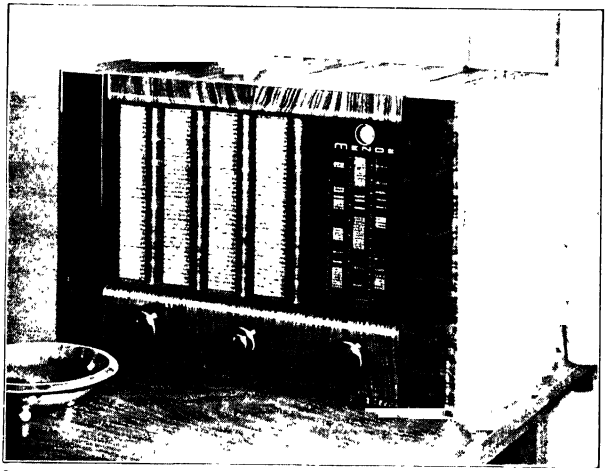
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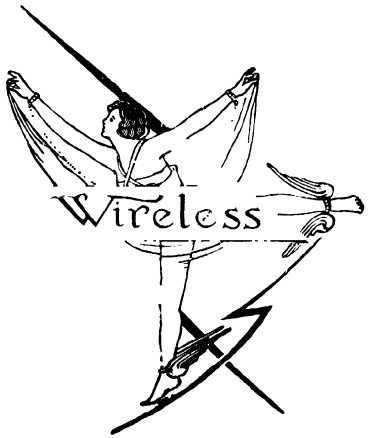
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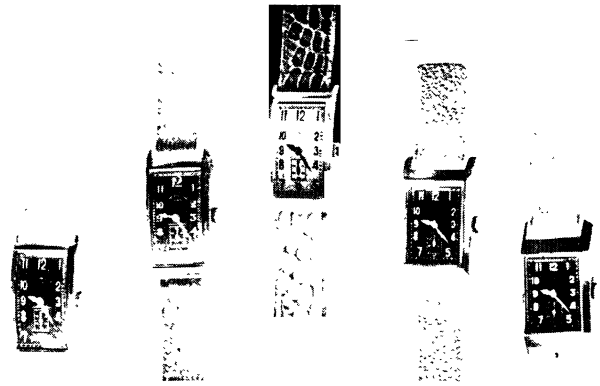
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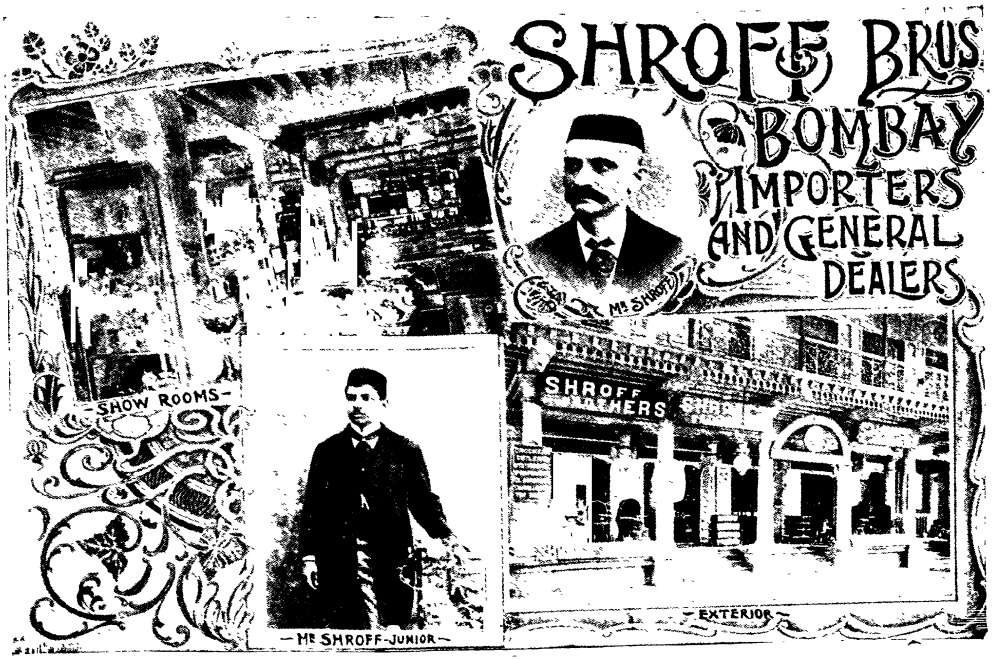
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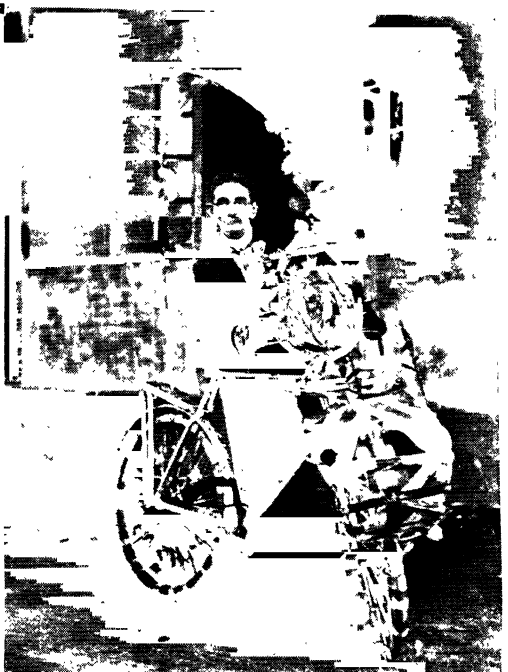
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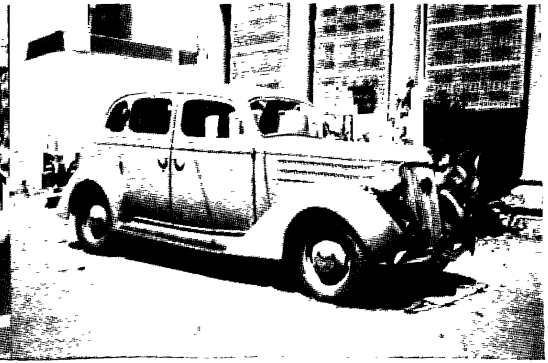
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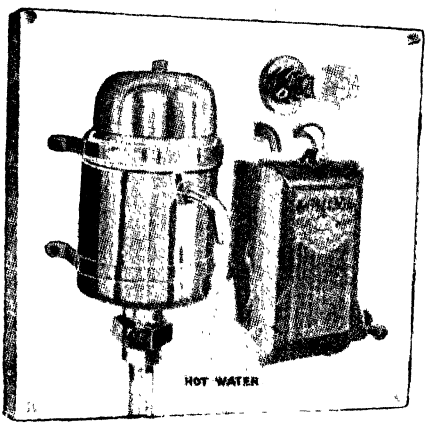
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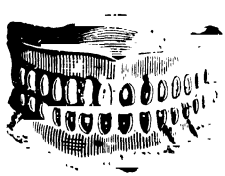
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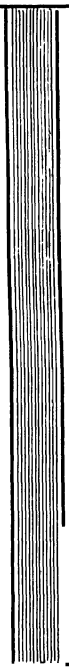
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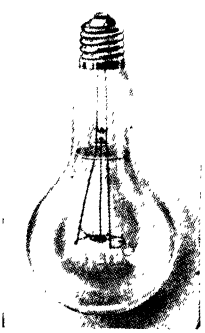
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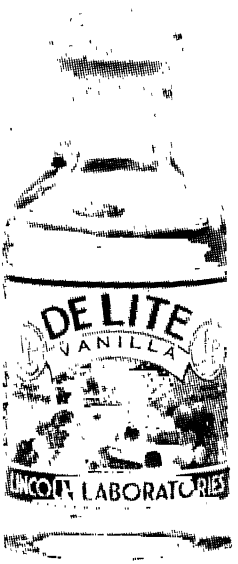
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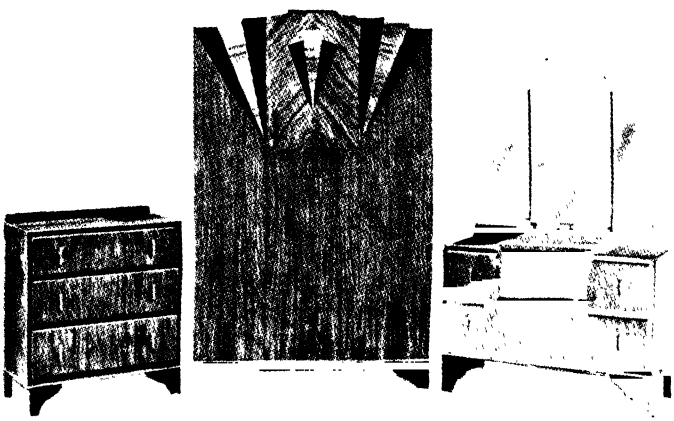
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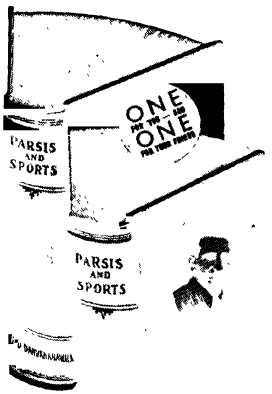
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