

IV

SOME REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS

- 1. Chanjeri Rao**
- 2. K. V. R. Swami**
- 3. Waman Vishnu Phadke**
- 4. Virendra Chattopadhyaya**
- 5. Sardar Singhji Rana**
- 6. Madam Cama**
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- 9. Govind Narayan Potdar**
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- 11. Vishnu Ganesh Pingale**

MR. CHANJERI RAO OF SAVARKAR GROUP

(FROM BOMBAY SECRET ABSTRACTS, 1910, PAGE 167,
PARAGRAPH 299.)

Bombay, January 28th.—The Collector of Customs writes : —

" It will interest you to know that we caught an Extremist this morning who arrived by the S. S. Sidney.

" He had a false bottom to his box with a Browning pistol cartridges and several copies of the Indian War of Independence. Tied to his back underneath his clothes was a pamphlet on bomb making and each of his boots contained a seditious pamphlet.

" The name of the man caught is Rao. He was handed over to the Police and is now being placed before the Chief Presidency Magistrate."

Bombay, January 28th.—The Deputy Commissioner of Police writes :—

" In accordance with instructions I placed the accused Rao before Mr. Dracup, Third Presidency Magistrate, on a charge of having imported into India without a license one Browning pistol and 50 cartridges. I led the evidence of Mr. Lorrimer of the Customs and Inspector Favel and put in as exhibits the box and seditious literature. On this the accused was charged, but pleaded not guilty, saying that he was unaware of the contents of the secret chamber in the trunk. This despite the fact that seditious literature was found on his person as also the receipt acknowledging payment for this very box. I pointed out the gravity of the case to the Magistrate and passed for the severest sentence. The Magistrate sentenced him to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500, in default six months' imprisonment—the maximum he is empowered to give. I took him personally to the Byculla House of Correction and handed him over to the Prison Authorities with instructions to keep him separate with a view to his further examination ".

(EXTRACTS FROM STATEMENT OF CHANJERI RAO.)

I was born in the year 1877 or so in Erode village of the Coimba-tore District. My father was a landlord ; he is dead now. He died in 1903.

I was educated in Erode, Coimbatore, Trichinopoli and South Arcot, I failed to pass the Matriculation. I first joined Government service in 1896 as a 1st class Constable in the Trichinopoli District I was first a jailor in the Tnsein Central Jail under Major Singh, I.M.S., resigned this appointment and took a better appointment as plague inspector under the Rangoon Municipality and this is the appointment I held till I went to England in August, 1909. My pay at that time was Rs. 125 plus 25 house-rent and actual conveyance hire. The idea was to give higher post of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 to those who had passed the English Sanitary Inspectors' examination, and to qualify for this I took six months' leave and went to England. I had some savings, accumulated in my three years' service in Rangoon and I sold some of my wife's jewels and also took a loan of Rs. 1,000 in Rangoon from friends. My wife lived with me in Rangoon. I sent her and my child back to India to my sister's house, Tirupattur, some time before starting for England. At that time I was not a Nationalist. I took no interest in politics and I did not wear *swadeshi* clothes. In Rangoon I joined no political party.

I left Rangoon on the 23rd July 1909 and travelled via Madras to Bombay whence I sailed by the French s.s. *Vilee de la Ciotat* for Marseilles. I went straight through to London. I had no introductions to anyone in England.....

One V. V. S. Aiyar used to come frequently and we always discussed politics. The question of my resigning my appointment came up again. Aiyar and Swami both were against this and said that I could be of much more use to their party if I remained in service. They said I could then play their tactics better for them. A political meeting was held in II, Sutherland Place, which I attended ; the subject was how to import arms into India and how to fight the English. Aiyar, Rajan, Madhavrao and Gyanchandra Varma spoke; only half a dozen attended. I remember one Banner ji, one Ali, whose father is said to have married an Englishwoman; he was living in No. 8, Sinclair Gardens. A second meeting was held in Nitisen Dwarkadas' place, No. 128, Holland Park Avenue. The same subject was discussed, how to fight the English, how to collect arms and money for the same and how to import them. I was asked to speak. I spoke that education of the masses was what was wanted. Nitisen got up and said in Hindustani that I was talking like a madman ; so I sat down. Nitisen spoke how to drive the foreigners out, etc. He is not a very good speaker. One Satyanand Prasad used to attend and speak at these meetings.

At that time Savarkar being unwell was living in some sanatorium. I met him later on.

I do not know whether all this talk led to anything whether arms were sent or not. What one man does is not known to another.....

Savarkar and Aiyar were at that time living together at 11, Upper Addison Gardens. I was taken there by Mr. Madhavrao the day after the second meeting. There I was compelled to take an oath. First I refused, they threatened me. They were particularly anxious that I being a Government man should join, as I could do much work for them. They told me that they had put some man into prison in India as he had refused to do what they told him. They frightened me in this manner and thus I consented. They talked that so many people died in India of famine, plague and cholera that they did not mind if some died in another way. Rajan used this argument. The oath was as follows :—

"In the name of God, in the name of mother Bharat and in the name of my ancestors I (C. R. Rao) convinced that without obtaining the absolute political independence my country cannot obtain the glorious space amongst the Nations of the world and convinced also that political independence cannot be obtained without waging a bloody and relentless war, do solemnly declare that I shall from this moment do everything in my power even at the cost of my life to crown my country with her *swaraj* and solemnly swear that I shall even be faithful and true to this society. If I betray the whole or a part of this oath may I be doomed to death. *Bande Mataram.*"

I took this oath. It was administered to me in the dead of night. It was given me by Aiyar who evidently was one of the leaders and I repeated it after him.

I beg of you not to let it be known to any one that I have told you anything of this oath or in fact given you any information, for I am convinced that I will be tracked down and shot.

I was taken to Aiyar's place by Madhavrao : there were then Chhattopadhaya, Aiyar, Bannerji and one Kunte of Gwalior who is getting money from the Gwalior State. I was taken to a room on the top floor where Aiyar was left along with me and gave me the oath. I had to hold my hands in attitude of prayer and repeat the oath. They vary the oath; if they think its wording has become known to unauthorised persons, they would change it.

I understand that the head of the Society in London was Savarkar and Aiyar. I had to pay a sovereign as a fee. I did so. I came down with Aiyar and after some further talk left for home. All this

happened in the month of December I left England on January 3rd. Savarkar came to our place..... I was introduced to him. He said " Are you Mr. Rao ? " I said " Yes ". He said he was glad as I was in Government service and that was what they wanted. He asked me when I was returning. I told him. I did not see him in London again. Whilst in London I was asked to kill Lord Morley. I refused and told them I was not going to die on the gallows. They told me I must do this or they would kill me. I argued that I would not do such cowardly business. It was one thing to meet a man in duel with pistols or swords and another to kill a man unawares. Aiyar and Madhavrao were instigating me to this deed. Madhavrao first broached the subject. They were mocking me for having gone to see Mr. Arnold and the Secretary, Mrs. White and he said " Why don't you go to see Lord Morley ? He lives somewhere in Hampton. Better see him with your revolver." I had no revolver. Madhavrao has one. It is an automatic one like that one I brought out.

After this Mr. Aiyar gave me a letter addressed to Trimul Acharya in Paris. I do not know what its contents were. They told me I was to take 25 revolvers out with me in a box with false bottom. Aiyar came to me at 11, Sutherland Place, on the very day I left and gave me the letter for Aiyar.

This was the alternative to killing Lord Morley which I had refused to do.

From the talks I had with Aiyar and Madhavrao I am convinced that they intend still to kill Lord Morley and also Lord Curzon. Both were marked down to be killed by Dhingra when he shot Sir Curzon Wylie. I was, of course, not in England at that time, but from what they told me it appears that at that conversazione Lord Curzon was present and that Dhingra's companion said to him " Look there goes Curzon", but Dhingra somehow (was) did not catch sight of him. I do not know who the companion was. Aiyar and Madhavrao were telling me this. In London I also learnt that two Bombay Judges, one a native Mr. Chandavarkar and the other the Judge who sentenced Tilak, were marked down for assassination. No plan is fixed as far as I know, but what I think is that either some one of these will come out for this purpose or they will write to some one here to do this. The following is also marked down for assassination, the Judge who sentenced Chidambaram Pillay.

The idea underlying the whole society is for the present to continue political assassination until the revolution takes place in or about two or three years. The plan was to preach sedition and get the masses infected so that they would follow their leaders. High

Officials, heads of districts and police were to be murdered and this would lead to a general revolution. During the preparatory period arms were to be distributed to all who were willing.

On the 4th January I reached Paris and went to see Trimul Acharya ; with him was living one Govind Amin, a Guzerathi, at 75, Faubourg du Temple. I lived with them there.....

On the 8th in the afternoon we went to Shyamji Krishna Varma's place. We had tea. Rana, Madame Cama and Har Dayal were not there. Almost all the other Indians were. Nitisen was there. Shyamji asked me, Savarkar, Govind and Satyanandprasad to stay there and dine with him. Shyamji was talking that he had promised to send out 100 revolvers to India and that I should not raise objections, but take 25 out with me. I said it was a dangerous task. Govind said it will be packed in such a way that no one will suspect. I agreed. Afterwards I told Savarkar that it was too risky a matter and ultimately agreed to take books and pamphlets and Govind induced me to take the one revolver. In talking Govind mentioned that he was going to bring out revolvers. On the 9th I was taken to Madame Cama's place ; there again I was made to take the same oath, Savarkar and Madame Cama were there, but when I gave the oath in the upper room only Savarkar was present.

We went downstairs again and there were Govind, Trimul Acharya, Satyanandprasad, etc. We had tea. There I met one Varma, fairly tall, thin, wears spectacles, fair, whose initials I do not know. Possibly G. K. He had come to Paris to learn how bombs should be prepared. I gave money for the purchase of the box. The date is the date of the receipt. Govind took me to the shop and it was he who arranged everything. The cost of the box was 25 francs, but we had to pay an additional 5 francs for the alterations.

The box was brought to me by Govind. He told me what the contents under the false bottom were. The box must probably have been packed in Rana's place, as the Mutiny book is stocked there. I was never allowed into the store room of Rana, but Trimul Acharya and Rana's son used to go in and out and were always sending off packages like book post parcel.I was told by Savarkar and others that as soon as I arrived I was to wire to Rana about my safe arrival. I was to study the whole matter as to whether there was anything against them in India or whether if they returned they would be arrested. I was to write letters. They all wanted to return to India in two or three months.....

K. V. R. SWAMI*(An associate of V. D. Savarkar in England.)*(EXTRACT FROM SECRET ABSTRACTS, 1910, C.I.D., BOMBAY,
PARAGRAPH 2014, PAGES 805, 806 AND 807.)*S. B., Bombay, July 19th—**Extracts from the note regarding one K. V. R. Swami, a Madras law student, received from, the D. I. C. :—*

" It will be seen from this account of Swami's doings that he has taken an active part in the revolutionary movement there. His associates are men who have come prominently to notice and are all more or less deeply implicated in the anarchical movement, and that he was known to C. R. Rao.....

" K. V. R. Swami first came to notice in July 1908 when he was reported to be a boarder at the India House, 65, Cromwell Avenue, Highgate, London, the headquarters of the revolutionary party there known as "The Free India Society", where meetings and debates were frequently held to propagate the doctrines of revolt.....

"In October 1908 it was reported that K. V. R. Swami was in a critical state of health and suffering from lung troubles and had gone to a nursing home in the suburbs of London.....

" K. V. R.. Swami's state of health apparently compelled him to give up his attendance at the India House meetings for we do not hear of him until he was mentioned as having been present at a meet-ing of the Indian National Society at Essex Hall, Essex Street, London, on the 23rd January 1909.

" On the 7th March 1909 Swami was again present at the Sunday meeting held at the India House, which was well attended by Nationalists and Extremists.....

" On the following Sunday K. V. R. Swami was again present at the meeting of the Free India Society.".....

" Swami was again noticed at the India House meeting on the 21st arch 1909. V. D. Savarkar spoke on the 'History of the Indian Mutiny and the present need for a similar and much stronger rising.....

" During the next few months K. V. R. Swami's presence at these meetings was not noticed, and it seems that the lung trouble had again compelled him to undergo medical treatment, and he was attending the Brompton Hospital as out-patient. He, however, returned to his old haunts in September and was seen associating with V. V. S. Aiyar.....

"For the next three months Swami's attendance at the meetings of the Free India Society was not noticed probably owing to his absence at some sanatorium, and it was not till the 28th November 1909, at the usual Sunday meeting of the Free India Society, held at 11, Sutherland Place, Bayswater, that he again put in an appearance ; he was again present at the meeting of the 5th December 1909 when V. V. S. Aiyar was the principal speaker

"He again attended the meeting of the 19th and 26th December and the one on the 2nd January 1910.....

" On the 7th January 1910 he was present at a meeting of the Secret Society, the President of which was V. V. S. Aiyar, who lamented the want of funds intended for the purchase of arms, and asked those present to buy the Indian Mutiny Book and thus help this object.

"From 7th January 1910 to the 10th April 1910 Swami attended only one meeting, that of the 21st January 1910, at which the formation and constitution of a secret society was discussed at length, and afterwards, apparently, went to the Isle of Wight where he was undergoing medical treatment at a Sanatorium. The arrest of his friend, V. D. Savarkar, early in March attracted him back to London, and we find that he attended the Bow Street Court on several occasions during the hearing of his case.

" The last meeting Swami is reported to have attended was one held on the 10th April 1910, at 81, Clarendon Road. V. V. S. Aiyar spoke on Terrorism and its Limitations.....

"K. V. R. Swami has thus taken an active part in the Indian agitation in the metropolis, his political career there, however, being marked by long absence which his critical state of health rendered imperative. His associates are men who have all along come prominently to notice in the *role* of active seditionists, and are all more or less deeply implicated in the anarchical movement at home.....

"K. V. R. Swami passed his final law examination, Lincoln's Inn, on the 13th May 1910."

WAMAN VISHNU PHADKE*(A Revolutionary of the London Group.)*(EXTRACT FROM SECRET ABSTRACTS, 1910, C. I. D., BOMBAY
PARAGRAPH 2100, PAGES 840-841.)

Waman Vishnu Phadke is the son of Vishnu Wasudeo Phadke First Class Subordinate Judge, who served at Belgaum for many years and has since retired. He is married to the daughter of Keshavrao Patwardhan, a leading pleader of Ahmednagar, and is brother of R. B. S. V. Patwardhan, late Director of Public Instruction in the Berar. Waman has an eldest brother, Wasudeo, who is, a B.A., and LL.B. and is practising as a pleader at Sholapur. The family belongs to Miraj.

Waman is now about twenty-four years of age and graduated as B.A. from the Deccan College in 1904 and went to England the following year intending to appear for the I.C.S. About June 1908 he wrote to his father saying that he had become a nationalist and did not wish to enter the I.C.S. and would study for the Bar. His father is reported to have replied insisting on his appearing for the I.C.S., adding that if he failed to pass he could then read for the Bar. He eventually sat for this Examination at his father's request, but failed.

W. V. Phadke was first noticed in England on the occasion of the Oxford Union Society Debate on 31st October 1907 at which he spoke fluently on the danger created by Police corruption in India.

His first connection with the India House, 65, Cromwell Avenue, Highgate, London, was in August 1908, when he was reported to be a resident, studying for the Bar.....

His first public appearance was at a meeting held under the auspices of the London Indian Society on the 16th October 1908 in Caxton Hall, Westminster.....

In November of this year Phadke's name appeared in the list of passed candidates in class III (Constitutional Law and Legal History— , Gray's Inn.)

In January 1909 it was reported that Phadke was managing the " India House ", and that it was not in a very flourishing condition. He left the " India House " towards the end of the same month and went to live in a boarding house in the vicinity.

On the 23rd of January he was present at a meeting of the India Nationalist Society, held at Essex Hall, Essex Street, London.....

On 7th February 1909, he was present at the India House meeting, which was well attended by Nationalists and Extremists.

The following Sunday meeting of the India House Society on 14th February 1909, was attended by about twenty-two persons, including Phadke. Savarkar spoke on Nationalism, and with his usual outspokenness advocated free assassination, saying that no practical good would ever come from merely preaching and speaking.

On the 21st March, the India House meeting came off as usual, Savarkar speaking on " The History of the Indian Mutiny and the present need for a similar and much stronger rising." Amongst the other speakers was Phadke who spoke in a similar strain.

About this time Savarkar had in hand the preparation of his Mutiny Book, and it was reported that W. V. Phadke had translated part of the book into English (The Book, or part at least, was originally in Marathi). And later on he is said to have lent his wholehearted assistance to V. D. Savarkar and Aiyar in their propaganda.

W. V. Phadke was called to the Bar on the 8th June 1910; and intends coming out to India this summer.

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VIRENDRA CHATTOPADHYAYA

(CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE : CIRCULAR NO. 2, POLITICAL OF 1913 :
BOMBAY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE FILE NO. 3120/H.)

1. V. Chattopadhyaya, familiarly known as Biren if Binnie, was born at Hyderabad, Nizam's Dominions, in 1880, the eldest son of Dr. Aghorenath Chatterji, D.Sc (Edin.), ex-Principal and Professor of Science of the Nizam's College.

2. Chattopadhyaya passed the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University from St. George's Grammar School. Hyderabad. He is a B.A. of the Calcutta University. He went to England in 1902 to study for the I.C.S. but failed twice. He became a student of the Middle Temple in November 1909.

3. In 1903, he made the acquaintance of an English girl who lived with him as his wife for five years at 78, Lancaster Road, Notting Hill.

In 1908, they went to Shepherd's Bush and opened a confectioner's shop, this proved a failure, and after six months they returned to Notting Hill, going into lodging at 98, Lancaster Road, where they lived as Mr. and Mrs. Chatterton. Soon after this they quarrelled and parted, but Mrs. Chatterton continued to reside at 98, Lancaster Road until Chattopadhyaya left for Paris in 1910.

4. It was towards the end of 1908 that Virendranath Chattopadhyaya came prominently to notice in London.

5. Virendranath Chattopadhyaya's first reported connection with the " India House " was his presence at a meeting held there on the 28th February 1909, which was very well attended by a large number of Indian agitators.

7. On the 6th July 1909, five days after the murder of Sir W. Curzon Wyllie Chattopadhyaya wrote a letter to the Times supporting V. D. Savarkar's objections to the resolution which was passed at a meeting of Indians resident in London expressing indignation at the crime of Dhingra, declaring his inability to assist Government in suppressing murders and prophesying along catalogue of coming assassinations. For the views expressed in this letter he was expelled by the Benchers of the Middle Temple

13. For the next three or four months Chattopadhyaya continued to attend regularly the meetings of the Free India Society. The policy of holding these meetings had been much criticised in private by some members of the extremist party and the future policy of the society was the subject of discussion at two or three meetings. The influence of Chattopadhyaya and others was, however, very considerable and they carried the majority of the extremists with them. When the policy of the society came up for discussion on the 13th February 1910 Chattopadhyaya stated that he believed in murder without rhyme or reason, and he advocated the wholesale assassination of all directly or indirectly responsible for English rule. He saw no reason to stop murders which he believed could alone effect the salvation of the country. Later, however, his views on this matter cooled down and he began to look upon murders as injurious to " the cause ", as the last two assassins had shown signs of demoralisation and he believed that Kanhere's confession had led to the arrest of Chaturbhuj, and Chaturbhuj's confessions to Savarkar's arrest, but he added that he did not deprecate murder altogether.

14. During the hearing of Savarkar's case Chattopadhyaya was seen in Court on many occasions. He also visited Savarkar in Brixton jail fourteen times, and devoted a great deal of his time to arranging for his defence.

15. When V. V. S. Aiyar left for Paris in April 1910, Chattopadhyaya and G. C. Varma were elected unanimously Vice-Presidents of the London Secret Society. Before leaving for Paris, Aiyar handed over to Chattopadhyaya the revolvers which it had originally been intended to send out to India with Chanjeri Rao.....

16. Chattopadhyaya was present at the meetings of the 15th May, 22nd May and 29th May, at which he spoke with his usual fiery eloquence. The society however was becoming seriously alarmed and demoralised by the developments in Savarkar's case, and rumours of treachery amongst the members of the society and of the issue of warrants of arrest had a deciding effect upon Chattopadhyaya. In company with Madhav Rao he left London hurriedly on the 9th June for Paris which became the centre of the Indian revolutionary movement in Europe.

17. In the June number of the Indian Sociologist, it was announced that the services of V. N. Chattopadhyaya had been secured as lecturer in Hindi. The experiment, which was to be on a year's trial, was to be carried out in educational centres such as London, Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh, but Chattopadhyaya was apparently afraid to return to England.

18. Some months before leaving London Chattopadhyaya had started the Talvar (i.e., the sword) a revolutionary paper on the lines of the Bande Matram. The first issue which was dated November 1909, had on the front page a portrait of the assassin Madan Lal Dhingra to keep whose memory green the paper was started. Chattopadhyaya soon found more congenial amusements in Paris and had not the energy to continue the paper long after his arrival there. It came to an end about the middle of 1910.

22: In Paris, Chattopadhyaya resided for a time in a flat at 26, Rue Cadet, and then in the Hotel la Boetie, 92, Rue De La Boeti. He had already quarrelled with Shyamji Krishna Varma, and not long after coming to Paris he fell out with Madam Cama owing to her attempt to exercise too much control. For these reasons he rather dropped out of the revolutionary movement.

24. V. Chattopadhyaya has lately been living a life of ease and is regarded in consequence by the leaders of the movement as for the present rather lost to the revolutionary cause. He is evidently still extremely bitter against the British Government, but there seems to be some justification for Madam Cama's remark that he is " all talk and no work ".

25. At the end of April 1913, Chattopadhyaya and his wife went to Switzerland. He stayed for a considerable time at Geneva, where he was seen frequently in the company of the Punjabi revolutionary Ajit Singh who lives there under the name of Mirza Hassan Khan.

J. C. KHER,
Personal Assistant to the
Director of Criminal Intelligence.

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SIRDAR SINGHJI REVABHAI RANA

[EXTRACT FROM CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE : CIRCULAR No. 3
(POLITICAL), 1914.]

S. R. Rana, who was born about 1878, is a Rajput by caste and comes from the Village Kantharia in the State of Dholka, Kathiawar. He is a Bhayat of the Limbdi State and one of the claimants for the Limbdi Gadi.

He studied for some time at the Elphinstone College and took a B.A., Degree in Bombay in 1898.

After taking his degree he was assisted by the late Kumar Samatshinghji of Palitana, Kathiawar, to proceed to England to continue his studies, and became a Barrister of Gray's Inn. He was in very straitened circumstances, and while he was putting in his terms for being called to the bar he used to work for pearl merchants.

After passing his bar examinations he continued to follow the same profession and went to Paris about the year 1899 to join the firm of Jivanchand and Ootumchand Jhaveri, Pearl merchants of Paris and Surat, for whom he used to work in London. He has been residing in Paris ever since at 46 Rue Blanche. His place of business is 56 Rue Lafayette. He lives with a German woman, who passes as his wife though she was never married to him. He has a legitimate wife in India, and his son by her, born about 1895, lives with him in Paris.

Rana first came to notice as a sympathiser with the anti-British agitation through his connection with the India House in London. When Shyamji Krishna Varma, founder of the India House, announced in his Indian Sociologist for December, 1905, his new scheme for

six lectureships of Rs. 1,000 each, for enabling qualified Indians to visit Europe and other foreign countries, he also published a letter from S. R. Rana of Paris offering three travelling fellowships of Rs. 2,000 each to be called after Rana Pertab Singh, Shivaji and some distinguished Muhammadan ruler.

From the first, therefore, Rana has been an active supporter of Shyamaji Krishna Varma's anti-British schemes.

The firm of Nitisen Dwarkadas & Co., called the Eastern Export and Import Co., which was closely connected with the India House and had the same political objects in view, used to keep in constant touch with Rana in Paris.

Before 1907 Rana, Godrej of Tata Bros., Kotwal of the firm of Shroff & Co., N. V. Acharya, D. C. Varma of Amritsar and Madame Cama, seem to have been the only Indians in Paris who took an active interest in the revolutionary movement.

Rana and his German " wife " accompanied by Madame Cama attended the International Socialist Congress at Stuttgart on 22nd August 1907. Madame Cama was a great friend of Rana and often used to stay with him in Paris.

After Shyamaji Krishna Varma left London for Paris in August 1907 the management of the India House soon passed to U. L. Joshi, assisted by Rana, who frequently visited London and supervised Shyamaji Krishna Varma's political business there as his right-hand man.

On the 10th May 1908 Rana presided at a meeting held at the India House to commemorate the " War of Independence of 1857 ". On this occasion Savarkar extolled the patriotic Nana Saheb Peshwa and the Emperor Bahadur Shah, and all the audience cheered them as martyrs. Rana also read a letter from his friend Madame Cama, who sent Rs. 75 towards the fund to commemorate the martyrs of 1857.

In Paris also Rana was a leading spirit in the revolutionary movement which received great impetus from the advent of Shyamaji Krishna Varma.

In Jan. 1908, Special enquiries regarding Indian revolutionaries in Paris showed that about 20 or 30 Indians had formed an Indo-Parisian society which was virulently anti-British. Rana was

described as one of the most virulent and Krishna Varma was said to have lent him 300,000 fra Rana claimed to be the rightful ruler of Limbdi State, but said that he would not press his claims since he was not willing to be a slave under the British.

In May 1908 information was given to the authorities that Madame Rana was a most dangerous woman and the centre of the Indian conspiracies in Paris. The Morning post in its issues of 22nd December 1908 and 1st January 1909, published articles suggesting that Mrs. Rana (who was not mentioned by name) was the moving spirit among the Indian agitators in Paris, but subsequently the journal was compelled to publish a retraction, which appeared in its issue of the 14th 1909

We next hear of Rana as being present at a meeting in K. L. Banker's house in Paris on 14 September 1908 to receive Lala Lajpat Rai. Lajpat Rai was severely taken to task at this meeting for the moderation of his views. Lajpat Rai and a young Panjabi named Radhakishen Kapoor were Rana's guests in Paris.

On 25th October 1908 Rana was present at a private meeting held in the house of Khemchand, of Banker's firm, to receive B. C. Pal. Madame Cama came specially to Paris for this meeting.

On 18th December 1908 Rana, who was then managing the India House for Shyamaji Krishna Varma, presided at a meeting which was addressed by B. C. Pal at Caxton Hall.

B. C. Pal's main points were that Muhammadans should join the Hindus in the cause of freedom, and that individual sacrifices were necessary to achieve the Nationalist ideals.

In February 1909 Rana was reported to be the life and soul of the revolutionary party in Paris. The greatest pecuniary assistance came from him and everybody relied on him, while Shyamaji Krishna Varma was held to be of small account.

At this time Paris appears to have been the most important centre of the revolutionary movement, specially with regard to the smuggling of arms to India, and rendering pecuniary assistance to agitators in England.....

The twenty revolvers which Chatturbhuj Amin imported into India, one of which was used to murder Mr. Jackson at Nasik, were

bought by two Indians accompanied by Rana in Paris, and were delivered to Rana's address.....

In December 1909 we hear that Rana was on bad terms with Shyamaji Krishna Varma and that the quarrel was due to Rana's " wife". On one occasion this is said to have nearly led to a duel between Rana and Shymaji Krishna Varma. Rana's capital was reported in December 1909 to be only about Rs. 50,000, Shyamaji Krishna Varma having withdrawn all his loans, amounting to about four lakhs of rupees, when the slump in pearls occurred in the previous year.

V. D. Savarkars' book on the Mutiny was published under Rana's supervision and a large number of copies were stored in his house in January 1910.....

Rana acted as banker to the Abhinav Bharat Society. On 23rd August 1910 Madame Cama, V. V. S. Aiyar, and V. Chattopadhyaya as trustees of the society deposited fr. 7,500 with him at 5 per cent. interest.

In February 1911, referring to the decision of the Hague Tribunal in Savarkar's case, Rana wrote to Aiyar, "We were extremely sad, but what can be done now except patience and courage. Poor Savarkar ! But without a sacrifice no country has been free " About the same time he sent to Aiyar at Pondicherry a box which is believed to have contained 320 copies of the war of Independence

On 4th June 1911 Rana, Krishna Varma, Madame Cama and other revolutionaries attended a secret meeting at the house of Anopchand Malupchand Shah at Villa Garches. On the same day Madame Cama and Madhav Rao searched the cellars of the house in Mont Parnasse where the Naoroji sisters used to live, apparently to see if they had left any incriminating papers behind

In October 1911, the Agent to the Governor in Kathiawar, with the approval of the Government of Bombay, issued a notification debarring Rana from succession to the estate of his father or any other relative, and in May 1912 forfeited the estate of his father Revabhai Ratansingh. It was ordered, however, that the forfeiture would not take effect till Revabhai's death.....

In July 1912, Madame Cama deposited fr. 10,000 with Rana on behalf of the Abhinav Bharat Society at 5 per cent. interest. Rana had also in his hands fr. 7,000 belonging either to this Society or to Madame Cama personally. At this time Rana was correcting the proofs of Madame Cama's monthly paper Bande Mataram.

On 27th September 1912, Rana's associate Gobind Amin committed suicide. Rana is reported to have been much distressed by the occurrence. He afterwards obtained possession of the pistol used by Gobind Amin.

During the summer of 1913, Rana was in constant correspondence with his relatives in Limbdi and Unchdi. He appears to have suggested buying land in a native state in place of the Giras forfeited by the Bombay Government. But his father Revabhai disapproved of the proposal.

One of his relatives wrote to Rana in October suggesting that he should ask pardon from Government as a preliminary to a petition for cancelling the forfeiture of the family estates.

In October 1913, it was reported that Rana had made an application to become a naturalised French subject. His application was supported by the Socialist Deputy Francis de Pressense, but was unsuccessful.

In December 1913, he was in correspondence with Dr. Pranjiban Jagjiban Mehta who lived at 8 Signal Pagoda Road, Rangoon. Dr. Mehta had visited Europe during 1913.....

During the early months of 1914, Rana used to call at Madame Cama's house two or three times a week. When the news of Har Dayal's arrest on 25th March reached Paris, Rana and Madame Cama went together to send a telegram to Mr. Bryan, Secretary of State, asking him to release Har Dayal.

In April 1914, discussing Krishna Varma's intention to settle in Switzerland, Rana said that, though some thought that Krishna Varma merely wanted to avoid having to pay increased income tax under the new law, he himself believed that Krishna Varma was going as a spy in the pay of the British Government.

It is reported that Rana, Madame Cama and Shyamji Krishna Varma have made arrangements for a sudden flight to Switzerland if necessity arises.....*

6

MADAME CAMA

(BOMBAY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE FILE NO. 3218/H.)

Extracts from History Sheet of Madame B. R. Cama

Madame Cama was born about 1875, the daughter of Sorabji Framji Patel of Bombay. Her Husband is the son of K. R. Cama, the Parsi reformer, and is a well-to-do solicitor at Bombay. Madame Cama received her early education at the Alexandra Parsi Girls' School, Bombay, and speaks several languages fluently. According to her own account she has been in Europe since about 1902, spending about a year each in Germany, Scotland, Paris and London

4. In October 1907, she arrived in New York from Havre and was interviewed at the Hotel "Martha Washington," New York, where she was staying. S. L. Joshi, Secretary of the Pan-Aryan Association and at that time working in the city as a lecturer and teacher of Oriental Languages, was present at the Interview.

5. Questioned as to her aims Madame Cama said, " Swaraj, self-government. No one conceives how we are prosecuted. I could not return to India. I am sure, only recently two cultured men were arrested and deported without trial for speaking the truth about our country's condition. Now they are locked up in Burma. The most hopeful thing is the enthusiasm that is spreading over our entire people. Starved and uneducated as many of us are, the past few years have shown an increase of millions of patriots. We shall have liberty, fraternity and equality some day. We hope for freedom within ten years ".....

* It has been recently announced that Rana died at his native place in India on 29th May 1957. He returned to India after she became free in 1947.

12. Madame Cama issued a leaflet which was as follows :—

BANDE MATARAM.

A message to the People of India.

' Countrymen lend me your ears, I will not take up your long time ; only five minutes. I fully understand the responsibility of what I say. I have come prepared for everything. I have but one life to give one Avatar to sacrifice. I want to speak on Methods, as I cannot keep quiet, since such tyranny is going on in our country, and so many deportations are cabled every day, and all peaceful means are denied to us.

I have neither power nor the authority to recommend this or that course to our patriotic countrymen. People who suffer in that land are the best judges of the methods to adopt. However, I speak the truth and I know when I say that the recent events in India will not affect the forward movement in the least. Are ---our people afraid ? No ! No ! The new Regulations are perhaps a little worse than the old ones. They may be quicker in action, but they cannot be more unjust in fact.

Some of you say that as a woman I should object to violence, Well, Sirs, I had that feeling at one time. Three years ago it was repugnant to me even to talk of violence as a subject of discussion, but owing to the heartlessness, the hypocrisy, the rascality of the Liberals, that feeling is gone. Why should we deplore the use of violence when our enemies drive us to it ? If we use force, it is because we are forced to use force. How is it that the Russian Sophy Perovoskai and her comrades are heroines and heroes in the sight of Englishmen and Englishwomen while our countrymen are considered criminals for doing exactly the same thing for the same cause ? If violence is applauded in Russia, why not in India ? Tyranny is tyranny, and torture is torture wherever applied. Success justifies any action. Struggle for Freedom calls for exceptional measures. Successful rebellion against the foreign rule is patriotism. What is life without Freedom ? What is Existence without Principles? Friends, let us put aside all hindrances, doubts and fears. In Mazzini's words I appeal to you. "Let us stop arguing with people who know our arguments by heart and do not heed them. If our people appear degraded, it is an added reason to endeavour at all risks to make them better." Show self-respect, Indians, and set to work. The days for calling meetings and passing resolutions are now over. Do silent but solid

work. A handful of foreigners, a few Englishmen, have declared war on us. Who can wonder if we millions accept the challenge and declare war on them. The price of Liberty must be paid. Which nation has got it without paying for it ?

Thank God that, our people have learnt that it is a sin to tolerate despotism. They have learnt to combat without pause; they have learnt rather to die fearless than perish like worms. We are awakened to the sense of our power, and in the name of our ancestors and our glorious country we defy our oppressors.

The lives of four young men who are done to death, are burnt away just like incense on the altar of Motherland. Bande Mataram. On the altar of truth, justice and liberty, these noble lives are sacrificed. This flag of Bande Mataram which I wave before you was made for me by a noble selfless young patriot who is standing at the bar of the so called court of justice in our country. What . a mockery to talk of Justice and Jury ! ! We have seen such a travesty of justice in cases of Tilak and Pillay !

Why are they imprisoned and exiled ? For what ? For speaking the truth.

Why that cringing creature, John Morley, is always talking of his Western Institutions and English Oak ? We do not want his English institutions. We want back our own country. No English Oak is wanted in India. We have our own noble banyan tree and our beautiful lotus flowers. We do not want to imitate British civilization. No Sir, we will have our own which is higher and nobler. What is Morley's civilization ? Persecution of women ? For what ? For asking their human rights. What do I see all round in this country? Poverty, misery, robbery, and despotism.

Hindustanis ! our revolution is holy. Let us send our congratulations to our countrymen and women who are struggling against the British despotism and for their liberty. May their numbers be daily increased. May their organisations become ever so formidable. May our country be emancipated speedily. My only hope in life is to see our country free and united. I beg of you young men to march on ! March forward, Friends, and lead our helpless dying, downtrodden children of Motherland to the goal of Swaraj in its right sense. Let our motto be we are all for " India for Indians ".

15. On February 11th, 1909 B. Bhattacharji was convicted of an assault on Sir William Lee-Warner and ordered to find two sureties

in £10 for six month?, or in default to suffer one month's imprisonment. On this occasion Madame Cama and others offered to stand surety for him, but he elected to go to prison.

16. At a meeting of the London Indian Society held on February 20th at Essex Hall, Strand, after Haidar Raza had spoken on " The relation between Hindus and Muham'madans in India" Madame Cama also spoke and before commencing took from her pocket, a silk flag on which were inscribed the words "Swadeshi" and " Bande Mataram ", saying that she was in the habit of speaking under that flag which was hung over her head on the wall. She said she liked Muhammadans better than Hindus because they were stronger and more war-like people. They ought to love such people at the present crisis, for they would undoubtedly be their sole help if they had to use violence to gain their goal. Force and violence had become inevitable, and without their use liberty was a dream and a mere farce.

19. In May 1909 Madame Cama left London for Paris where she associated as before with S. R. Rana, Shyamaji Krishna Varma, and the other extreme nationalists. She interested herself chiefly in the business of preparing and forwarding to India seditious literature in the form of leaflets, and generally in assisting the revolutionary propoganda with her advice, and what was probably more valuable with her money. She was at this time one of the recognised leaders of the revolutionary movement in Paris, and was said to be regarded by the Hindus as a re-incarnation of some deity, presumably Kali.

20. In Paris, Madame Cama devoted most of her time to the publication and distribution of the " Bande Mataram " and other revolutionary literature.

21. After visiting London again Madame Cama returned to Paris on 5th August 1909 and presided at a meeting held in the office of Messrs. Tata Brothers, 52 Rue Laffitte. Anti-British speeches were made by Shyamaji Krishna Varma, J. C. Shroff, Madame Cama and others. At this period Madame Cama was frequently visited by Shyamaji Krishna Varma.

22. Later in the same month it was reported that she and Rana had combined with Krishna Varma to help Govind Amin, who was formerly a member of V. D. Savarkar's gang. He had learnt how to make explosives, and the help was given to enable him to study the manufacture of arms. It was he who was the revolver expert in Paris, and filed off the numbers of certain automatic pistols before

they were sent to India. He committed suicide in August 1912, having got into trouble over some pearls entrusted to him for sale which he converted to his own use.

23. For a considerable time little was heard of Madame Cama's doings except for the regular appearance of her paper. In July 1910 it was reported in the Paris Press that " La Citoyenne Cama ", described as a Hindu Socialist was attending the Congress of the Socialist Federation of the Seine. Madame Cama had been prominent in socialist circles in Paris for some years and when the arrest and recapture of V. D. Savarkar at Marseilles on 8th July 1910 became known in Paris she used her influence with such effect that the affaire Savarkar was at once taken up in the socialist papers. Strong articles on the subject appeared in " L Humanite " under the signature of Jean Longuet an Advocate and prominent socialist who interviewed M. Pichon and others in connection with it. Another paper called " Action " published on July 23rd an article which contained the following :—" Although the affaire Savarkar has been sufficiently discussed, people have not taken much trouble up to now to find out who Savarkar is. From information kindly furnished to us by Madame Cama, editress of the ' Bande Mataram ', and a young Hindu living in Paris named Mr. Har Dayal we are able to give some details of Savarkar's life and character". Accordingly we read amongst other things that " In London he was one of the most brilliant orators in English and Marathi at the ' India House' a club, situated in Highgate, where a large number of the 2,000 Hindu students who reside in the English capital used to meet every week ". On July 23rd, 1910 Shyamaji Krishna Varma, V. Chhattopadhyaya, Govind Amin and Madhav Rao met Madame Cama at her house and discussed the arrangements which should be made to give a fitting reception to Savarkar as they felt sure that he would be back in Paris before the end of August.

7

NARAYAN SADASHIV MARATHE

(BOMBAY SECRET ABSTRACT OF 1915, No. 7.)

Narsinha Marathe is identical with *Narayan Sadashiv Marathe*. His name was found in Rash Behari Bose's notes seized in the searches made at Lahore in February last.

It would appear from information elicited from Pingle that Rash Behari heard of Marathe from Bengali anarchists in America, who

reported that Marathe during his tour through America on his way to India from Germany had given out that he had promises of assistance from Germany to facilitate the importation of arms into India and has been told that whenever he wished to avail himself of the assistance, he was to approach the German Consul, disclose the authority on which he was acting and everything would be done for him. Rash Behari was, therefore, very anxious to get in touch with him and it was for this purpose that Honnurkar was sent to ask him to go to Benares.

Marathe went to Hardwar in the beginning of April to work as a volunteer under the auspices of the Servants of India Society at the big religious fair that was held at that place in April last. I have not been able to ascertain his movements whilst he was in northern India, but am endeavouring to do so.

Marathe is apparently in sympathy with the revolutionary party, if not an active member of it. Shortly after his return from Germany he went to the Central Provinces to get in touch with Waman Sakharam Sant Akolkar who is also a German-returned anarchist now living in the Central Provinces.

In the course of his statement N. S. Marathe states : —

" Now, I come to the beginning of the war and the history of my journey home. As it will be a very long narrative I will only just jot down the points which are of any importance to this statement.

"From the first of August 1914 I intended to join the factory of Ludwig Lowe & Co. in Berlin N. W. as an apprentice in order to have experience in the common handwork as well as to see the actual making of big machinery. One year's apprenticeship is compulsory for the candidate who wants to appear for the Diplomaed Engineer's Examination.

" For this purpose I had to pay fees in a lump sum amounting to 1,000 marks. I had written home and had received just a few days before the beginning of the war a cheque of one thousand ; also I had in the bank a certain amount of money i.e. 500 marks as always reserve for an emergency. I had also money with me from the last instalment for my usual expenses, so that in ail I had plenty of money. Now the question came whether to stay on in Germany or to come back. I preferred at first staying on because it was really worth the trouble to live in these war times in Berlin. But after the beginning all communication with home stopped and I became

very much troubled about the anxiety that my father must be feeling about me. He was more than 82 years of age. Also I considered that though the treatment that the Germans were giving us at that time was quite gentlemanly, yet as the Indian army was going to appear on the field so perhaps they might trouble us afterwards. Then we did not know how long the war was going to last. Though I had money the others hadn't and I had to help them in this difficulty. Again if I wanted to go out then I should try as soon as possible because as time passed it would be harder and harder for us to get passports. Again a rule had been issued that no students of the inimical nations were to be allowed to continue as students in the German Universities or schools. The University students (Indians) had prepared an application to be sent to the Government stating that as they were Indians and therefore not direct enemies of the Germans, they should be allowed to study on. Also many of us had applied for a pass to get out of Germany. I also applied for the same with letters of recommendation very kindly given to me by the two abovementioned professors, viz. Professor Lampe and Professor Iolles as well as from Dr. Wenkebach and Dr. Muller.

I took leave of all my friends that I could see quite hurriedly and started on the morning of the 25th of September. I had taken a permit to cross the German and Dutch border with a special intention. I thought that others were going back to India I would be wiser and go to America. Because if the war was going to end in 6 months or a year I might not lose that much time, but see and study some things in America and as soon as the war ended come back again. From America I would communicate with Rotterdam. Here I came across a new difficulty. The ships to America were engaged and quite full for a month or two. I went to the Office. They saw me to be an Indian, and as the Immigration Laws of America are very strict and specially for the Indians, they practically refused to put my name in the list of persons to be granted passages even if there was room. I told the man that I did not want to go to America but to Mexico. And why did I want to do so ? He said on my passport was written that I was a student. I told him I had got an engagement as a Private Secretary to a certain gentleman (I told him the first name that came to my mouth who was then travelling in Mexico for research work or something like that). He thought perhaps that was all right, so long as this gentleman did not go to the U. S. A. he had no obligation. He put my name on the list. On the day of departure I went there and fortunately got a 2nd class passage to New York direct. Just as I was going to leave the Offices of the Company I was surprised to see Mr. Dhiren Sarkar come in through the door. He was also quite surprised to see me. It had

happened that he had also got permission to go to Holland a few days before me. Consequently he had come to Rotterdam a few days earlier. Again he had been in America before coming to Europe and his passport was given to him in America. So he claimed to be a bona fide Indian student in America. So he was also able to take a ticket on the same boat. So we asked the clerk to put us in the same cabin which he did. That is how I got a companion from Europe to America.

It was my misfortune that I made the acquaintance of Chakravarty in New York. It was the introductions I received from and through him that brought me in contact with the revolutionary party in America. Once I got in touch with them I had no alternative but to hear what they chose to say. I did not express approval of the views they expressed. On the contrary I argued in opposition and endeavoured to point out that it was futile their expecting to attain anything by a revolution and that moreover a revolution was an impossibility. I did not urge my views with any vehemence so as to provoke their anger, but calmly tried to convince them that their ideas were erroneous.

He asked me how many Indians there were in Germany at that time and how they were treated. I told him that we were treated quite fairly and were looked upon neither as friends nor foes by the general populace. Of course the laws for all British subjects, Englishmen or Indians, were the same. But they were very mildly applied to the Indians, as they were thought to be involuntary enemies. He asked me whether the Germans did not expect the Indians to create a disturbance in India. I said, of course, almost every German asked me whether they could expect anything like that and some of the newspapers published reports about there having been already some disturbances in India. Indeed one newspaper had published an Extra with a big heading " Revolution in India". He asked me about the views that we, that is the Indian students in Germany, had in the matter. I told him that I could only speak of my friends in Berlin and that though everybody's heart was fluttering with the hope of freedom, yet none spoke of his readiness to go to India and help his countrymen. Indeed everybody seemed to feel that it was after all impossible and inadvisable, and, yet, such is the effect of a free atmosphere that we were all sorry that we could not acquire our freedom, as we were too feeble and too divided to derive any happiness from it. That is at least the general impression that I had formed.

As to the report about me. that he is said to have given about my being specially come to see the Ghadr party from Germany, it might

have been a rumour that could have easily spread on account of my coming from Germany at such a time and being in communication with the party But as I have also visited the other Indian students that were at that time present in San Francisco, and on being once introduced I was not able in the name of decency to break my connection with the Sikhs, it is clear that I have acted in the best manner I could. But Mr. Sant can himself tell that I was never in any intimate relation with any of them.

8

HANMANT APPAJI alias MURKIBHAVEKAR KULKARNI

(EXTRACT FROM BOMBAY SECRET ABSTRACT OF 1911.PARAGRAPHS 714,
1374.)

The Political Agent Kolhapur and S. M. writes on 1st April 1911 : —

I have given orders that Nagpurkar on leaving Kolhapur should be shadowed to his destination. He, Krishnaji Dadaji Kulkarni and Hanmant Annaji Kulkarni are all most dangerous characters and they should be carefully watched, especially when His Majesty visits India. As far as I recollect H. A. Kulkarni was last reported at Benares.

10th June 1911.—I. G. P. Indore State, reports that Hanmantrao Kulkarni *alias* Bhimaji Murkibhavekar, the originator and leader of the Shivaji club, Kolhapur, who has been turned out of Nepal Territory, has now been reported as having come to Indore State and joined the P. W. D. at Indore. The persons noted below are said to have more or less assisted him (1) Bodas, (2) Oak, clerk-P. W. D., (3) Anant Appaji Lele (Sadar Court-clerk).

9

APPA RAO BHAT

(FROM BOMBAY SECRET ABSTRACT NO. 7 OF 1910.)

Appa Rao Bhat is reported to be concerned in the Kolhapur sedition case. He arrived at Raxaul from Nepal on the 23rd ultimo and left for Sonapur at once.

He was shadowed there by a C. I. D. detective, whose report is subjoined: —

" I had a talk with the man and ascertained from him that he is a Mahratta Erahman and subscriber to the *Kesari*, a paper edited by Bal Gangadhar Tilak. His married sister is living in

Nepal at present. He is a follower of Mr. Tilak, and about two years ago, visited his native place Karnatak where he lost his wife. He said that there are six families of Mahratta Brahmins in Nepal. The British Government was afraid that the community of Mahrattas in Nepal would poison the minds of Nepalese with their extremist propoganda, and hence the Maharaja of Nepal was requested to take steps against the Mahrattas and stop the circulation of seditious papers in Nepal. Other papers had also been stopped. He also received information that a list of his associates, numbering about seven or eight men, were sent to Nepal, and amongst them was Benaik Rao Bhat. This Benaik Bhat proceeded from Raxaul to Benares a day before Appa Rao left Raxaul, and they had left Nepal together. Benaik took away the luggage of Appa Rao, and it was arranged that Benaik would wait for him at Benares City railway station. Appa Rao generally stops at the Serai at Baremghat, but he said he would not stop there this time, as it was not safe for him to do so. He was anxious that he might reach his native place safe and feared his arrest in this part of the country. He said he was a tile contractor and was in the employ of the Nepal Darbar, but was dismissed since two months. It seems there is something serious against him at Poona. He said that the Police had arranged to take possession of his letters, and he was quite sure that some of them had already fallen into their possession. He gave his address as Chitra Shala Press, Poona. He said he had attended the Lucknow, Bombay and Poona Congresses. I remarked that his gold ring had a monogram B. K. engraved on it. He left Sonepur at 4 p.m. by the Bhatni train and purchased a ticket for Benares City. He was followed and shadowed by a Saran Sub-Inspector and made over to the Benares Police. Appa Rao said that he would stop at Benares for about a week at least. He said that national education would help in bringing the people of India together for the ultimate struggle for freedom."

10

GOVIND NARAYAN POTDAR

(FROM BOMBAY SECRET ABSTRACT NO. 7 OF 1910, PAGE 520.)

Potdar is an Extremist and a protege of Dr. Moreshwar Gopal Deshmukh, M.D., B.Sc. He is a Deshastha Brahmin, resident of Akalkot, Sholapur District, and was educated at H. H., the Nizam's College, Hyderabad. He graduated as a private student in the University of Madras in 1903 and subsequently left for Japan to

study Applied Chemistry, his expenses being defrayed by the ' Hindu Education Fund' of which Dr. Deshmukh is a Trustee. While there he appears to have taken a large part in the Indo-Japanese Association, Tokio which appears to have some connection with the India House (There is some presumption for the belief that the environment of India House, Tokio, is as bad as that of its namesake of London and that there are influences at work undermining the loyalty of youths who go to Tokio and elsewhere in Japan to complete their education) there and he edited the India House Magazine which is described as an Industrial Journal. Hotilal Varma told Govind Pandurang Bapat, the Bomb maker of Poona, that he had met Potdar in Japan, and the acquaintance was probably made or renewed during his (Hotilal's) stay at Tokio during May 1907 (vide his Diary) when he came in contact with all the Indian students there and the Indo-Japanese Association. Potdar also made the acquaintance there of Khatao of the Belgaum Match Factory and also his friend who appears to be connected with this factory too and he probably also met K. D. Kulkarni who was in Japan from 1899-1904 and who was known at the Indo-Japanese Association : the latter was one of the instigators in the Ferris Conspiracy.

On Potdar's return to India in December 1907 he launched his ' Western Manufacturing Company' with a Factory at Mahim, Bombay, known as the ' Pioneer Alkali Works ' for the manufacture of washing soda and buttons. Part of the funds for this enterprise was obtained on loan from the ' Paisa Fund ' of Poona.

Potdar also endeavoured to float a company for the manufacture of sulphuric acid but the necessary funds were not forthcoming : similarly also his attempt to float a company with a capital of a Lakh of rupees in Rs. 20 shares for the purpose of starting a Swadeshi Match Factory.

While in Japan he appears to have acquired knowledge of bomb-making and it is significant that his name should have cropped up when Bapat and Hotilal were deep in a discussion of bomb-making in Tilak's house, Poona and that he should have been specifically mentioned in Hotilal's diary as among those who came to meet him on his arrival in Bombay on the 26th February 1908 after his visit to Tilak in Poona. Possibly it was Potdar who sent, at Hotilal's suggestion, the 45 pages of manuscript bomb-formula which Bapat states he received from Bombay by book-post about the 15th March 1908. The evidence that can be further adduced from Joshi's and Bapat's statements more than support this. On the explosion in Apte's Wada on the 16th May 1908, Joshi under Bapat's instructions

took over possession of these bomb-formulae from Keshav Agashe Bapat's intimate friend, in whose possession they were, and after getting a translation made of certain of the formulas into Marathi had copies sent to G. B. Deshpande, B. B. Deshpande, S. V. Kowjalgi and Waman Sakharam Khare, all of whom he knew to be patriots. Meanwhile Joshi got into contact with Potdar personally, about June 1908, and obtained from him a manuscript bomb formulae and a promise to supply him with acids. This bomb formulae Joshi took with him to G. B. Deshpande at Belgaum, and on the latter comparing this one with the bomb formula received by Bapat from Bombay they were found to be identical.

On the occasion on which Joshi made this trip to Belgaum he started from Bombay in the company of Potdar who put up at Belgaum with his friends of the Belgaum Match Factory, Khatao and Company. Joshi got Potdar and his friends to examine and give him their opinion on the liquid extracted from the bomb sent from Poona for use against H. H. and Colonel Ferris.

Potdar's knowledge of bomb-making seems to have been well-bruited about and besides Damodar Hari Joshi, K. D. Bhagwat. Dr. Athale, K. D. Limaye and perhaps also Pandurang Shastri went to him to acquire the art, and from Joshi's and Limaye's statements it would appear that he was not in the least backward in imparting his knoweldge or misdirecting the use of the chemicals at his disposal.

In September last Potdar was endeavouring, with the assistance of other well-known extremists of Bombay and Surat, to assist one Gotare Givanram from Rajmundry in the Madras Presidency to float a company for the purpose of starting a paper-mill. Givanram is a man after Potdar's kidney : a rank extremist who has acquired scientific knowledge of various sorts, including perhaps bomb-making in Japan.

Potdar gave evidence on behalf of Hotilal Varma when the latter was being tried in Bengal under sections 121A and 124A and he also seems to be in touch with the Extremists of Calcutta for K. V. Bhandivad who was anxious to obtain some knoweldge of pottery manufacture, went to Calcutta under a letter of introduction from Potdar and put up at he Mahratta Lodge.

The latest information regarding Potdar is that he has been appointed Manager of the ' Dyeing and Weaving Company ' shortly to be started at Belgaum. From the information we possess it would

appear that Potdar besides being an extremist is a centre for the spread of knowledge in bomb-making, and in the industries with which he has been connected there are exceptional facilities for cloaking any work he may have undertaken in this direction. He would, therefore, appear a decidedly dangerous individual whose movements and doings would require careful watching and should he turn up in Eelgaum he should at once be brought under surveillance and a special note kept as for his particular friends and associates ; meanwhile the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, should endeavour to find out Potdar's doings at Mahim."

11

SOME REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS OF KOLHAPUR

(FROM POLICE SECRET ABSTRACT NO. 7 OF 1910, PAGE 982.)

Below is published a brief history of some persons in the Kolhapur State connected with the extremist propaganda :—

1. *Damodhar Mahadeo Sonar*.—A goldsmith by caste. Age thirty. Was born at Kolhapur. Present residence, Bombay. Studied up to 7th English standard in Private English School at Kolhapur. Was convicted of theft said to have been committed in company of D. H. Joshi in 1900. Member of Shivaji Club.

2. *Ganesh Balwant Modak*.—Konkanastha Brahmin ; age forty ; was born at Kolhapur. Present residence, Kolhapur. Received school education at Kolhapur and became B.A., after learning for some days in Bombay and Poona. Is at present under arrest on a charge of conspiring to murder Colonel Ferris, the late Political Agent, Kolhapur. Was Head Master at Pandharpur where he quarrelled with the Police Authorities when he exhibited a much defiant attitude towards the rule and authority. Then he went to Rajkot where also he quarrelled and had to leave the service in consequence. Was reporting the Kolhapur Bomb Case Trial to the *Rashtramat* and subsequently became its sub-editor. Was convicted in Bombay for publishing *Swaraj* through his *Vartaman Agency*. All the known leaders of sedition are his friends.

3. *Damodhar Hari Joshi*.—Deshastha Barhmin ; aged twenty-nine ; was born at Sangavde near Kolhapur. Is in custody of the Kolhapur Police on various charges. Studied up to 5th Marathi standard in a Vernacular School at Kolhapur. Was a leading member of the Shivaji Club and committed dacoities and thefts at several times

with the other members of the Club and was convicted for one of them. Very desperate and daring character. Being known to all concerned it is unnecessary to offer any further remarks about him. Has been convicted for conspiring to murder Colonel Ferris and sentenced to seven years and for posting placards and sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of one thousand rupees.

4. *Shripad Dattatraya Nagpurkar*.—Deshastha Brahmin ; age thirty-two ; was born at Kolhapur. Is under arrest for conspiring to murder Colonel Ferris. Was in the Kolhapur High School and Rajaram College up to P. E. when he joined the Science College of Poona. Was a friend of Damodhar Joshi and also of Govind Bapat, Gokhale and Gadre, accused in the Ferris Bomb Case.

5. *Hanmant Ganesh Deshpande*.—Deshastha Brahmin, age twenty-five ; was born at Belgaum. Residing at present at Belgaum and sometimes at Mazgaum a village of Kurundwad State (Junior) near Belgaum. Educated up to Matric in Belgaum High School. He is a great friend of G. B. Deshpande of Belgaum and belongs to the party of extremists there. Damodar Hari Joshi of Kolhapur kept the "lota" in which the bomb intended to be used against Colonel Ferris, was filled up, and also some pistols and a revolver which all were confiscated subsequently and Hanmant Ganesh was convicted under the Arms Act by the State Karbhari of (Junior) Kurundwad and fined Rs. 200.

6. *Gangadhar Vishwanath Gokhale*.—Konkanastha Brahmin ; age twenty-two; was born at Kolhapur and at present undergoing a sentence of imprisonment in Kolhapur Jail. Was educated up to Matric in the private English School at Kolhapur after which he joined the College of Science at Poona. He brought from Poona the "lota" in which the bomb intended to be used against Colonel Ferris was filled up and also some revolvers from one Ramchandra Balkrishna Gadre and Govind Pandurang Bapat, and conveyed the same to Damodhar Joshi. He has been convicted by Mr. Kincaid for the theft of chemicals from Private School, Kolhapur, for manufacturing bombs, and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, and also he was convicted in the case for writing and posting bomb-placards and received a sentence of three months' imprisonment, and in the case of attempting to murder Colonel Ferris he received a sentence of two years' imprisonment. This young man is of a daring character and will have to be carefully watched after his release from the jail as there appears to be no chance of repentance from the course he pursued.

7. *Govind Pandhrang Bapat*.—Konkanastha Brahmin ; age twenty-seven ; born at Poona ; is at present in Kolhapur Jail. Was educated in Poona and left studies after going through certain course in the Sub-Overseer's class in the College of Science, Poona. From inquiries it has appeared that a certain Bengali man taught him to make bombs and that he also possessed a copy of MS. of the recipes of making bombs similar to the one that was found in the Mani-ktola gardens. He used to visit Tilak and received instructions and encouragement from that quarter. He was also a follower of Dr. Annasahib Patwardhan of Poona who also helped him in such pursuits. While in custody before the trial he wrote a letter to Dr. Patwardhan and gave it secretly for posting to the sepoy who was on his watch. From this letter the fact that he was in the hands of Tilak and Patwardhan is amply established. One Sitaram Bhaskar Joshi of Nasik came to see Bapat while the trial was proceeding in the Magistrate's Court and Mr. Phansalkar, a pleader from Satara, also came with Joshi and applied for an interview with Bapat. It is also reported there is one Karambalikar boa in Poona and some Mangs near Poona who are friends of Bapat. Bapat was convicted and sentenced by Mr. Kincaid to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of one thousand rupees. Bapat, Garde and Gokhale and some more persons had their hand in the explosion that took place in Apte's wada in Poona. Bapat is a daring man.

8. *Keshawa Waman Padalkur*.—Deshastha Brahmin ; age twenty-eight ; was born at a village called Padli near Kolhapur. Resides at Padli, but often comes to Kolhapur. Studied up to the sixth Marathi standard. Was a trusted companion of Damodar Joshi and took part in various undertakings with him. He wrote some plays MSS. of which were found in his house. These exhibited a conception of bitter hatred towards Government on the part of the author. He was tried along with Damodhar Joshi and others by Mr. Kincaid and sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the placard case.

9. *Parsoo Narayan Sutar*.—A Maratha Sutar (carpenter) by caste ; age nineteen ; was born at Kolhapur and now is in custody, as a charge of incendiarism is pending against him and Damodhar Hari Joshi in the Court of Committing Magistrate, of Kolhapur. Has learnt up to fourth Marathi standard. He is another trusted right hand man of Damodhar Joshi, and was convicted in the placard case and has undergone a sentence of nine months' imprisonment. His wife's house is in Belgaum and he knows G. B. Deshpande and others having visited them in company of Damodhar Joshi.

10. *Ramchandra Balkrishna Gadre*.—Konkanstha Brahmin ; age thirty ; present residence not known and where he was born is

not known. Was educated in the Private English School at Kolhapur and has passed Matriculation. For some time he was employed as a teacher in New English School at Poona after which he joined the periodical published in Poona called Mumukshu. Was a great friend of Bapat who made the bomb intended against Colonel Ferris. The explosion in the Apte's Wada in Poona took place in the room occupied by him. It appears that he has learnt the making of bombs from the Bengali man who taught Eapat. He, Bapat and Gokhale and some others formed a regular club in Poona and they were all tools in the hands of Tilak and others. Was tried with Bapat and others for attempting to kill Colonel Ferris, but Mr. Kincaid acquitted him. Soon after his acquittal he absconded and when a Notice of Appeal from the order of acquittal was issued against him he was nowhere to be found. There is warrant kept standing against him in Kolhapur. It is said that he is at Tasgaum or Bhilavdi in the Satara District.

11. *Narayan Juiram Padhye*.—Karhada Brahmin ; age twenty-one ; was born in Kolhapur ; present residence, Kolhapur, but has been in the Private English School at Kolhapur and has passed Matriculation. His father is a Native Vaidya and is a relative of Shenoli-kars. Sarvottam Janardhan Shenolikar and Padhye and Ganga-dhar Vishwanath Gokhale and Narayan Balaji Ambapkar were joint friends. They all joined Damodhar Joshi and decided to make bombs and kill the Europeans in Kolhapur. This Padhye wrote parts of the condemned placards and was brought down from Calcutta. On conviction he received a sentence of nine months' imprisonment—After writing the placards he went to join the National Medical College at Calcutta and was a student there when a warrant was issued for his arrest. His wife is a daughter of the present State Karbhari of Vishalgad whose brother also is the State Karbhari of Kagal.

12. *Sarvottam Janardhan Shenolikar*.—Karhada Brahmin ; age twenty-two ; was born at Kolhapur ; at present undergoing a sentence of imprisonment in Kolhapur Jail Was educated in the Private English School at Kolhapur and joined the High School for Matric Class when he was arrested. Was convicted for the theft of chemical from the private English School and is also convicted for writing the placards and has been sentenced in all to live years' imprisonment. His father was the Special Police Officer of Kolhapur State at the time of his arrest and his elder brother was in the College of Science, Poona, from where he has since passed as a Sub-Overseer and is in search of employment. Certain clue was found that some of the students in the College of Science were in the plot of anarchism and this brother of Sarvottam was among them, but the Kolhapur Police could not work up the clue for various reasons.

13. *Narayan Balaji Ambapkar*.—Deshastha Brahmin, age twenty-one ; was born at Kolhapur; at present serving his sentence in the Kolhapur Jail. Was educated in the Private English School at Kolhapur and was in the Matric class with Shenolikar in the High School at the time when they both were arrested. He has been sentenced for stealing the chemicals and writing the placard., in all four years and three months.

14. *Bhausahib Ghatge* alias *Zunzarrao*.—Maratha ; age thirty-five was born at Gargoti in Kolhapur State ; present residence, Gargoti was educated upto Matric in the Private English School, Kolhapur Was an active member of the Shivaji club and great friend of Han-mantrao Murkibhavekar. When the latter returned from Nepal had come to Kolhapur and went to Gargoti to see Zunzarrao. He is also an intimate friend of Damodhar Joshi and gave evidence to prove Police torture in favour of Damodhar in the cases of the Political dacoities, but the evidence was disbelieved. Is a good shot and plays dandpatta and handles javelin with some skill. At present he occupies himself in farming at Gargoti where he has his own land, but often visits Kolhapur and goes to Baroda where his niece is given in marriage.

15. *Krishna Maruti Kalambe*.—Maratha; age thirty ; born at Malem in Alta Petha ; at present a school-master at Koregaum in Satara District. Was educated at Satara where he passed his Vernacular Public Service Examination and then joined the Poona Training College and passed in 3rd class. Is an agitator and friend of Bapat who made the bomb to be used against Colonel Ferris.

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VISHNU GANESH PINGLE

(FROM BOMBAY SECRET ABSTRACTS FOR 1915, PARAS. 277, 295.)

S. B., Bombay, April 14th—

The Deputy Inspector-General of Police, C. I D., writes :—

"After the breaking up of the Samrath Vidyalaya, Vishnu Ganesh Pingle started a hand-loom weaving factory at different places in Hyderabad Territory and having raised some money he proceeded to America in 1911. He attended the University at Seattle and used to work as a labourer to maintain himself. When

the war broke he found he could not get work, so returned to India. During his stay in America he got acquainted with most of the Indians in that country and took an interest in politics. He was particularly friendly with some Bengalis and Sikh emigrants from Canada, several of whom were fellow passengers with him on the *Salamis*. He got in touch with the Bengali anarchists in Calcutta through Satyaboshen Sen, one of the American returned Bengalis. Through the Calcutta Bengalis he got introduced to Rash Behari Bose at Benares and during December, January, February and March, he travelled over the Punjab making and reviving numerous acquaintances with the returned Sikh emigrants and other sympathisers of the revolutionary movement. He went about disguised as a Bengali or Punjabi and under assumed names to suit his disguise for the time being. He visited the lines of several Indian Regiments trying to seduce the soldiers and was engaged doing this when he was arrested. "

S. B., Bombay, April 10th—

Vishnu Ganesh Pingle alias Shamlal alias Ganpat Singh was arrested on the night of the 23rd March in the Cavalry lines, Meerut, with ten bombs of the pattern used in the attempt to assassinate the Viceroy, several scent bottles filled with phosphorous solution and a big bottle containing solution, in his possession. He had recently brought these from Benares.

This Vishnu Ganesh Pingle is identical with the Samarth Vidya-laya student. He is not a native of Bars; but of Talegaon Dhamdhere in the Sirur Taluka of the Poona District where his family own some land.

His father, Ganesh Govind Pingle (deceased), was a petition writer in the Sub-Judges' Court at Talegaon. Vishnu has two elder brothers, Mahadev, the eldest, who is a section writer in the Sub-Judge's Court at Amalner, East Khandesh, and Keshav who looks after the family house and lands at Talegaon. After the breaking up of the Samarth Vidyalaya, Vishnu returned to Talegaon from where he left for America in 1911 with funds provided by Keshav. He joined the University at Seattle and returned to India last year landing at Calcutta on the 20th November from the *S. S. Salamis*. Since then he had been lost sight of.