



**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
PALAYAMKOTTAI – 627002**



## II B.A HISTORY

Semester – IV

**HISTORY OF INDIA (1772 – 1947 A.D)**

# LORD DALHOUSIE

*Presented by*

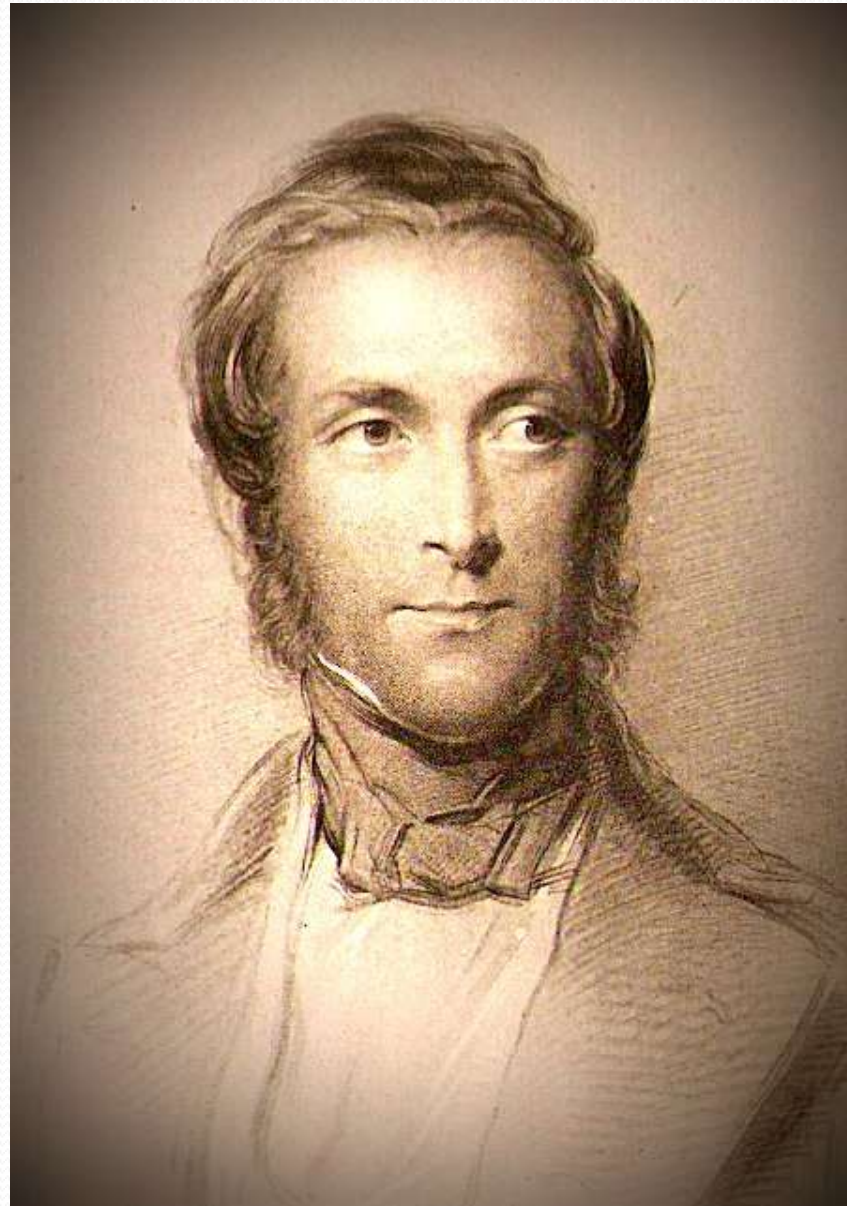
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## Lord Dalhousie



## **LORD DALHOUSIE (1848-1856)**

- Lord Dalhousie was the youngest Governor- General of India when he assumed charge at the age of 36 in 1848. His eight years of rule is considered one of the greatest periods of British rule in India.
- His early career was remarkable. He studied in Christ Church, Oxford.
- He became Member of Parliament and enjoyed the confidence of Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister of England.
- In 1847, he was offered the Governor- Generalship of India which he accepted and arrived at Calcutta in January 1848.

## Lord Dalhousie



## **Policy of Annexation**

### **Annexation of Punjab**

At the end of the second Anglo-Sikh War in 1849, Punjab was annexed by Dalhousie. He organized the administration of Punjab very efficiently. The overall administration of Punjab was entrusted to the Chief Commissioner. In fact, the Governor-General was the virtual ruler of Punjab. The services of Lawrence brothers in the administration of Punjab were notable. Within three years perfect order was restored in the province. It was efficiently defended from internal and external enemies. In 1859, Sir John Lawrence became the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.



## **Annexation of Lower Burma**

In 1852, commercial disputes in Rangoon prompted new hostilities between the British and the Burmese. After the end of the second Burmese War (1852), Dalhousie annexed Lower Burma with its capital at Pegu. Major Arthur Phayre was appointed the Commissioner of the new province. The annexation of Lower Burma proved beneficial to Britain. Rangoon, Britain's most valuable acquisition from the war became one of the biggest ports in Asia.



## **Doctrine of Lapse**

According to the Hindu Law, one can adopt a son in case of no male heir to inherit the property. The question arose whether a Hindu ruler, holding his state subordinate to the paramount power, could adopt a son to succeed his kingdom. It was customary for a ruler without a natural heir to ask the British Government whether he could adopt a son to succeed him.

According to Dalhousie, if such permission was refused by the British, the state would “lapse” and thereby become part of the British India. Dalhousie maintained that there was a difference in principle between the right to inherit private property and the right to govern. This principle was called the Doctrine of Lapse.

❖ The Doctrine of Lapse was applied by Dalhousie to Satara and it was annexed in 1848.

❖ Jhansi and Nagpur were annexed in 1854.

❖ The advantages of the annexations of Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur were substantial to the British. Dalhousie was blamed for using the Doctrine of Lapse as an instrument in pursuing his policy of annexation.

❖ After the Mutiny of 1857, the doctrine of lapse was withdrawn. Later during the Mutiny of 1857, Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi played an important role in fighting against the British.

## **Domestic Reforms of Dalhousie**

- Dalhousie was not only a conqueror but also a great administrator.
- His greatest achievement was the molding of the new provinces into a modern centralized state.
- Under military reforms Dalhousie shifted the headquarters of Bengal Artillery from Calcutta to Meerut. Simla was made the permanent headquarters of the army.

## **Railways**

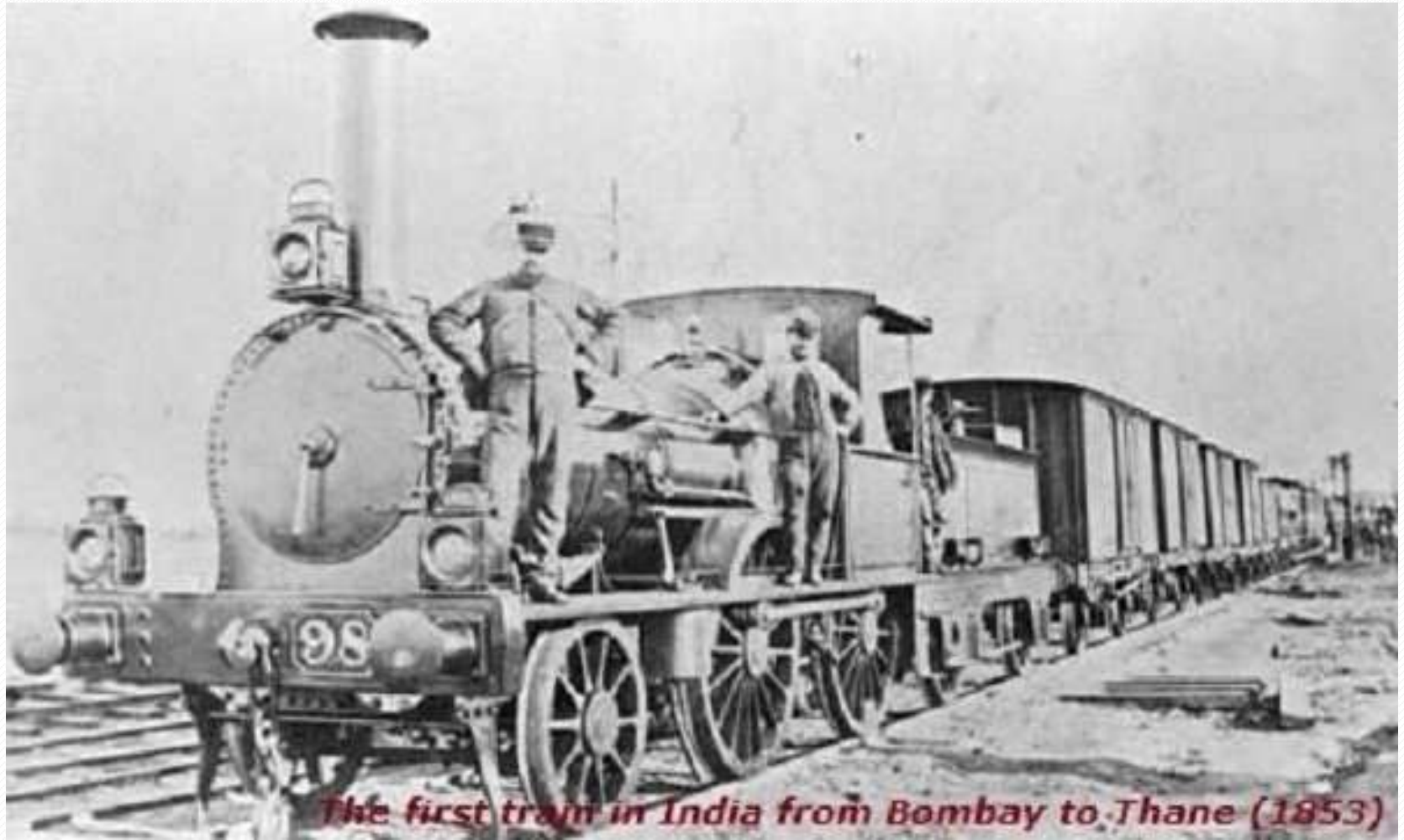
❖ The introduction of railways in India inaugurated a new economic era.

❖ Lord Dalhousie's contribution in the development of railways is worth commending.

❖ In 1853, he penned his Railway Minute formulating the future policy of railways in India.

❖ The first railway line connecting Bombay with Thane was opened in 1853. Railway lines connecting from Calcutta to the Raniganj coal-fields was opened in 1854 and from Madras to Arakkonam in 1856.

*[The first railway in the world was opened in 1825 in England.]*



*The first train in India from Bombay to Thane (1853)*

## **Telegraph**

Similarly, the use of Telegraph brought marvelous changes in communication system.

In 1852, O'Shaughnessy was appointed the Superintendent of Telegraph Department.

Main cities of the country viz., Calcutta, Peshawar, Bombay and Madras were telegraphically connected.

About 4000 miles long Telegraph lines were laid before the departure of Dalhousie.

During the 1857 Revolt, the system of telegraphic communication proved a boon for the English and the military value of Dalhousie's creation was much realized at that time.







## **Postal Reform**

The foundation of modern postal system was laid down by Lord Dalhousie. A new Post Office Act was passed in 1854. Consequently, irrespective of the distance over which the letter was sent, a uniform rate of half an anna per post card was charged throughout India. Postage stamps were introduced for the first time.



## **Education**

Dalhousie had also evinced in the development of education. The educational Despatch of Sir Charles Wood (1854) was considered the “Intellectual Charter of India”. It provided an outline for the comprehensive scheme of education at primary, secondary and collegiate levels.

Dalhousie fully accepted the views of Charles Wood and took steps to carry out the new scheme. Departments of Public Instructions were organized. The Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were founded in 1857.

## **Public Works Department**

Before the period of Dalhousie, the job of the Public Works Department was done by the Military Board. Dalhousie created a separate Public Works Department and allotted more funds for cutting canals and roads. The Upper Ganges Canal was completed in 1854. Many bridges were constructed. By modernizing the Public Works Department he laid the foundations of the engineering service in India.

## CONCLUSION

Dalhousie left India in 1856. There is no doubt that Dalhousie was an able administrator and visionary. He increased the extent of British India and consolidated it. He inaugurated an era of progress on many sides. He was the father of Railways and Telegraphs. He introduced the process of modernization of India. Hence, he is hailed as "*the maker of modern India*".



**THANK YOU**