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SUMMARY

This Study explains the factors contributing to development of the legislative institution in the Sub-Continent culminating subsequently into the establishment of the Punjab legislative Council in 1897.

The basic themes of the study are:

- I. In the beginning, along with the etymology and the physical features of the Punjab, its role into History of the Sub-Continent, particularly as a gateway to India has been briefly discussed. The importance of the Punjab as a cradle of civilizations, i.e. Indus valley and Gandhara has also been brought to focus. Then the state of affairs in the Punjab during Muslim rule, Sikh rule, and the annexation which took place in 1849, has been shed light on.
- II. Subsequently, the advent of the East India Company during the reign of Jahangir and later on the process of the company's growth in terms of its political influence and trade, both, have been studied. All the charters bestowed by the British Government and the introduction of legislative bodies in India are treated quite comprehensively which ultimately led to the establishment of the Punjab Legislative Council.
- III. The Punjab Legislative Council, from the very beginning, assumed the role of protector of the vested interest of the agrarian people who formed the overwhelming majority in the province. Therefore most of the bills, introduced in the Council were related to the agrarian section of the Punjab. Most of the bills have been studied thoroughly in the third chapter.
- IV. With the emergence of the nationalism among the Hindus of the Punjab, the tidal wave of their antagonism against the Muslims cropped up having its manifestation in Arya Samaj and Brahmo samaj etc. That antagonism have been elaborately analyzed and the response of Muslims towards the belligerence of the Hindus, is discussed.
- V. In the wake of the promulgation of the Minto-Morley Reform (1909), the composition of the Punjab Legislative Council underwent a change. That change in its composition is dealt with. Few important Bills are also discussed which had any sort of bearing on the political and social life of the people.
- VI. Muslim leaders from the Punjab had been vehement advocates of separate representation by the start of the twentieth century. Sir Muhammad Shafi and Justice Shah Din can easily be termed as harbingers of the demand of separate representation, not only for the Muslims of the Punjab but for all the Muslims living in the sub-continent. An attempt has been made to look into the circumstances which led the Muslims leaders of the Punjab to place demand for the separate representation. Moreover, all the challenges, faced by them are also brought to focus.
- VII. Home Rule could not secure any substantial success in the Punjab. Because as it has been described earlier, the politics was monopolized by the agrarian classes. By virtue of the support lent to the feudals by the British Government, they acquired immense wealth and influence to counter such a bourgeois movement as 'Home Rule' happened to be. Therefore Home Rule was not meant to achieve any success in the prevailing political and social setup of the Punjab.
- VIII. Detailed study of Montague-Chelmsford Reforms (1919) has been made in the eighth chapter. In this chapter the partisan approach of the British Government in favour of zamindars can clearly be noticed.
- IX. Montague-Chelmsford Reforms (1919) laid the foundation of a representative system with a majority of elected members in the Council. The basic significance of this era is the birth of a Unionist Party in the Punjab. During the era of Dyarchy, as this era is being called was dominated by Sir Fazl-i-Hussain. Besides, the advent of a Unionist Party and the brilliance of Fazl-i-Hussain as a leader of Punjabi Muslims, Gurdawara Reforms along with few other legislative measures related to the agriculture have formed the subject of the concluding chapter.