

ADMINISTRATION OF RANGOON (YANGON) DIVISION

(1924 - 1948)

Ph.D (DISSERTATION)

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ABSTRACT

This Ph.D. Dissertation has put forward the administration of Yangon during the period from 1924 to 1948. After the end of the second Anglo-Myanmar War in 1952, Yangon which at that time was part of the Bago Region, was annexed by the British. The British Chief Commissioner established his office in Yangon. In 1862 Bago, Rakhine and Taninthayi were called British Burma by the British Colonialists. The British Administration of Myanmar was hierarchical in nature, with the Chief Commissioner, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Township Officers and Village Headmen ruling over the country. The British Administration of Myanmar was modeled on that of India. The main purpose of the British Administration was to collect the public revenue. There had been integration and disintegration of townships into and out of Yangon as the aim of the British rule was the convenience and accumulation of tax and revenues. The British established the district of Yangon as a separate district in 1875. In 1897, the districts of Yangon, Hanthawaddy, Bago, Tharyarwaddy and Pyay were all included in the Bago Division. In December 1922, the Yangon Division was separated from the Bago Division and formed as an independent Division. Yangon Town, Hanthawaddy and Insein District were included in the Yangon Division. Again in June 1925, the Yangon Division was abrogated and Yangon Town came under the Administration of the Local Government. The districts of Insein and Hanthawaddy were again included in the Bago Division. After the British had occupied Yangon Town it became a busy and flourishing sea-port. As the British Administration of Myanmar gradually changed, the city of Rangoon

Municipal Act of 1922 was passed whereby the City of Yangon became a self-governing city and the Yangon Municipal Committee was changed to the Yangon Municipal Corporation. In December 1941, Japanese plane bombed the city of Yangon, the Yangon Municipal Corporation also moved its offices to the Indian City of Simla. During the Japanese occupation of Myanmar the Yangon Capital Development Committee was formed to look after the essential needs of the Yangonites. When the Allied Forces again reoccupied the city of Yangon in 1945, the Yangon Interim Municipal Corporation was hastily formed. The British Government introduced their system of Administration consisting of the Judiciary and revenue administration. In 1888, a Financial Commissioner had been appointed to collect the public revenue. After the occupation of the city of Yangon, the Municipal Taxes were added to the other revenues collected by the British Government. However the revenue collected after World War II, was much less than that collected before the war. Under the Judicial Department also there were Criminal Law Courts and Civil Law Courts. A hierarchy of Law Courts also had been established. Crime had significantly increased during the Japanese Era in Myanmar through there had been Law Courts. Yangon Town Police had been established to restore law and order. The Yangon Police Force undertook to maintain peace and order within the City of Yangon.

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