

## **(B)FOREIGN TOURS**

In so far as cricketing affairs were concerned, the Association, now with a strong foot-hold, began to gain ground, establishing its overall superiority in the game and its administration. Although its members did not get any position of power or responsibility in higher echelons of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, by virtue of its contribution to the game and also by virtue of cricketers of rare merit it threw up in the process, its voice was heard with respect and awe, 'respect' because its sincerity and unselfishness and 'awe' because of the stinging criticism it levelled when the Board took or thought of taking decisions not conducive to the growth of the game in this country.

- (i) India went on the first official tour of England 1932. The Indian team included four players from Bombay.

S. M. H. Colah, S. R. Godambe, B. E. Kapadia and N. D. Marshall.

- (ii) The M. C. C., in reciprocation, sent its team on an official tour of India in 1934, under the captainship of D. R. Jardine. Players from Bombay who played against this team in Tests were:

S. M. Colah, L. P. Jai, R. D. Jamshedji and Vijay Merchant.

- (iii) Indian Team's second official visit to England in the year 1936 under the captainship of Maharaj Kumar of Vizzianagaram had in it the following players from Bombay:

D. D. Hindalekar, L. P. Jai, Vijay Merchant and K. R. Meher Homji.

- (iv) Indian Team's third official visit to England in 1946 under the captainship of the Nawab of Pataudi (Senior) raised controversies of very vital nature. It included the following Bombay players.

D. D. Hindalekar, Vijay Merchant and R. S. Modi.

As a matter of fact, right from the year 1932, when the first Indian team captained by Maharajadhiraj of Limbdi left the shores of India rumbling of dissatisfaction and resentment were heard in Bombay circles. The appointment of a person as the captain of the team, not on cricketing merits, but because of his belonging to a princely family, was not appreciated. Maharajadhiraj was almost a non-playing captain and more than anyone else, he himself knew it, because of which in the only Test match played at Lord's, he voluntarily stepped down and asked the natural leader C. K. Nayudu to take over ! The resentment grew and was publicly expressed when Vizzy was appointed captain for the second visit. Bombay's tolerance almost ended when the Board decided to perform a hat-trick by inviting the out-of-form and ailing Nawab of Pataudi to lead the Indian side on its third visit to England.

Bombay would not take it lying down any more. If one goes through the minutes of the meetings of the Association held during this period, one can easily notice the tremendous disturbance, agitation and the turbulent mood in which the members of the Association spoke and wrote. How could the legitimate claims of Vijay Merchant be set aside?

But the Board, still under the intoxicating influence of the aura and halo of the Princes and their purses, did not yield and elected Senior Pataudi as the captain. But the impact created by Bombay had a lasting effect; Indian team would no more have in future a Prince as the skipper, if he did not possess outstanding merits as a cricketer.

Bombay Cricket Association deserves bouquets for this lead it gave !

Problems about captainship used to arise in the Board mainly because the appointment of the Indian captain was done at the General Meeting of the Board, which was attended mainly by persons who knew not much of cricket. They were motivated mainly by consideration not related to cricket. The Bombay Cricket Association deserves Kudos even in this respect because it was they who took initiative in breaking this unholy system. At one of the meetings in the Silver Jubilee Year of the Association (1954), the Association's representative to attend the meeting of the Board was given a mandate that he should oppose the existing system and get the rules so amended that the All Indian Selection Committee would be vested with absolute powers to select the Indian captain. That Bombay's proposal succeeded is a well known fact !

(v) India visited Australia under the captainship of Lala Amarnath for the first time in the year 47-48. Only two Bombay players went on this tour, they were:

D. G. Phadkar and K. M. Rangnekar.

Vijay Merchant and R. S. Modi, who were selected for the tour, could not make it on grounds of health.

(vi) The West Indies visited India for the first time in 1948 - 49 J. D. Goddard led the side. Bombay players who figured in the Tests were:

R. S. Modi, K. C. Ibrahim, D. G. Phadkar, K. K. Tarapore and P. R. Umrigar.

(vii) Two Commonwealth teams visited India; first in 1949 - 50 under the captainship of J. Livingston and the second in 1950 - 51 under L. E. G. Ames Matches were played in Bombay.

(viii) Second officials visit of the M.C.C. came about in 1951- 52 Mr. N. D. Howard led the team. The following Bombay players played in the Tests.

V. M. Merchant, R. S. Modi, D. G. Phadkar, P. R. Umrigar, R. V. Divecha, M. K. Mantri, V. L. Manjrekar, S. P. Gupte, Vinoo Mankad, S. W. Sohoni and S. G. Shinde.

(ix) In the year 1952, India embarked upon her fourth visit to England under the captainship of Vijay Hazare. Bombay players who toured with the team were:

R. V. Divecha, M. K. Mantri, V. L. Manjrekar, G. S. Ramchand, S. G. Shinde and P. R. Umrigar.

(x) In the same year, Pakistan paid her first visit. Bombay players who played in the Tests were:

M. L. Apte, R. V. Divecha, S. P. Gupte, R. S. Modi. V. L. Manjrekar, Vinoo Mankad,  
D. G. Phadkar, G. S. Ramchand and P. R. Umrigar.

(xi) In 1953, India visited West Indies for the first time. The touring side included the follow  
Bombay players:

M. L. Apae, S. P. Gupte, V. L. Manjrekar, Vinoo Mankad D. G. Phadkar and P. R. Umrigar.