

OSMANLI ARAŐTIRMALARI VI

Neşir Heyeti — Editorial Board

HALİL İNALCIK — NEJAT GÖYÜNÇ

HEATH W. LOWRY

THE JOURNAL OF OTTOMAN STUDIES VI

İstanbul - 1986

SOME NOTES ON

THE SALYÂNE SYSTEM IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AS ORGANISED IN ARABIA IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Salih Özbaran

I

The *timar* system in which all the revenue sources deligated to provincial officials and military functionaries with the authority to collect the taxes and revenues facilitated the financial as well as military and administrative functions in the Ottoman Empire. For the lack of currency a great part of the revenues was collected in kind¹.

This practice, however, generated its own problems, and eventually proved to be impracticable. As the Empire became larger it was necessary to collect the revenues in cash, thus having them in treasury, then distributing to functionaries. By this practice the Ottoman government tried to meet its urgen need for ready cash. The Sultan stationed janissary garrisons in some newly conquered provinces, appointed a *defterdar* (a high financial official) and *kadî* (judge). The provincial revenues were not distributed to *sipahis* as *timars*, but the governor (the *beylerbeyi*), after paying all the military and administrative expenses of the province, had to remit to the capital a certain sum, known as *irsâliye*; and these provinces came to be called *salyâneî eyâletler* (provinces with salaries)². A system called

* This paper was originally presented at the CIEPO symposium held in Cambridge, 3-7 July 1984.

1 See «Timar» by Ö.L. Barkan in *İslâm Ansiklopedisi*.

2 For a short explanation see H. İnalcık, *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age*, London, 1973, p. 105.

iltizâm (tax-farming) was thus established in many of the Ottoman provinces. Yemen, Basra and Lahsa were among these province called *salyâneli*, and they were subjected to the *iltizâm* system³.

As far as I know, apart from global explanations and repeated words only two studies have so far been carried out, throwing some light on the matter: Stanford Shaw has worked on financial and administrative organization of the Ottoman Egypt⁴, and Cengiz Orhonlu studied a rather unknown part of the Ottoman Empire, the Habesh Province⁵. In addition to these, Jon E. Mandaville's article on the Ottoman Province of Lahsa of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries should be mentioned⁶.

From the works of Professor Shaw we learn in detail that in the Ottoman budget of Egypt for the years 1596-97 the total revenues amounted to 66, 180, 576 *paras* (collected as land tax, *mukataa* and various other revenues); and the total expenditures indicated 44, 702, 421 *paras*. These expenditures were allocated for the payment of wages (*mevâcibât*: 26, 557, 591 *paras*), of salaries (*salyâne*: 6, 830, 771 *paras*), and of other expenditures such as the *teslimât* (payments), *ihracat* (deductions), *mubayaat* (purchases), and *âdât* (customary payments). The *irsâliye* which was to be sent to Sultan's Treasury in İstanbul amounted to 21, 190, 391 *paras*⁷.

«The term *sâliyâne* (plural *sâliyânât*) literally translated as 'annual salary' was applied to those payments from the Treasury which were reserved for the principal officers of the realm.

3 For the development of *İltizâm* see, for the moment, M. Genç, «Osmanlı Maliyesinde Malikâne Sistemi», in *Türkiye İktisat Tarihi Semineri* (ed. O. Okyar), Ankara, 1975, pp. 231 ff.

4 Shaw's particular books on the subject are: *The Financial and Administrative Organization and Development of Ottoman Egypt. 1517-1798*, Princeton, 1962; *The Budget of Ottoman Egypt 1005-1006/1596-1597*, Mouton, 1968.

5 C. Orhonlu, *Osmanlı İmparatorluğunun Güney Siyaseti: Habeş Eyaleti*, İstanbul, 1974.

6 Jon E. Mandaville, «The Ottoman Province of Al-Hasa in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century», in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 90/3 (1970), pp. 486-513.

7 Shaw, *The Budget...*, p. 21. One *para* equalled two *akçes* at the time of Süleyman the Magnificent and four *akçes* around 1596-97 (cf. «Para» by İ. Artuk in *İslâm Ansiklopedisi*; Shaw, *The Budget...*, p. 18).

Sâliyânât were provided for the *Valîs*, or governor of Egypt, the *Valîs* of and Yemen so long as those lands remained in the Ottoman Empire, and for the *Qâdî Asker*, who was sent from the Porte to be the principal judicial officer of Egypt. In addition *sâliyânât* were provided for the twenty-four officers who were named to the rank of Bey and who performed the principal administrative tasks of Egypt, individually and collectively as the *Dîvân* or Grand Council of Egypt»⁸.

C. Orhonlu, on the other hand, while describing the Habesh Province, explained that in the provinces subjected to *sâlyâne* system all the revenues had been held by the *defterdar* (head of the provincial treasury). The *sâlyânes* and wages of high officials and soldiers were given from the revenues of the province. Using the *Rwûs* and *Mühimme* registers at the *Başbakanlık* Archives in İstanbul, Orhonlu discovered that the *sâlyâne* of the Habesh *beylerbeyi* was 1,400,000 *akçes* in 1561. In the year 1567 the salary (*sâlyâne*) of Hüseyin Pasha (then the *beylerbeyi* of Habesh) was 1,000,000 *akçes*, and in 1573 the salary of Rıdvan Pasha 1,200,000 *akçes*⁹. Orhonlu also noticed that in order to supply the salaries of *beylerbeyis* and *beys*, and the wages of other functionaries of the Habesh province aid often had to come from the treasury of Egypt¹⁰.

Mandaville, while describing the province of Lahsa in the eastern part of Arabian Peninsula, has also come to the conclusion that «to administer the taxes and at the same time to develop the land, a mixed fief and tax-farming (*iltizâm*) was set up. Fiefs were common in the sixteenth century, judging by the relative frequency mention in the documents, while by the mid-seventeenth century one finds only to *mukataat*»¹¹.

Before going into details of the characteristics of the provinces of Yemen, Basra and Lahsa I would first like to reflect the descriptions given in two seventeenth century Ottoman texts, i.e., the *Risâle* of Sofyalı Ali Çavuş and the *Kavânîn* of Ayn-i Ali, from which many

8 Shaw, *The Financial...*, p. 184.

9 Orhonlu, *Habeş Eyaleti*, p. 103.

10 Orhonlu, *Habeş Eyaleti*, pp. 104-105.

11 Mandaville, «The Ottoman Province of Al-Hasa...», pp. 504-505.

writers of the later centuries repeated the main characteristics of the *sâlyâneli eyâletler* of the Ottoman Empire in their works.

In the *Risâle* of Ali Çavuş, dated 1653, the following explanation is given :

«The well-protected territories [of the Sultan] consists of thirty-four provinces; twenty-five of them are of *has*, nine of *sâlyâne*. These are the *sâlyâne* provinces: the Province of Egypt, Province of Yemen, Province of Habesh, Province of Basra, Province of Lahsa, Province of Baghdad, Province of Trablusgarb, Province of Tunus, Province of Jazair-i Garb... There are no *zeâmet*s and *timars* in the *sâlyâne* provinces, but there exist janissary groups. All the revenues are held by *Padişah*, the Protector. From these revenues the salaries of *beylerbeyis*, and wages of janissary groups are given. The remaining sum is sent to the treasury in the capital»¹².

Ayn-i Ali in his *Kavânîn*, composed in the beginning of the seventeenth century, had listed the same provinces as *sâlyâne* are held by Cânib-i Padişahî. The salaries of *beylerbeyis* and *sancakbeyis* and wages of janissary groups are given from the revenues»¹³.

II

The aim of this paper is not to give the Ottoman administrative and financial system of the provinces of Yemen, Basra and Lahsa in detail; that is a difficult task for time being. Though I have gone

12 «Memâlik-i mahrusa umûmen otuzdört beylerbeyilîkdir, yirmibeşi hasla tokuzi *salyâne* îtedir... *Salyâne* ile olan bunlardır : eyâlet-i Mısır, eyâlet-i Yemen, eyâlet-i Habesh, eyâlet-i Basra, eyâlet-i Lahsa, eyâlet-i Bağdad, eyâlet-i Trablusgarb, eyâlet-i Tunus, eyâlet-i Cezâyir-i Garb... *Salyâne* ile olan eyâletlerde zeamet ve timar yokdur; fakat kul taifesi vardır. Cümle mahsulâtı Hazret-i Padişah-ı Alempenah cânibinden zabt olunır. Hasıl olan maldan beylerbeyilerine tayin olunan *salyâneleri* ve kul taifesine ulûfeleri verildikten sonra ziyâdesi der-i devlet-medara gelüb dahil-i hazine olur» (Hamid Hadzibegic, «Rasprava Ali Çavuşa iz Sofije o timarskoj organizaciji u XVII stoljeću», in *Bulletin du Musée de la République Populaire de Bosnie et Herzégovine a Sarajevo*, Nova serija, 1947, II, p. 146.

13 Ayn-i Ali Efendi, *Kavânîn-i Âl-i Osman der Hülâsa-i Mezâmin-i Defter-i Divân* (ed. M.T. Gökbilgin), İstanbul, 1979, pp. 8-9: «*Salyâne* ile olan beylerbeyiliklerin cümle mahsulâtı cânib-i padişahîden zabt olunup beylerbeyisine ve sancakbeyilerine ve kul taifesine hasıl olan maldan *salyâne* ve ulûfe virilür».

through the relevant *defters* and documents for the most part of the sixteenth century I shall mention here only few sources to materialize the *salyâne* practice in the above-mentioned provinces of the Arab lands¹⁴. The accounting of revenues and expenditures of the province of Yemen, some of the *Ruûs* registers for the *eyâlets* of Basra and Lahsa will be given to demonstrate the main characteristics of the Ottoman rule in the Arabian Peninsula in the sixteenth century.

First of all, the aim of the state was to have from the *salyâne* provinces a certain sum (*irsâliye*) sent to the capital; that is to say after paying all the military, administrative and social expenses the provincial authorities had to remit to the capital a sum taken from the balance (*el-bâkî*). The register of the accounting of the revenues and expenditures (it will be called hereafter as budget) of the province of Yemen for the year 969/1561-62 indicates¹⁵ that the sum of 2,028,000 *paras* was sent to İstanbul (*irsâliye be-dergâh-ı âlî*)¹⁶ out of the total income (i.e., 24,955,164 *paras*: collections of land-tax, *mukataat* and *iskeleha* (the landing places). Another budget of the Ottoman Yemen, dated 1004/1595, denotes that 110,000 gold coin (*sikke-i hasanê*) was transmitted to the capital; the total revenue of Yemen in that year amounted to 668,479 gold coins¹⁷.

Under the term *salyâne* only *beylerbeyis* and *beys* (umera) received their salaries. Mahmud Pasha, the beylerbeyi of Yemen in 969/1561-62 received 1,667,925 *paras*; and the *ümerâ* of that province were paid 2,166,639 *paras*¹⁸. So, in 969, the total sum of 3,834,564 *paras* was allocated as *salyâne*. In 970/1562-63 the *salyâne* of the

14 For a short notice of the Ottoman archival material for the history of Arabian Peninsula in the sixteenth century see S. Özbaran, «The Importance of the Turkish Archives for the History of Arabia in the Sixteenth Century (with particular Reference to the *Beylerbeyliks* of the Yemen and Lahsa)», in *Sources for the History of Arabia*, part 2, Riyad, 1979, pp. 105-112.

15 İstanbul, Topkapı Palace Archive, D. 314, fol. 12a.

16 The Palace preferred in fact to receive the *fûl-i kalikut* (pepper of Calicut) for that amount.

17 İstanbul, *Başbakanlık* Archives, *Maliyeden Müdevver* collection, nu. 7092, p. 5.

18 D. 314, fol. 11a.

beylerbeyi of the province of Lahsa was 1,100,000 *akçes*¹⁹. The sanjak of Katif in the *eyâlet* of Lahsa (just before the establishment of the *beylerbeylik* of Lahsa in 1555) had been conferred on Murad Bey with 300,000 *akçe salyâne*²⁰. In 981/1573 the *livâ* of Zabid in the province of Yemen was given to Yakub Bey with 280,000 *salyâne*²¹.

According to a *deftêr* which include the appointments in the Empire in the years between 985/1577 and 996/1588, Rıdvan Pasha, formerly the *beylerbeyi* of the Habesh province, was appointed as the *beylerbeyi* of the province of Basra with an annual salary (*salyâne*) of 1,000,000 *akçes*²².

To give some other examples of this kind let me mention the *beylerbeyi* of Lahsa, Mehmed Pasha, the son of Salih Pasha, who had the post post on 26 *zilkade* 987/ 15 January 1580 with 900 *akçe salyâne*. And Ahmed, the agha of Jasha volunteers (the chief of *Çeşme gönüllüleri*), had been conferred the sanjak of Uyun in the province of Lahsa with 210,000 *akçe salyâne*²³. In 980/1572 Veli, the agha of the *Azebs* of Hemmar in the province of Basra, undertook to farm (*iltizâm*) certain source of revenues at more than 200,000 *akçes*²⁴.

The various budgets of Yemen in the sixteenth century show that the greatest part of revenues went for the wages of various administrative and military functionaries. The Ottoman army organization in the provinces of Yemen, Basra and Lahsa was naturally different from those where the timar system was in force. There were no armed retainers (*cebelü*) under timar-holding *sipâhis*. The salaried groups formed the Ottoman forces in the *salyâne* provinces. In 969 in Yemen 18,479,035 *paras* had to be paid for the *mevâcib*, i.e., wages²⁵. These functionaries were the *aghayân-ı bölük* (chiefs of regiments), *müteferrika* (elite group), *çavuşân* (corps of pursuivants), *gönüllüyan* (volunteers), *tüfenkciyan* (musketeers), *nev-*

19 İstanbul, *Başbakanlık* Archives, *Kâmil Kepeci* collection, nu. 219, p. 154.

20 KK, nu. 212, p. 25.

21 İstanbul, *Başbakanlık* Archives, *Mühimme* collections, nu. 25, p. 14.

22 KK, nu. 262, p. 163.

23 KK, nu. 262, p. 173.

24 KK, nu. 225, p. 222.

25 D. 314, fol. 11b.

betcîyân (guards), *mustahfizân* (janissary garrisons, the largest amount went to these men), *cebecîyân* (armourers), *tobcîyân* (gunners), *arabacîyân* (artillery drivers), *azebân* (infantries), *ruesâ* (sea-captains), etc. The budget of Yemen, dated 1004/1595 indicates that 344,911 gold coins went for the payment of these functionaries, out of the total of 668,479 gold coins²⁶.

As for the revenues under discussion the Yemen budget once again show them clearly: in 969/1561-62 the total income of this province amounted to over 31 milyon *paras*, and in 1004/1595 668,479 gold pieces as mentioned above

In 969 the collections of land-tax, *mukataat* and *eskeleha* of Yemen were altogether about 25 milyon *paras*²⁷. The main income in fact from the land-tax (*harâc-ı arâzi*). In this year the total revenue of Zabid in Yemen was 5,795,080 *paras*. Of this 3,252,262 came as the land-tax, and 1,405,402 from the *mukataat*²⁸. Also in the same year the land-tax, collected from the *livâ* of Aden amounted to 410,000 *paras*, and the *mukataat* 1,550,000 *paras*²⁹.

26 *Mal. Müd.*, 7092, p. 5.

27 D. 314, fol. 10b.

28 D. 314, fol. 10b.

29 D. 314, fol. 11a.