



Indian
Institute of
Science

IISc AND EARLY INDUSTRIALISATION



A portrait of Sir M Visvesvaraya

In 1913, Sir M Visvesvaraya, the Dewan of Mysore, was nominated to the Council of IISc. He urged the Institute's researchers to carry out studies that would help his dream of an industrialised Mysore.

Visvesvaraya's association with the Institute had an immediate impact on the nature of research at IISc. In less than five years, six factories were started as a direct result of the investigations carried out here: an acetone factory in Nasik, a thymol factory in Hyderabad (Sind), a factory to make straw boards from bamboo in Bangalore, a soap factory in Bangalore and sandalwood oil factories in Bangalore and Mysore city.



This bungalow at IISc served as the office of the acetone factory that came up at Nasik



The Mysore Sandalwood oil factory



An early advertisement for Mysore Sandal Soap

The most successful of these were the sandalwood oil and the soap factories. Together, these factories ensured that sandalwood and its products became synonymous with the state of Karnataka.