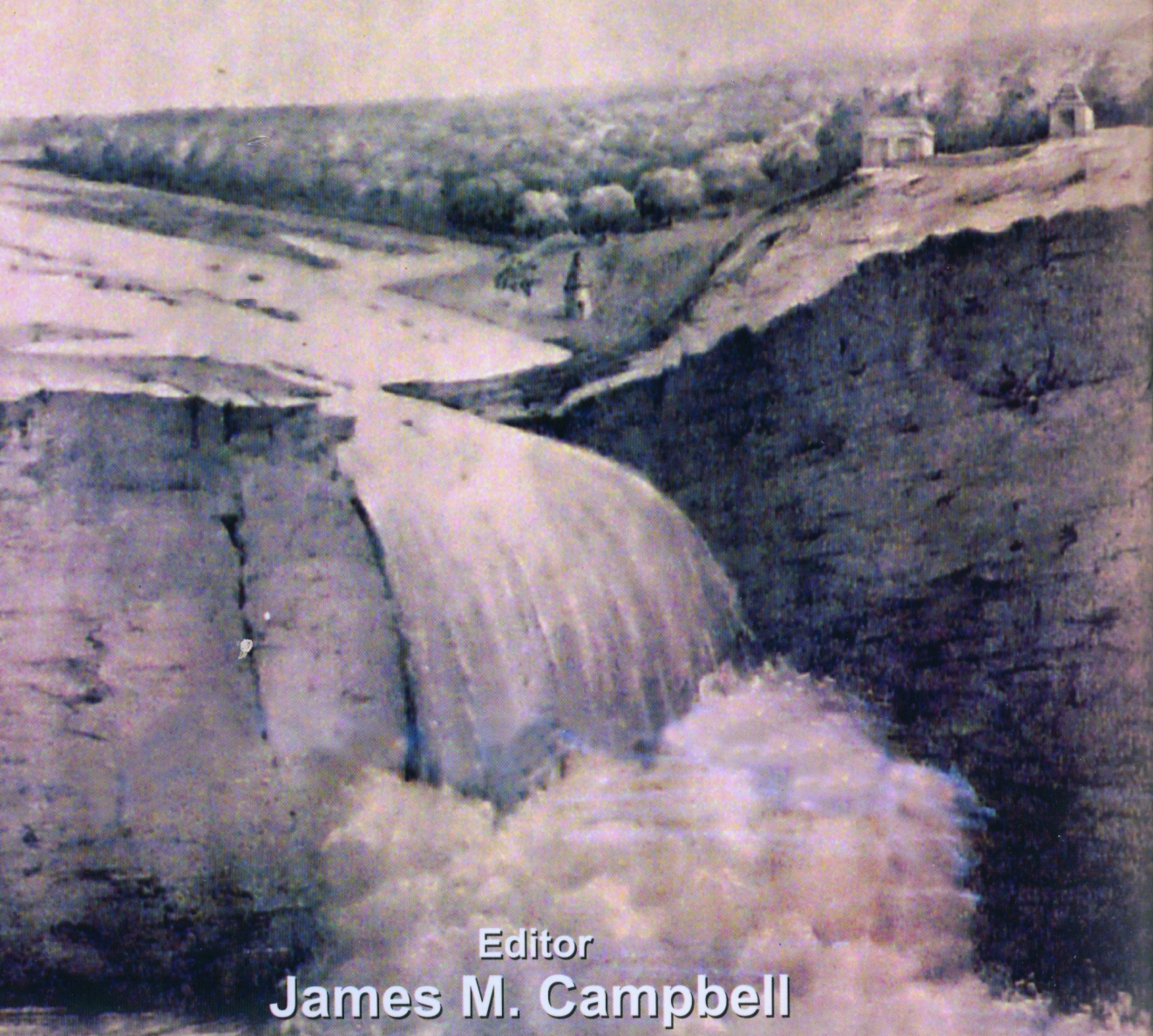


GAZETTEER OF INDIA



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BELGAUM



Editor

James M. Campbell

BELGAUM.

THE names of contributors are given in the body of the book. Special acknowledgments are due to Messrs J. L. L. MacGregor, District Forest Officer, G. McCorkell, C.S., W. H. Horsley, C.S., J. F. Fleet, C.S., R. B. Joyner, C.E., and Surgeon-Major C. T. Peters, and to Ráo Sáheb Kalyán Sitárám Chitrey.

Much valuable help has also been received from Messrs. A. A. C. Jervoise, C.S., and T. D. Mackenzie, C.S., the present and former Collectors of Belgaum.

JAMES M. CAMPBELL.

August, 1884.

GAZETTEER

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

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VOLUME XXI.  
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BELGAUM.

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*Under Government Order.*  
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Bombay:

PRINTED AT THE

GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS.

1874

Belgaum District Gazetteer - Edited by James M. Campbell

A Government Of Karnataka Publication

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Office of the Chief Editor

Karnataka Gazetteer

8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, BWSSB Building

District Office Road, Bangalore - 560 009

First Print: 1864

Reprint: 2004

Price:

Copies can be had from

Director, Government Central Book Depot,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Road
Bangalore 560 001

Asst. Director, Government Branch Press, Dharwad
Asst. Director, Government Branch Press, Gulbarga
Asst. Director, Government Branch Press, Mysore

Chief Editor, Karnataka Gazetteer,
Cauvery Bhavan, 8th Floor (BWSSB), Bangalore - 560 009
Ph. 2221 3474, Fax 2224 3293

Printed at

M/s Parishree Printers

100/3, Nagappa Street, Palace Guttahalli
Bangalore 560 003, Ph : 2336 8286

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

In further recognition of the distinguished labours of Sir James Macnabb Campbell, K.C.I.E., and of the services rendered by those who have assisted him in his work. His excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to order that the following extract from Government Resolution No. 2885, dated the 11th August 1884, be republished and printed immediately after the title page of Volume I, part-I, of the Gazetteer, and published in every issue.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has from time to time expressed his entire approval of the volumes of the Gazetteer already published, and now learns with much satisfaction that the remaining Statistical Accounts have been completed in the same elaborate manner. The task now brought to a close by Mr. Campbell has been very arduous. It has been the subject of his untiring industry for more than ten years, in the earlier part of which period, however he was occasionally employed on additional duties, including the preparation of a large number of articles for the Imperial Gazetteer. When the work was begun, it was not anticipated that so much time would be required for its completion, because it was contemplated that it would be carried out on so extensive a scale. Its magnitude may be estimated by the fact that the Statistical Accounts, exclusive of the general chapters yet to be reprinted, embrace twenty-seven volumes containing on an average 500 pages each. Mr. Campbell could not have sustained the unflagging zeal displayed by him for so long a period without an intense interest in the subjects dealt with. The result is well worthy of the labour, expended, and is a proof of rare fitness of Mr. Campbell on the ground both of literary ability and of power of steady application for the important duty assigned to him. The work is a record of historical and statistical facts and of information regarding the country and the people as complete perhaps as ever was produced on behalf of any Government, and cannot fail to be of the utmost utility in the future administration of the Presidency.

“The thanks of Government have already been conveyed to the various contributors, and it is only necessary now to add that they share, according to the importance of their contributions, in the credit which attaches to the general excellence of the work”.

The whole series of volumes is now complete and His Excellency in council congratulates Sir James M. Campbell and all associated with him in this successful and memorable achievement.

Bombay Castle
14th February 1902

H.O. Guin
Secretary to Government
General Department

PREFACE

The earliest record of an attempt to arrange for the preparation of statistical account of the different districts of the Bombay Presidency was in 1843. In 1843 Government called on the Revenue Commissioner to obtain from the Collectors as part of their next Annual Report fullest available information regarding their districts¹. The information was specially to include their own and their assistance's observations on the state of the cross and other roads, not under the superintendence of a separate department, on the passes and ferries throughout the country on the street in the principal towns, and on this extension and improvement of internal communications. As from Collectors alone could any knowledge of the state of the district be obtained, the Collectors were desired to include in their Annual Reports observations on every point from which a knowledge of the actual condition of the country could be gathered with the exception of matters purely judicial which were to be supplied by the Judicial Branch of the Administration. Government remarked that, as Collectors and their Assistants during a large portion of the year moved about the district in constant and intimate communication with all classes they possessed advantages which no other public officers enjoyed of acquiring a full knowledge of the condition of the country, the causes of progress or retro-gradation, the good measures which require to be fostered and extended, the evil measures which call for abandonment, the defects in existing institutions which require to be remedied, and the nature of the remedies to be applied. Collectors also, it was observed, have an opportunity of judging of the effect of British rule on the condition and character of the people, on their caste prejudices and on their superstitious observances. They can trace any alternations for the better or worse in dwellings, clothing and diet, and can observe the use of improved implements of husbandry or other crafts, the habits of locomotion, the state of education particularly among the higher classes whose decaying means and energy under our most leveling system compared with that of preceding governments will attract their attention. Finally they can learn how far existing village institutions are effectual to their end, and may be available for self-government and in the management of local taxation for local purposes.

The question of preparing District Statistical Manuals was not again raised till 1870. In October 1867 the Secretary of State, desired the Bombay Government to take steps for the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency on the model of the Gazetteer prepared during that year for the Central

1. Secretary's letter 4223 to the Revenue Commissioner dated 30th December 1843 Revenue Volumes 1854 of 1843.

Provinces. The Bombay Government requested the two Revenue Commissioners and the Director of Public Instruction to submit a scheme for carrying into effect the orders of the Secretary of State. In reply the officers consulted remarked that the work to be done for the Bombay Presidency would be of a multifarious character. The committee observed that a third form of special knowledge would be required to write accounts of Parsis Khoja's and other castes and tribes; that in short the undertaking would be one of much wider scope and greater difficulty than the preparation of the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces. Much thought would be required before the general plan could be laid down, and after the plan was fixed all sorts of questions as to arrangement and treatment of particular parts would be sure to arise. In the Committee's opinion local revenue officers could not as a rule find time to devote to work of this description without neglecting their ordinary duties; but they could correct and amplify such information as a special officer could compile from the published and unpublished records of the Government.

In January 1868 the Bombay Government decided that the general supervision and direction of the work should be placed in the hands of a committee consisting of the Revenue Commissioners, the Director of Public Instruction, and the Commissioner of customs, and that an Editor should be appointed with a small copying establishment to act under the directions of the Committee. The Editor was to give his entire time to the work and was expected to finish it in about a year. He was to collect and arrange in alphabetical order all recorded information regarding the towns and other places of interest in each Collectorate, and to send printed on half margin each draft when completed to the local officers for verification, additions, and alterations. When the drafts were returned and corrected by the Editor, they were to be laid before the Committee. To enable the Editor to meet such expenses as a fair remuneration for articles contributed by qualified persons, and also to pay for the printing of the work with small accompanying maps, an amount not exceeding Rs. 12,000/- was sanctioned for the total expense of the Gazetteer including the payment of the Editor. At the outset it was decided to place a portion of the sum sanctioned not exceeding Rs. 2000, at the disposal of the Commissioner in Sindh to secure the preparation of articles referring to Sindh. The Committee was requested to meet at Poona in June 1868 and to report to Government on the best mode of preparing and editing the Gazetteer and supervising its publication.

In August 1868 the Bombay Gazetteer Committee composed of Messers. A.F. Bellasis Revenue Commissioner N.D. Chairman, Mr. W.H. Havelock Revenue Commissioner S.D. and Sir Alexander Grant, Director of Public Instruction, submitted a report. The Collectors and Political Officers were in the meanwhile requested to ascertain what records in their possession were likely to be useful for the preparation of a Gazetteer and what papers in the possession of others and likely to be useful for the purpose were obtainable within their charge. Collectors and Political Officers were requested to send their replies to the Director of Public Instruction who would collect them on behalf of the Committee.

These proposals were sanctioned on the 11th September 1868. Adhering as far as possible to the arrangement followed in the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces, which had met with the approval of the Secretary of State, Mr. Crowe, drew out the following list of subjects ...(omitted). In 1869 the draft articles prepared by Mr. Crowe were submitted to Mr. (now Sir) W. Hunter of the Bengal Civil Service who expressed his satisfaction at the progress made. The Committee adopted certain suggestions made by Sir W. Hunter for the work and for obtaining fuller district figures from the marine, irrigation, cotton and survey offices. In March 1870 a further extension of one year was accorded. The Bombay Government directed that each Collector should choose one of his Assistants to correspond with the editor and obtain for him all possible information from local records. All Heads of Offices were also desired to exert themselves zealously in aiding the prosecution of the work. In 1871 Mr. Crowe's draft article on the Dharwar District was sent to Mr. Hunter for opinion who in addition to detailed criticism on various points made the following general remarks.

" My own conception of the work is that, in return for a couple of days reading, the Account should give a new Collector a comprehensive, and at the same time, a distinct idea of the district which he has been sent to administer. Mere reading can never supersede practical experience in the district administration. But a succinct and well conceived district account is capable of antedating the acquisition of such personal experience by many months and of both facilitating and systematizing a Collector's personal enquiries. The Compiler does not seem to have caught the points on which a Collector would naturally consult the Account. In order that the Editor should understand these points it is necessary that he should have had practical acquaintance with district administration and that he should himself have experienced the difficulties which beset an officer on his taking charge of a District or Sub-Division. The individual points will differ according to the character of the country. For example in deltaic districts the important question is the control of rivers; in dry districts it is the subject of water - supply. But in all cases a District Account besides dealing with the local specialties should furnish a historical narration of its revenue and expenditure since it passed under the British rule, of the sums which we have taken from it in taxes, and of the amount which we have returned to it, in the protection of property and person and the other charges of civil government".

Sir William Hunter laid much stress on the necessity of stating the authority on the strength of which any statement is made and of the propriety of avoiding anything like libels on persons or classes. In 1871 Sir W. Hunter was appointed Director General of Statistics to the Government of India. In this capacity he was to be a central guiding authority whose duty it was to see that each of Provincial Gazetteers contained the materials requisite for the comparative statistics of the Empire. As some of the Bombay District Accounts were incomplete and as it was thought advisable to embody in the

District Accounts the results of general Census of 1872 it was decided, in October 1871, that pending the completion of the census returns. Mr. Crowe was appointed Assistant Collector at Sholapur and the Gazetteer records were left in a room in the Poona Collector's Office. In September 1872 the whole of the Gazetteer records including thirty one articles on British Districts and Native States, were stolen by two youths who had been serving in the Collector's Office as peons. These youths finding the Gazetteer office room unoccupied stole the papers piece by piece for the sake of the trifling amount they fetched as waste paper. Search resulted in the recovery in an imperfect state of seven of the thirty one drafts. The youths were convicted and sentenced to a year's imprisonment in the Poona Reformatory.

In 1873 Mr. Francis Chapman the then Chief Secretary to Government took the preparation of the Gazetteer under his personal control. And in June 1873 Mr. James M. Campbell, C.S. was appointed Complier. An important change introduced by Mr. Chapman who to separate from the preparation of the series of the District Manuals certain general subjects and to arrange for the preparation of accounts of those general subjects by specially qualified contributors.....(omitted)

Bombay Customs House 29th May 1896 .

James Macnabb Campbell

True Extract taken from the Preface to Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Volume I, Part-I - History of Gujarath; Bombay Govt. Central Press 1886.

CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

The reprint of the Belgaum district gazetteer that was compiled by James M Campbell in 1884 has been necessitated owing to two major reasons - the first being, the non-availability of the much sought after volume and the second being, the intention of the department to make it affordable to the scholars and the general public. With this, the scheme of reprinting of the district gazetteers of North Kanara, Bijapur, Dharwad and Belgaum of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency compiled by James M Campbell is complete.

After the establishment of the Karnataka Gazetteer department in 1958 as an independent unit, publication of the 20 district gazetteers has been completed in 1990. Later, the department undertook the task of publishing the revised district gazetteers in Kannada and has so far accomplished the publication of five Gazetteer volumes including the Mandya district volume which was released a couple of months ago.

I hereby express my deep sense of gratitude to the hon'ble minister for Kannada and Culture, Smt. Rani Satish for her encouragement in this endeavour. I thank Shri. B.S.Patil I.A.S., Chief Secretary and Chairman, Gazetteer Advisory Committee who retired from service on 31-01-04 and Shri. K.K.Mishra, I.A.S., the present Chief Secretary and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee for their valuable guidance in the activities of our department. I sincerely acknowledge the encouragement of the former Secretary to the Department of Kannada and Culture, Dr.C.S.Kedar, IAS, and the present Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Kannada and Culture, Smt. Usha Ganesh, IAS, who have been beacon lights in all our ventures. Dr.K.Paddayya, Director, Deccan Institute of Advanced Studies in Archaeology, Pune, has been kind enough to lend the rare volume of the Belgaum district gazetteer. I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my gratitude to the M/s. Mahabharatha Samshodhana Pratishthana, Bangalore, for excellently scanning the brittle pages of this volume.

The contribution of Sri.Paramesh Pandey I.A.S., who headed the department from 21-04-03 to 14-07-03 to the progress of the department is gratefully acknowledged. I place on record the services of Mr. S.A.Jagannath, Senior Editor (I/C Chief Editor from 25-08-03 to till 09-01-04) along with Dr.A.Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator who have overseen the printing and M/s Parishree Printers who have neatly executed the printing work.

Bangalore
28-02-2004

H. Chittaranjan, KAS
Chief Editor
Karnataka Gazetteer

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Belgaum (Supplementary)

Belgaum (Supplementary)

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