

P R E F A C E

SHORTLY after the fall of Srirangapatna in 1799, the Governor-General of India, with a view to collecting information on the geographical, social, political and economic aspects of the territories that came under British authority, appointed Col. Mackenzie to undertake a survey of the area and submit a report. In 1800, Col. Mackenzie submitted his report. The subsequent part of the work was carried on by Dr. Leyden, who was asked to assess the natural history of the country under various heads like minerology, flora and fauna, climatology, agriculture, industries and the like. In July 1802, Col. Mackenzie again submitted a report, which among other details, included information about the situation, extent, boundaries and contents of the region. In the meanwhile, Dr. Francis Buchanan-Hamilton, under the orders of the Marquis of Wellesley, undertook a journey from Madras, through Mysore, Kanara and Malabar and his travel diary was published in three volumes under the title "A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Kanara and Malabar". Later, Dr. Benjamin Heyne compiled a survey report titled "Tracts, Historical and Statistical, on India" and the portion relating to Mysore State in that publication was published by the British Commission in 1864 under the authority of the Government of India.

A memorandum in the shape of notes was prepared in 1834 by the British Commission on the social and economic aspects of Mysore State for submission to the Governor-General. The note gave an account of the state of affairs under the six principal administrative divisions of which Chitradurga was one. It is generally presumed that Sir Mark Cubbon, the Chief Commissioner, was the author of this important sketch. This was followed by a report of the Chitradurga area prepared in 1842 by Capt. F. Chalmers, who was the Superintendent of Chitradurga division. Though these were called reports, they were, in fact, gazetteers since they were comprehensive in their content. Col. Wilks is to be remembered in this connection since he wrote an exhaustive account of the state of affairs at that time.

The earliest attempt to bring out a Gazetteer in Mysore State was made in June 1867, when Mr. C. B. Saunders, the officiating Chief Commissioner, wrote to the Superintendents of Divisions, directing them to compile a gazetteer for each district. Though nine manuscript volumes were prepared in the next two years, only two relating to the districts of Mysore and Kolar were published.

With the sanction of the Government of India, Mr. B. Lewis Rice, who was the Director of Archæological Researches and the Director of Public Instruction in Mysore and Coorg, was entrusted in 1873 with the work of compilation of the gazetteers of Mysore and Coorg. He prepared three volumes, the first of Mysore State in general, the second of Mysore by districts and the third devoted entirely to Coorg. The first two were published in 1876 and the third in 1878. The first two volumes relating to the State of Mysore were again revised and re-written by Mr. Rice twenty years later and published in 1897. Another publication containing articles drafted by him from notes received on various technical subjects from the departments concerned was published in 1908 in a volume entitled "Provincial Gazetteers of India—Mysore State" in which a section was devoted to Chitradurga. During the dewanship of Dr. M. Visvesvaraya, Economic Superintendents were appointed for all districts and these officers were asked, among other things, to prepare a statistical account for their respective districts. In 1916, the Chitradurga Hand-Book was published.

The second edition of the Mysore Gazetteer issued by Mr. Lewis Rice having been out of print, Sri R. Narasimhachar, Director of Archæological Researches in Mysore, was appointed in July 1914 as compiler of the new edition. In 1924, the work of compiling the Mysore Gazetteer was entrusted to Sri C. Haya-vadana Rao, who brought out a publication in five volumes between the years 1927 and 1930.

The old gazetteers were intended mainly to give statistical and other information to the foreign administrators about the district and the people. After 1947, this outlook has undergone a change and the gazetteers are now focussing their attention more on the culture of the people of India and the country's contribution towards human civilisation. They also pinpoint the progress achieved and the benefits that have accrued to the people as the result of the several development plans.

An Advisory Board consisting of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore as the Chairman and Dr. D. C. Pavate, M.A. (Cantab), Sri V. L. D'Souza, B.A., B.com. (Lond.), Sri P. H. Krishna Rao, M.A., Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, M.A., and Dr. S. C. Nandimath, M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.), as Members was constituted to scrutinise the chapters compiled by me and to guide me in the work. The Central Gazetteers Unit, New Delhi, has also thoroughly scrutinised the various chapters and made useful suggestions with a view to improving the standard of this volume.

The Gazetteer of Chitradurga is the fourth to be published in the series of District Gazetteers of Mysore State. Its chapter

headings and contents are in accordance with a uniform pattern agreed upon between the Central Gazetteers Unit and the States. The available Census data of 1961 have been given and in a few cases, the figures of the 1951 Census had to be depended upon. Every attempt has been made to include the latest figures, as far as possible. I have received co-operation and assistance from various sources and I offer my thanks to the Chairman and members of the State Advisory Board, the Indian Meteorological Department, the Survey of India, the Director of Printing, Stationery and Publications in Mysore, and the various other departments of the State Government.

I have also to express my thanks to Sriyuths: A. Ramakrishnan, Administrative Officer, P. B. Srinivasan, K. Abhishankar, M. A. Narasimha Iyengar and K. C. Bheemaiah, Editors, and Abdul Wadood and K. L. Anantha Raman, Stenographers, and other members of my staff who assisted me in the compilation and printing of this gazetteer.

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B. N. SRI SATHYAN,
Chief Editor.

