

GAZETTEER OF INDIA



# MYSORE GAZETTEER

## VOLUME I DESCRIPTIVE

Edited by - C.HAYAVADANA RAO, B.A., B.L.,



**KARNATAKA GAZETTEER DEPARTMENT  
BENGALURU**



Government of Karnataka

# **MYSORE GAZETTEER**

COMPILED FOR GOVERNMENT

VOLUME 1

**DESCRIPTIVE**

REPRINT

**S. Anees Siraj**

Chief Editor

Karnataka Gazetteer Department

Bengaluru-560 009

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## Preface

After the fall of Tipu Sultan in 1799, the East India Company resolved to obtain a survey and General statistical account of the territories that attracted attention not only in India, but also in England, France and other European Countries.

Dr. Francis Buchanan was accordingly deputed in 1800, followed by Marquis Wellesley to travel through and report upon "the Dominions of the Raja of Mysore, and the country acquired by the company in the late war from the Sultan as well as that part of Malabar which the Company annexed to their own territories in the former war under Marquis Cornwallis". His report, written from day to day while travelling was sanctioned publication in 1805 and was released in 1807 in three quarto volumes, under the title *A Journey from Madras through the countries of Mysore, Canara and Malabar*.

The first step towards the compilation of a Gazetteer for each district was taken during 1867 and during the next two years nine manuscript volumes were prepared. Only three however came to be printed, namely one for Mysore District by Mr. Wellesley, one for Kolar, presumably by Krishna Iyengar and one for Coorg by Rev. G. Richter. In 1873, B. L. Rice was appointed editor to bring out one work on uniform plan and was entrusted the compilation of the Gazetteer of Mysore and Coorg. The Gazetteer thus finally

taken the shape of two volumes devoted to Mysore and a third to Coorg, the first treating of Mysore in General and the second of Mysore by Districts, eight in number. This edition was issued in 1876.

Sir William Wilson Hunter, the Editor of the Imperial Gazetteer of India described the first and second editions in an official report of 1877 as better than anything he himself had been able to do even for Bengal. Twenty years later in 1897 Mr. Rice published a revised edition, which won high appreciation. This edition was out of print for some years. His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore therefore resolved to publish a new edition of the work.

Orders were accordingly, issued in July 1914 appointing Mr. Rao Bahadur R. Narasimhachar, then Director of Archaeological Research in Mysore as compiler. He was later succeeded in that capacity by Mr. V. R. Tyagaraja Iyer, Director of Statistics and subsequently Superintendent of Census operations, Mysore state during 1921. In Feb. 1924 Rao Bahadur C. Hayavadana Rao was entrusted with this work and was appointed editor.

Since several changes had taken place in the past thirty years in the administration of state, and His Highness's Government deemed it necessary to incorporate them in the new edition, Sri Hayavadana Rao revised the work, introduced changes in the general plan and brought out five volumes in eight books. The single volume of

B.L.Rice dealing with the state in general was expanded into four volumes, entitled 'Descriptive', 'Historical' 'Economic' and 'Administrative'. The volume 'Historical' was brought out in four parts covering from ancient period to modern period in a comprehensive manner. Volume V is devoted to the eight districts. Thus five volumes in the form of eight books were compiled and edited by Sri C.Hayavadana Rao.

It is these volumes, the Department of Gazetteer, took up for scanning and reprinting. For convenience sake, Volume V is split into two books (Part-I and Part-II) each covering four districts. The work has been accomplished with the guidance and support of Sri Govinda M. Karajola Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Kannada and Culture and I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister. Similar has been the support of Sri S.V.Ranganath IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee and Sri Ramesh B.Jhalki IAS, Secretary to Government, Department of Kannada and Culture and Information. I also acknowledge the initiative taken by Sri S.A.Jagannath incharge senior editor, and the co-operation extended by my editorial staff in the completion of this work.

**S.Anees Siraj**  
Chief Editor  
Karnataka Gazetteer Department  
Bengaluru



## GENERAL PREFACE

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THE idea of a *Gazetteer of Mysore*, projected as a work in eight volumes, one for each of the present eight districts, first took shape in 1867. But owing to different causes, only two volumes, those relating to Mysore and Kolar, compiled by Mr. H. Wellesley and Mr. B. Krishniengar, C.S.I., were issued. A couple of years after the Census of 1871, Mr. B. Lewis Rice, C.I.E., then Director of Public Instruction in Mysore and Coorg, was charged with the task of compiling one work on a uniform plan. The *Gazetteer* now took the form of two volumes, the first treating of Mysore in general and the second of Mysore by districts, eight in number. This edition was issued in 1876 and attracted favourable notice. The late Sir William Wilson Hunter, K.C.S.I., the Editor of the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, first and second editions, described them in an official report of 1877 as better than anything he himself had been able to do even for Bengal. Twenty years later, Mr. Rice, still in the service of the State, was called upon to revise the work. The revised edition was published in 1897 and soon won high appreciation. It combined the result not only of much administrative

1<sup>st</sup> - 1876

11<sup>th</sup> - 1897



but also of the latest historical research, a field which in Mysore, Mr. Rice had made peculiarly his own as Director of Archæological Researches and as the Editor of numerous classical Kannada works. His retirement to England has deprived this edition of the benefit of his vast knowledge and well-known literary skill. His interest in the work has, however, been keen and the historical notes sent by him have proved highly valuable.

The second edition issued by Mr. Rice having been out of print for some years, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja resolved that a new edition of the work should be published in connection with the Census of 1911. Orders were accordingly issued in July 1914 appointing Prāktana Vimarsa Vichakshana Rao Bahadur R. Narasimhachar, M.A., then Director of Archæological Researches in Mysore, as its Compiler. He was later succeeded in that capacity by Mr. V. R. Thyagaraja Iyer, M.A., Director of Statistics, and subsequently Superintendent of Census Operations, Mysore State, during 1921. In February 1924, I was entrusted with the work and appointed Editor. The changes which have been effected in the administration of the State within the past thirty years have been such that it was deemed necessary by His Highness's Government that the new edition of the work should be so planned as to fully reflect them in it. Agreeably to their

instructions, the bulk of the work has been raised from two to seven volumes, including a companion Atlas. The single volume dealing with the State in general has now been expanded into four volumes entitled respectively "Descriptive," "Historical," "Economic" and "Administrative." Likewise in place of the previous single volume devoted to the eight districts, two volumes have been set apart for their description, one for the four Eastern and the other for the four Western districts. Changes have been introduced not only in the general plan of the work but also in the methods of compiling the work in order to render it both comprehensive and up-to-date. These changes would justify its being considered a new work rather than a new edition.

The matter included in the several volumes has been read over by the various Departments of His Highness's Government and revised by them in the light of all the information available to them. This has been especially the case in connection with the different chapters included in the volumes bearing on "Economic" and "Administrative." Some of the chapters forming the volume "Historical" have been submitted to the criticism of Rao Bahadur H. Krishna Sastri, B.A., late Epigraphist to the Government of India. For the great help he has rendered in connection with them, I would record my thanks here. The late Rājākāryaprasakta B. Ramakrishna Rao furnished

some valuable notes on the Post-Rendition period, while Dr. R. Shama Sastri, PH.D., the present Director of Archæological Researches in Mysore, has also been obligingly helpful in supplying copies of Departmental Reports whenever required. Several of the Chapters included in this volume have also been read through in manuscript by Messrs. R. Ranga Rao, B.A., B.L. and M. Venkatesa Iyengar, M.A., to whom I am indebted for many valuable suggestions. Prāktana Vimarsa Vichakshana Rao Bahadur R. Narasimhachar, M.A., has assisted me by placing at my disposal reprints of his contributions to the Journals of certain learned Societies.

The general principle adopted in compiling the first volume of the work has been to entrust each chapter forming it to an authority capable of adequately dealing with its subject-matter either by special study or official experience. The following have helped in the preparation of the chapters noted against their names :—

## CHAPTER II.

Geology      ...      ... B. Jayaram, F.G.S., Director of  
Geology in Mysore.

## CHAPTER III.

Meteorology      ...      ... C. Seshachar, M.A., F.R. MET. SOC.,  
Meteorological Reporter to the  
Government of Mysore.

## CHAPTER IV.

Botany	...	... G. H. Krumbiegel, F.R.H.S., Superintendent of Botanical Gardens and Economic Botanist to the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.
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## CHAPTER V.

Zoology	...	... C. R. Narayana Rao, M.A., L.T., Professor of Zoology, Central College, Bangalore.
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## CHAPTER VII.

Language	...	... Prāktana Vimarsa Vichakshana Rao Bahadur R. Narasimhachar, M.A.
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## CHAPTER X.

Public Health and Vital Statistics.	A. K. Pani, L.R.C.P. & S., L.F.P. & S. D.P.H., late Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore.
--	---

The rest of the chapters have been contributed by me in my capacity as Editor of the work, except that in writing the chapter on "Religion" valuable notes have been furnished by the late Rājasabhābhūshana Rev. A. M. Tabard, M.A., M.B.E., M.R.A.S., on the history of the Catholic Church in Mysore and by the Rev. W. H. Thorp, B.A., and the Rev. G. Wilkins on the Protestant Missions in Mysore.

Foot-notes, which are the despair of the general reader, have been avoided. Authorities, where

found necessary, have been cited in the body of the text. Except in the "Historical" volume, these have been kept at a minimum. Comparative statistics have been, as far as possible, given for the Census years 1881, 1901, 1911 and 1921. In some important cases, the figures for 1871 have also been given. Every attempt has been made to incorporate the figures available up to 1923-24, and in certain cases even to the end of 1924-25. As far as possible all recent administrative changes have been included in the body of the work in the respective chapters. In regard to the spelling of place-names and proper names, the ordinary spelling as approved by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja has been followed. Following the example of the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, long vowels are indicated by the mark (-) in place of the accent (') which has long since been obsolete.

A bibliography has been given at the end of each chapter, indicating the principal authorities relied on.

In the preparation of the Index, care has been taken to see that it is fairly full and comprehensive, both in regard to subject matter and proper names. While cross-indexing has not been neglected, it has been kept strictly within limits.

BANGALORE, }  
4th November 1926.

C. HAYAVADANA RAO,  
Editor.

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