

SHIMOGA DISTRICT.

SECTION I—DESCRIPTIVE.

SITUATION, AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

A District in the north-west ; situated between $13^{\circ} 27'$ and $14^{\circ} 39'$ north latitude, and between $74^{\circ} 38'$ and $76^{\circ} 4'$ east longitude. Its greatest length is 95 miles from east to west. From north to south the longest line is 80 miles. Situation.

Its area is computed at 4,030 square miles ; of which 1,171 square miles are under cultivation, 198 square miles are culturable waste and the remaining 2,661 square miles are forests and unculturable waste. Area.

It is bounded on the east and south by the Chitaldrug and Kadur Districts respectively, on the north by Dharwar, and on the north-west by North Kanara, both belonging to the Bombay Presidency, and on the west by South Kanara of the Madras Presidency. Boundaries.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

A line drawn from Talguppa to Anantapur and thence to the Ghats through Masarur and Kavaledurga, with one from this last point to Kodachātri Parvata, would nearly correspond with the water-sheds which separate the main lines of drainage. All the streams to the south, east and north of the line flow to the Tungabhadra ; those on the west to the Sharāvati, and those on the south-west to the Gargita. The main part of the District therefore consists of the western slopes of the upper Tungabhadra valley. Rocks.

The Tunga-
bhadra.

This river is formed by the union, at Kudali, of the Tunga and the Bhadra, of which the former runs most of its course within this District, in a north-easterly direction. From the point of confluence of the united streams, the river runs north to the frontier, which it follows north-eastwards to beyond Harihara, receiving on the left bank the Chorade and on the right the Haridra. Thence, leaving Mysore, it runs north, separating Madras from Bombay until joined on the left by the Varada, when again turning north-east, it marks the boundary between Madras and the Nizam's dominions, and receiving on the right the Hagari or Vedāvati, flows past Hampe, the site of the ancient cities of Kishkindha, Anegundi and Vijayanagar, into the Krishna beyond Kurnul.

The Sharāvati rises near Kavaledurga and, uniting with the Haridrāvati on the right, pursues a north-west course to the frontier. Thence turning west, it hurls itself down the Ghats by the Jog or far-famed Falls of Gersoppa, a sheer descent of over 900 feet, and runs into the sea at Honavar (Honore).

The streams rising between Kodachādrī Parvata and Kavaledurga flow west or south-west into the sea at Kundapur, the principal one being the Gargita, which descends to South Kanara from the head of the Haidar Ghar Ghat.

The western side of the District, resting upon the Ghats, is very mountainous and covered with magnificent forest, the highest point being the Kodachādrī Parvata, a fine peak situated 10 miles north-west of Nagar. Its elevation is 4,411 feet above the level of the sea. Govardhangiri in Sagar, and Chandragutti in Sorab, are also conspicuous hills, the height of the latter being 2,794 feet.

The interior of the District is crossed at the central watershed by a chain of hills running from Mandagadde on the Tunga northwards, between Anantapur and Kumsi, towards Sorab, and by a range from Atavādi westwards through Ikkēri to Talguppa. On the east are two lines of low, stony hills stretching from the south of Channagiri to the frontier,

one following the course of the Tungabhadra northwards, the other crossing that river near Hole-Honnur and passing near Shikarpur. The south-west around Nagar and Kavale-durga is full of hills.

The general elevation of the District along the water-shed is about 2,100 feet above sea level, falling to 1,900 in the east and west. The height of Anantapur has been determined as 2,101 feet; east of which Shimoga is 1,899 and Benkipur (Bhadrāvati) 1,872; while on the west, Talguppa is 1,956, Sagar 1,973, Kollur Katte 1,928, Nagar 1,887 and Haidarghar 1,896. The head of the chasm at the Falls of Gersoppa is 1,670 feet.

The greater part of the District is reckoned as *Malnad* or hill country, which, roughly speaking, may be described as occupying all to the west of a line drawn from Shikarpur to Gajanur; the eastern portion being *Maidan* or *Bailu sīme*, open country. The whole of the first-named region presents a range of scenery abounding with every charm of tropical forests and mountain wilds. Trees of the largest size stand thickly together over miles of unbroken ranks, their giant trunks entwined with creepers of python dimensions, their massive arms decked with a thousand bright blossoming orchids. Birds of rare plumage flit from bough to bough. From the thick woods, which abruptly terminate on verdant swards, bison issue forth in the early morn and afternoon to browse on the rich herbage, while large herds of elk pass rapidly across the hill sides. Packs of wild dogs cross the path, hunting in company, and the warning boom of the great *langur* monkey is heard from the lofty trees. The bamboo forest has beauties of its own, whether waving in immense fronds of delicate green foliage, or whitening with its rice-like grain. Lively gardens of the elegant areca palm, for which Nagar is famous; the *kans* of Sorab, with the rich hues of wild cinnamon and the sombre green of the jack, intermingled with the truncated leaf of the *bagni* palm, and the waving bunches of the pepper vine; the magnificent avenues of the *dhupa* tree in Sagar:—all unite to vary the

attractions of a region replete with every natural beauty. The view from the head of the descent to the Falls of Gersoppa is probably one of the choicest bits of scenery in the world.¹⁾

The features of the open country are tame in comparison with those of the woodland tracts, but there is much that is picturesque in the fertile taluk of Channagiri with its large Sulekere lake, the finest reservoir with one exception in the south of India.

GEOLOGY.

Rocks.

In this district also are wide patches of Dharwar schists underlain by granites and gneisses of different series. The schists are of a different character from those noticed in the Kadur District and are mostly chloritic—consisting of scales and small flakes of green chlorite and granular quartz. From these basic chloritic schists, there are gradations to the acidic gritty schists in which scales and wisps of chlorite occur in subordinate quantities. These latter rocks are seen in the field to be the crushed and altered phases of various effusives and intrusives, such as the rhyolites, quartz porphyry, aporhyolites, granite porphyry, microgranite, etc., which are all believed to be the various phases of the Champion gneiss series. These altered acidic schists have in them bands of iron ore, limestone and manganese ores, which appear to be the secondary replacement of the various acidic schists. The one other noticeable feature in these schists is the occurrence of a number of bands of crushed or auto-clastic conglomerate.

Granites.

Bordering the schist regions occur fairly wide masses of uniform, medium to coarse grained, generally greyish type of a granite, such as is exposed near Honnali, Saulanga and Bhadrāvati, etc. These are now regarded as the granitic phases of the Champion gneiss series and are separated from the vast complex of the granite gneisses of the Peninsular gneiss series.

The western and the north-western parts of the District in parts of the Sorab, Shikarpur and Sagar Taluks are capped sheets of laterite or lateritic soil which entirely hides the underlying formations.

In the eastern parts of the district, granite has been quarried and used for purposes of construction. In the west, the laterite forms the chief building material. This is excavated in open quarries and is sold cut into bricks of 18" × 12" × 4". During 1916, the price per 100 of such bricks was Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. On hill 2159 west of Hiregonigere tank (Honnali Taluk), the altered quartz porphyry band is quarried for making grind-stones. On the banks of the river north-west of Hiregoingere, a fine chlorite schist has also been worked for long slabs of about 7' × 2' × 3' in dimensions.

Building
Material.

The ores of iron, manganese and limestone form the chief minerals of the district.

Mines and
Minerals.

Iron ore is found in the interior in parts of the Sorab and Shikarpur Taluks, and also in more easily accessible places near Joldhal (Chennagiri), Kumsi and Shankargudda areas. The ores are mostly limonite or hæmatite and some of these ores in the Shikarpur Taluk appear to have been locally smelted about 30 years back.

Iron Ores.

Limonitic ore from the Chettanhalli area near Kumsi is being utilised by the Mysore Iron Works for smelting.

Limonitic
Ore.

Manganese is produced chiefly from the Kumsi and Shankargudda mines, the former being situated about 4 miles north-north-west of Kumsi town and the latter 9 miles west of Shimoga. Psilomelane and pyrolusite are the chief forms of the ore obtained and the ore bodies are worked in a series of benches by the open quarrying method. The total amount of manganese ore obtained from these blocks from 1905 to 1924 is 4,68,409 tons, of which 4,47,025 tons have been exported.

Manganese
Ores.

Work which was practically at a stand-still at the Kumsi mines has been resumed recently, removing ores of inferior grade. At Shankargudda, work is being carried on round about the knoll deposits.

Besides these, during 1907-1909 when there was a good demand for manganese, vigorous exploration and prospecting for the mineral were carried out, with the result that low grade ore was located at a number of places in the Kumsi and Shikarpur Taluks.

The other areas where manganese ores have been worked are :—Ittigehalli, Hosur and Ballur, Kaginelli, Hoshalli near Joladhal, Bikonhalli, Bhadigund, Balekatte, Siddarhalli, Mavinkere near Masarhalli and Karekodlu.

The total quantity of ores extracted in this district from 1905 to 1924 is 525,138 tons, of which 488,375 tons have been exported.

Limestone.

Bands of limestone are found near Bikonhalli 7 or 8 miles north of Shimoga, 4 to 6 miles north-east and north of Honnali and near Joldhal and Bhadigund and also at Kumsi and Shankargudda mines. The dolomitic limestone of the latter areas is being supplied as a flux for iron smelting at Bhadrāvati.

Soil.

The general substratum of laterite in the western taluks, wherever it approaches the surface, checks vegetation. The soil in the rice valleys, so characteristic of the *Malnad*, is loose and sandy, while that of garden lands is stiff and clayey. The richest soil of the District is in the north-east, from the Sulekere northwards. The black soil here prevails, as also around Nyanti and Belgutti in Honnali Taluk.

BOTANY.

Vegetation.

The Western Ghats and the country immediately below them are covered with magnificent evergreen forest. Many of the hills are heavily wooded up to their summits. In some parts the undergrowth is dense, elsewhere the forest is open, and on all sides trees with clear stems to the first

branch of from 80 to 100 feet met the eye. The great bulk of these trees can scarcely be realised except by actual measurement. The more valuable kinds are poon, wild jack, ebony, some, heigni, erool, dupada mara, the large devadaram, gamboge and a species of cedar. The wealth of timber in these forests is almost entirely unproductive, owing to the inaccessible nature of the country.

More to the east, as far as a line from Anavatti to midway between Shikarpur and Honnali and thence to Sakrebail, is a rich and productive belt of vegetation, including the *kans* of Sorab, areca palm and cardamom garden and the rich rice-flats of Sagar, Nagar and Tirthahalli. Within this tract are the State and District forests. The more important trees are teak, black wood, honne, matti, sampaji, arsentega, alale, biridi, bilavara, bagi, sagade or chendala, jambe, dindiga, hulvati or namadari, hunal and mashi, jani, kadaga, kuli, kalteka, nelli, navaladi, nandi, pachari, shi-anvige, tapasi, and kendatsal.

Teak, not of the largest size, is found in Shikarpur, Kumsi and Sakrebail. Bamboo is abundant everywhere. Sandal is most plentiful in Sorab, Sagar and Nagar taluks. It also grows in parts of Shimoga and Shikarpur, and a little in Channagiri and Honnali.

The taluk of Sorab abounds with *kans*, many of which are cultivated with pepper vines, and sometimes coffee. The sago palm (*caryota urens*) is also much grown for the sake of its toddy. These *kans* are apparently the remains of the old forests, which appear once to have stretched as far east as Anavatti. At the present day at Anavatti itself, there is no wood, and the surrounding country is clothed with either scrub jungle or small deciduous forest, generally pentap-terous. *Kans* are found also in Sagar, Nagar, and the other *Malnad* taluks, but those in Sorab are, from their number, situation and accessibility, the most valuable.

The Sagar taluk is not so thickly wooded as that of Sorab, except along the Ghats. The adjoining taluk of Nagar possesses heavy forests in the west (though several of the

hills are cleared), but the wood grows generally in large *kans*, which are scattered unequally over the taluk. Going south to Tirthahalli much fine timber is found to the north of the Tunga, while to the south of the river the country is comparatively open. From Mandagadde in this taluk is a long stretch of wooded country, which runs north *via* Hannigeri through portions of the Shimoga taluk to the confines of Sorab and Sagar. In this strip there is good teak, much fine second-class timber, and a vast quantity of *ingaxylocarpa*, which is largely used for making charcoal for the iron mines that abound near Masrur, Shrigeri and other places in Anantapur and Shimoga.

Between Shikarpur and Kumsi is a belt of jungle, parts of which have been placed on the State forest lists. In the eastern portions of Shikarpur and Honnali taluks, there is comparatively little wood. Between Shikarpur and Sorab is a quantity of small pentapterous jungle near Udagani and Siralkoppa, which only requires conservation to grow up into a valuable second class forest.

The Honnali taluk is poorly wooded. Near Malebennur, in the low hills to the east of the Tungabhadra, are the remains of old jungles, which apparently yielded small timber and much fuel. In Channagiri there is very little wood; in the south-west of the taluk is a small jungle

Forests.

The District comprises of three Forest Divisions. The extent of State Forests and Plantations in each of the Divisions is as follows:—

Division				State Forests	Plantations
Shimoga	..	..	..	195 Sq. Miles	2 Sq. Miles
Bhadraṛvati	..	..	..	241 do	294 Acres
Sagar	..	..	..	337 do	2 Sq. Miles

The thickly wooded evergreen Ghat forests run along part of the western boundary of the District merging gradually

into the deciduous forests of the centre and south. The eastern portion, particularly of Shikarpur, Kumsi and Honnali taluks, is comparatively little-wooded. The *kans* of Sorab are characteristic of that taluk.

The more valuable species of the Ghats are ebony, bogi, devadari (white cedar), nagasampige, surahonne, hebbahalsu, gandhagarige (toon). The most numerous are balagi and dhuma. The deciduous forests contain teak, rose-wood, honne, matti, arsentega, alale, hunal, masi, etc.

Rice is the principal cultivated product of the District, Cultivation. of which more than 60 kinds are enumerated. Areca-nut is extensively grown in Nagar, Sagar and Tirthahalli, that of the first-named place being considered superior to any in the Province. Sugar-cane is largely reared in Shikarpur. Honnali chiefly produces different kinds of dry grains as well as cotton. Pepper grows wild in the forests of Nagar and Sorab, while cardamoms are produced in the jungles about Agumbi, though not so good as those raised in areca gardens.

The sowing of rice commences in April and continues on till well in July. Reaping commences in November, and by the end of February or so is concluded. By the close of March, or a little after, the grain is threshed, and by the close of April or May is ready for the market.

The following are the names of the different kinds of rice grown in the District :—

Sakalati sanna	Hasar kesari	bhatta
Dasar do	Kempu kesari	do
Nerlagiri do	Hanesale	do
Putti do	Keruvina	do
Bili do	Ambe mori	do
Kempu do	Hasadi	do
Marutra do	Haralu honisana	do
Nirlagiri do	Hudri	do
Gauri do	Jolasina	do
Bhangar kaddi bhatta	Chekkalli	do
Mentyasale do	Janagali	do
Kesari do	Hasar meluge	do

Kare dadi	bhatta	Nerogoli	bhatta.
Hunse huvina	do	Haluganna	do
Bidane bija	do	Kamariganna	do
Kalave	do	Kempu dadi banna sale	
Togarigina	do	Bili	do
Siddasale	do	Nirada	do
Somasali	do	Billikana hegge	
Jirige sali	do	Juddi	do
Motalingana	do	Mardara	do
Hasibilevina	do	Putti	do
Bili hasadi	do	Sampige dala	
Mara hasadi	do	Betta kendala	
Kugalli	do	Bale suli	
Kirvannana	do	Hunkal mardiga	
Hasangana	do	Kavade doddiga	
Kodde	do	Kambu tige	
Kurni	do	Pusta manjari	
Gugigonda	do	Bili mundakara	
Varnagilli	do	Kempu	do
Chale	do		

Next to rice the most important wet crop is sugar-cane, of which the principal varieties cultivated are *kiri kabbu*, *mara kabbu*, *rastali*, and *pattapatti* or *ram rastali*. Planting operations commence in January and continue till June. The crop takes a twelve-month or more to arrive at maturity, when it is cut and for the most part converted into jaggory, which is ready for the market about July of the year following that in which the cane was put down.

Crops.

The following statement shows the important crops raised in the District during the three years 1922-23 to 1924-25 together with the area in acres cropped :—

Name of the crop	Extent cropped		
	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25
Rice	2,11,520	2,04,211	2,12,699
Cholam or Jawar	79,414	79,791	82,656
Areca-nut	15,409	..	11,646
Ragi or Marua	1,18,271	1,14,483	1,15,906

Name of the crop	Extent cropped		
	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25
Horse gram	38,231	48,925	32,159
Bengal gram	565	12,034	5,214
Togari	20,322	3,128	..
Til or Gingelly	9,673	9,297	9,395
Mustard and rape	322	718	1,023
Ground-nut	1,119	1,078	5,074
Cocoa-nut	149	169	117
Castor	2,270	2,194	2,280
Coriander	1,342	210	523
Chillies	3,568	6,913	10,131
Pepper	1,872	2,256	1,194
Onions	1,944	97	57
Sugar-cane	8,755	7,072	8,060
Cotton	7,309	9,531	14,146
Drugs and Narcotics	635	550	1,886
Fodder crops	566	1,022	..
Mangoes	449	..	1,406

FAUNA.

The larger game is most abundant in Sagar, where bison are common and elephants occasionally met with. Tigers, panthers and bears, which are the most feared by the people, are found principally to the west of Shimoga and in Shikarpur. In Channagiri their numbers have been very greatly reduced. The wild bear, so destructive to crops, abounds in Channagiri, Nagar and other parts. Sambar, chital and jungle sheep are general in the wooded tracts. Elephants latterly became so numerous and destructive to the crops that attempts were made to reduce their numbers by shooting. But this was found ineffectual, and *Keddah* operations were started.

Wild animals.

Crocodiles are found in the Tunga and Bhadra and in the streams and tanks connected with them.

Reptiles.

Wild geese, ducks, and teal frequent the tanks in Channagiri and Shimoga, while pea-fowl and jungle-fowl are to be had in the woods.

Birds.

Domestic animals.

The cattle—cows and bullocks—are, with the exception of those in the *maidan* taluks, generally undersized and of very poor quality. About Shimoga the bullocks are a short, thickset breed, well adapted for agricultural purposes. The cows are very indifferent and give but little milk. Buffaloes are kept in the *malnad* as standing the climate better, the females being reserved for the dairy and the males used for draught purposes. Asses are numerous in the neighbourhood of Shimoga, where also a few sheep and goats of inferior breed are reared.

Live Stock.

The District in 1924-25 contained 34,587 bulls, 1,54,816 bullocks, 1,34,898 cows, 83,389 buffaloes, 821 horses, 25,450 sheep, 62,193 goats, 1,56,813 young stock and 688 mules and donkeys.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL.

Climate.

The climate is similar to that of Hassan.

Rainfall.

The annual average for the District is 56·98 inches distributed over 79 days; most of the rain falls in the months of June, July and August, the total for this period being a little over 40 inches. The driest part of the year extends from December to March when only 0·79 inch of rain can be expected. The rainfall rapidly diminishes as one proceeds from the eastern to the western boundary of the district: the annual rainfall at Agumbi, a station in the extreme west, is as much as 316·59 inches while that at Honnali, a station near the eastern boundary, is only 23·36 inches. The precipitation over greater part of the taluks of Tirthahalli, Sagar and Nagar is more than 100 inches in a normal year. In the north-eastern parts of the Honnali and Channagiri taluks, the rainfall is a little less than 25 inches. The heaviest fall on record for a single day is 22·16 inches registered at Agumbi on the 23rd July 1922. The deficiency in rainfall exceeded in no year 30 per cent since 1893 but the deficit exceeded 15 per cent in 5 years.

The following table gives the average monthly and annual rainfall for the various rain-gauge stations in the District:—

Station	No. of years	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Shimoga Taluk.</i>							
1. Shimoga ..	51	0·13	0·04	0·35	1·78	3·26	4·96
2. Bhadrāvati ..	28	0·07	0·05	0·22	1·28	2·81	3·97
<i>Channagiri Taluk.</i>							
3. Channagiri ..	51	0·11	0·06	0·16	1·20	2·90	3·46
4. Sulekere ..	26	0·10	0·10	0·15	0·70	2·36	3·11
5. Santebennur ..	18	0·11	0·07	0·14	0·70	2·71	3·26
<i>Honnali Taluk.</i>							
6. Honnali ..	51	0·11	0·15	0·25	1·41	3·23	2·93
7. Saulanga ..	28	0·08	0·12	0·10	1·13	2·71	3·87
<i>Shikarpur Taluk.</i>							
8. Shikarpur ..	51	0·05	0·07	0·22	1·26	2·85	5·01
9. Siralkoppa ..	28	0·03	0·06	0·20	1·45	2·07	7·22
10. Tagarti ..	21	0·04	0·00	0·18	1·10	2·35	8·99
<i>Sorab Taluk.</i>							
11. Sorab ..	51	0·11	0·04	0·21	1·34	2·35	11·43
12. Chandragutti ..	21	0·14	0·07	0·03	0·67	2·32	15·47
13. Anavatti ..	21	0·06	0·00	0·06	0·59	2·24	5·35
<i>Sagar Taluk.</i>							
14. Sagar ..	51	0·10	0·05	0·26	1·70	2·69	15·38
15. Aralgode ..	22	0·05	0·05	0·06	0·97	2·70	49·70
16. Karur ..	17	0·41	0·00	0·09	0·91	2·80	26·97
17. Anantapur ..	14	0·01	0·03	0·23	1·94	3·31	10·22
18. Gersoppa Falls..	7	0·01	0·14	0·00	0·69	4·07	36·78
<i>Nagar Taluk.</i>							
19. Nagar (Kallurkatte).	20	0·04	0·04	0·32	1·41	2·43	25·24
20. Nagar Town ..	28	0·08	0·08	0·25	1·40	2·10	29·75
<i>Tirthahalli Taluk.</i>							
21. Tirthahalli ..	38	0·08	0·02	0·25	1·58	2·93	23·63
22. Agumbi ..	28	0·05	0·06	0·10	1·53	5·40	72·97
<i>Kumsi Taluk.</i>							
23. Kumsi ..	35	0·06	0·04	0·19	1·94	3·01	6·91
24. Ayanur ..	22	0·07	0·05	0·21	1·65	2·95	6·58

The following table gives the average monthly and annual rainfall for the various rain-gauge stations in the District :—

Station	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Shimoga Taluk.</i>							
Shimoga ..	8.30	4.70	3.88	4.84	1.66	0.48	34.38
Bhadraṛvati ..	8.05	5.39	3.34	4.55	2.03	0.45	32.21
<i>Channagiri Taluk.</i>							
Channagiri ..	5.47	4.19	4.09	3.94	1.94	0.37	27.89
Sulekere ..	4.25	3.35	4.35	4.09	2.12	0.42	25.10
Santebennur ..	3.20	2.97	4.22	4.04	2.37	0.37	24.16
<i>Honnali Taluk.</i>							
Honnali ..	3.47	2.28	3.32	4.18	1.64	0.39	23.36
Saulanga ..	6.01	3.71	3.32	4.72	1.80	0.46	28.07
<i>Shikarpur Taluk.</i>							
Shikarpur ..	8.96	4.69	3.06	5.00	1.41	0.46	33.04
Siralkoppa ..	12.61	7.28	3.86	5.20	1.70	0.42	42.10
Tagarti ..	19.88	9.70	4.15	4.59	2.01	0.74	73.73
<i>Sorab Taluk.</i>							
Sorab ..	20.9	10.75	4.90	5.15	1.60	0.43	59.00
Chandragutti ..	30.52	14.09	5.50	4.24	1.85	0.54	65.44
Anavatti ..	11.46	5.17	2.61	3.51	1.37	0.71	33.13
<i>Sagar Taluk.</i>							
Sagar ..	28.15	15.44	5.42	5.59	1.70	0.31	75.79
Aralgode ..	85.39	45.99	13.53	7.38	2.32	0.67	208.81
Karur ..	44.28	22.69	6.69	5.72	2.14	0.34	113.04
Anantapur ..	18.52	10.96	5.31	4.46	3.27	0.12	53.38
Gersoppa Falls ..	53.57	40.18	16.33	6.01	3.84	0.06	161.68
<i>Nagar Taluk.</i>							
Kallurkatte ..	36.10	19.51	6.65	5.53	1.84	0.27	101.38
Nagar Town ..	43.36	21.36	8.57	5.70	1.77	0.27	114.69
<i>Tirthahalli Taluk.</i>							
Tirthahalli ..	45.94	25.34	8.38	6.91	2.19	0.52	117.77
Agumbi ..	115.58	77.25	29.14	10.86	3.11	0.54	316.59
<i>Kumsi Taluk.</i>							
Kumsi ..	10.99	6.35	4.09	4.49	1.74	0.29	40.10
Ayanur ..	11.01	6.34	3.69	4.59	1.84	0.52	39.50

Since 1837 the best years on record are 1882 and 1886 when the annual totals were respectively 57·86 and 52·43 inches ; during recent years the heaviest total is that for 1912, viz., 45·42 inches. The yearly aggregate was short of the normal in 47 out of 88 years and it was less than 20 inches in four years. The precipitation was the lightest in 1843 when only 15·30 inches were registered and the total for 1918 also was low being only 21·20 inches.

Rainfall at Shimoga.

The actual rainfall at Shimoga from 1837 to 1924 is given in the following table :—

Year	Inches	Year	Inches	Year	Inches
1837	27·40	1867	38·63	1897	28·37
1838	15·80	1868	29·01	1898	41·12
1839	31·00	1869	26·24	1899	23·47
1840	23·90	1870	37·26	1900	38·15
1841	23·80	1871	35·24	1901	34·58
1842	29·00	1872	32·34	1902	42·50
1843	15·30	1873	28·78	1903	31·78
1844	30·70	1874	39·87	1904	34·56
1845	24·10	1875	26·48	1905	24·07
1846	32·70	1876	19·76	1906	39·99
1847	31·30	1877	42·57	1907	32·20
1848	32·90	1878	27·66	1908	22·80
1849	40·20	1879	35·77	1909	36·16
1850	38·50	1880	33·20	1910	31·34
1851	20·30	1881	23·14	1911	30·95
1852	42·80	1882	57·86	1912	45·42
1853	29·40	1883	47·57	1913	29·24
1854	26·10	1884	31·82	1914	28·23
1855	15·60	1885	39·10	1915	32·64
1856	24·70	1886	52·43	1916	30·96
1857	22·10	1887	36·55	1917	28·42
1858	33·40	1888	37·74	1918	21·20
1859	31·80	1889	40·60	1919	31·13
1860	20·50	1890	37·04	1920	27·76
1861	25·80	1891	29·80	1921	30·86
1862	24·70	1892	26·51	1922	26·45
1863	31·30	1893	34·10	1923	37·99
1864	34·70	1894	26·43	1924	37·01
1865	34·10	1895	36·58		
1866	36·30	1896	48·75		

THE PEOPLE.

Distribution.
and number.

The entire population of the District, according to the Census of 1921 was 492,560, of which 257,150 were males and 235,410 females.

Density.

The number of persons to the square mile as per Census of 1921 was 122, while at the Census of 1911, the density stood at 131·69 persons to the square mile. There was thus a decrease of 9·31 persons to the square mile or 4·674 per cent of the total population during the past decennium.

Honnali taluk was the most thickly peopled at the time of the Census, containing 194 persons to the square mile. In Channagiri there were 164, in Sorab 133 and in Shikarpur 130. The most sparsely populated taluks were Nagar, with 72, Sagar with 77 and Tirthahalli with 119 persons to the square mile.

By religion.

The following table represents the numbers according to religion :—

Religion	Above 15		Under 15		Total	Percentage
	Males	Females	Males	Females		
Hindus ..	145,007	126,417	81,808	81,937	435,169	88·30
Muhammadans	11,671	9,717	7,153	7,377	35,918	7·30
Jains ..	1,187	803	507	485	2,982	0·60
Christians ..	1,345	854	571	535	3,305	0·70
Animists ..	4,202	4,018	3,472	3,486	15,178	3·08
Sikhs ..	..	..	3	5	8	..
Total ..	163,412	141,809	93,514	93,825	492,560	99·90

The following figures compare the population in the different census periods from 1871 to 1921 :—

Inter-censal variations.

Taluks	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921
Shimoga ..	75,028	77,953	76,656	73,012	74,924	74,369
Kumsi (Sub-Taluk).	17,907	17,401	17,583	18,627	17,124	16,786
Channagiri ..	70,591	66,160	75,233	81,543	83,233	76,552
Honnali ..	59,067	55,976	63,526	68,721	68,327	64,125
Shikarपुर ..	63,310	63,510	64,404	63,604	63,074	55,523
Sorab ..	67,073	66,514	70,047	71,493	66,605	58,901
Sagar ..	60,038	59,210	58,999	56,818	51,049	51,550
Nagar ..	42,605	43,665	42,841	40,455	37,656	38,180
Tirthahalli ..	51,715	56,561	59,229	59,553	54,724	56,574
Total ..	507,334	506,590	528,519	531,736	516,716	492,500

The population remained almost stationary during the period from 1871 to 1881 or even slightly decreased. The famine of 1877-78 apparently had no effect in diminishing the population in this District. The increase in the 20 years from 1871 to 1891 was only 4.16 per cent and that from 1891 to 1901 was still less being 0.60 per cent ; while the percentage of decrease was 2.81 and 4.674 respectively during the periods from 1901 to 1911 and 1911 to 1921.

Arranged according to occupation or means of livelihood, the population may be classified as follows :—

Classes.

Exploitation of earth	107,646
Extraction of minerals	86
Industrial occupation	10,706
Transport	1,207
Trade	7,328
Public Force	1,549
Public Administration	2,321
Professions and liberal arts	2,918
Persons living on their income	186
Domestic Service	1,891
Insufficiently described occupation	625
Unproductive	5,217

Towns and Villages.

The District contains 12 municipal towns with a population of 49,484, composed of 37,619 Hindus, 10,054 Muhammadans, 1,512 Christians, 232 Jains and 67 others. The following are the towns with population :—

Towns.

Town						Population
Shimoga	..	..	..	..	..	15,090
Sagar	..	..	..	..	..	4,987
Shikarpur	..	..	..	..	..	4,366
Channagiri	..	..	..	..	..	3,996
Honnali	..	..	..	..	..	3,860
Bhadraṛavati	..	..	..	..	..	3,789
Tirthahalli	..	..	..	..	..	3,336
Nyamati	..	..	..	..	..	3,209
Siralkoppa	..	..	..	..	..	2,230
Kumsi	..	..	..	..	..	2,128
Sorab	..	..	..	..	..	1,482
Kallurkatte	..	..	..	..	..	1,011

Villages.

The total number of villages in 1921 was 2,020 of which 1,736 were populated and 295 depopulated. Of the total number, 19,456 were Government villages, 13 Sarvamanya, 60 Jodi and 1 Kayamgutta.

STOCK AND DWELLINGS.

Stock.

The agricultural stock of the District in 1921 consisted of 31,540 carts and 80,256 ploughs. The livestock consisted of 194,925 bullocks, 147,649 cows, 88,499 buffaloes, 190,129 young stock, 32,555 sheep, 41,241 goats, 1,100 horses and ponies and 1,163 mules and donkeys.

Dwellings.

The total number of houses in 1921 was 96,406—9,092 in towns and 87,314 in villages accommodating a population of 49,484 and 443,076 respectively. Next to Shimoga, the taluks of Tirthahalli, Honnali and Sorab contain the largest number of first class houses. Houses in the villages are invariably thatched. The average number of persons per house comes to nearly 9.

The principal concourse of people occurs at the festivals shown in the following table :—

Name of place	Name of Jatra	Time	Attendance at the Jatra
<i>Shimoga.</i>			
Kudli ..	Sangamēsvara Jātra ..	April ..	People 4,000 Cattle 10,000
Pillangiri ..	Srinivasa Car festival ..	May ..	People 3,000
<i>Channagiri.</i>			
Channagiri ..	Kōte Ranganātha Car festival.	February ..	„ 8,000 Cattle 600 to 1,000
Devarahalli ..	Udumaradi Ranganātha Car festival.	April ..	People 3,000
Chikahulikere	Mahēsvara Jātra ..	December	„ 6,000
Sulekere	Bund Siddēsvara Car festival.	February ..	„ 1,000
<i>Honnali.</i>			
Rampur ..	Halasvāmi Jātra ..	February ..	„ 4,000 Cattle 25,000
Marikoppa ..	Halladamma's Car festival.	October ..	People 2,000
Nelli ..	Hariannera festival ..	February ..	„ 2,000
<i>Shikarpur.</i>			
Togarsi ..	Mallikārjuna Jātra ..	March ..	„ 10,000
Shikarpur ..	Hutcharāyaswāmi Jātra ..	April ..	„ 5,000
Belgavi ..	Kedārēswara Svāmi and Basavanna Dēvara Car festival.	March ..	People 3,000
<i>Sorab.</i>			
Chandragutti	Rēnukāmba Jātra ..	April ..	„ 8,000
<i>Sagar.</i>			
Sagar ..	Māri feast ..	Not fixed ..	„ 4,000
Keladi ..	Rāmēsvara Car festival ..	March ..	„ 2,000
<i>Nagar.</i>			
Hadaravalli Hill.	Jenakallamma Jātra ..	September .	„ 1,000
Sutta ..	Surge Parasē ..	December .	„ 1,000
Humcha ..	Padmāvattamma Car festival.	March ..	„ 2,000
Ramachandrapur.	Rāmachandradēvara festival.	April ..	„ 1,500
<i>Tirthahalli.</i>			
Tirthahalli ..	Rāmēsvara festival ..	December .	„ 5,000
Mahighi ..	Asvathanārāyana Dēvara festival.	April ..	„ 1,000

A good deal of the internal trade of the District is carried on in the weekly and other periodical markets and *santes* which are held in almost every important place in the District as also in the annual *jātras* and fairs held at some of the chief centres.

Vital Statistics and Diseases.

The following table shows the number of births and deaths in the several taluks of the District during 1921-22 as compared with the previous year :—

Taluk	Births during		Deaths during	
	1920-21	1921-22	1920-21	1921-22
Shimoga	1,182	868	1,231	673
Kumsi	376	399	274	291
Channagiri	1,356	1,575	912	757
Honnali	1,275	1,457	1,277	712
Shikarpur	758	875	754	498
Sorab	1,140	1,158	1,199	1,124
Sagar	913	807	829	822
Nagar	917	818	719	582
Tirthahalli	911	758	881	730
Total	8,828	8,715	8,076	6,192

Of the 6,192 deaths in 1921-22, 381 were due to plague and 102 to small-pox as against 565 and 238 respectively in the previous year. The influenza epidemic of 1918 did its havoc in this district as in other parts of the State claiming about 30,677 people.

The following table shows the births and deaths in the district during the years 1922-23 to 1924-25 :—

Year	Births	Deaths
1922-23	9,359	8,552
1923-24	10,703	10,166
1924-25	8,703	12,610

CASTES AND OCCUPATION.

The following are the largest castes or classes, which number over 10,000, in order of strength. These account for 401,001 or 81.41 per cent of the population.

Lingāyet	..	..	..	..	104,538
Idiga	..	..	..	..	47,570
Muhammadan	..	..	..	..	35,918
Brāhman	..	..	..	..	27,309
Vokkaliga	..	..	..	..	25,918
Kuruba	..	..	..	..	25,415
Holeya	..	..	..	..	24,131
Beda	..	..	..	..	20,636
Vodda	..	..	..	..	20,187
Mādiga	..	..	..	..	18,349
Pānchāla	..	..	..	..	13,714
Mahratta	..	..	..	..	13,208
Lambāni	..	..	..	..	12,742
Agasa	..	..	..	..	11,366

The following table shows the distribution of population according to occupation :—

Occupation	Total including dependants	Actual workers			Dependants
		Males	Females	Total	
1. Exploitation of animals and vegetation	410,742	86,157	21,489	107,646	303,096
2. Exploitation of minerals.	189	82	4	86	103
3. Industry ..	29,028	9,090	1,616	10,706	18,322
4. Transport ..	2,830	1,097	110	1,207	1,623
5. Trade ..	21,496	5,737	1,591	7,328	14,168
6. Public Force ..	4,699	1,406	143	1,549	3,150
7. Public Administration.	7,182	2,234	87	2,321	4,661
8. Professions and Liberal Arts.	7,653	2,702	216	2,918	4,735
9. Persons living on their income.	553	162	24	186	367
10. Domestic Service .	2,578	1,361	530	1,891	687
11. Insufficiently described occupations.	1,467	614	11	625	842
12. Unproductive ..	4,143	1,074	1,007	2,081	2,062

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

The Roman
Catholic
Mission.

The Roman Catholic Mission maintains two Churches, one at Shimoga and the other at Tirthahalli. There are a number of sub-stations at Kumsi, Shikarpur, Sagar, etc. The Mission maintains at Shimoga a Tamil School with 76 pupils and a Kannada School with 32 pupils.

The Wesley-
an Mission.

The Wesleyan Mission maintains 8 Boys' Schools and 2 Girls' Schools. There is a Mission Hospital and Dispensary at Mandagadde.

SECTION II—HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

A. HISTORY.

Legendary
Period.

As stated in Volume II of this work, there are four copper-plate inscriptions in the District claiming to be grants made by the Pāndava emperor Janamējaya, son of Parikshit, of the Lunar line. This is the monarch to whom the *Mahā-bhārata* was originally recited. The grant at the Bhimankatte matha, near Tirthahalli, is dated in the year 89 of the *Yudhishtira* era, or B. C. 3012. The king is stated to be ruling at Kishkindha, and to have made the grant in the presence of the God Harihara, on the spot where his great-grandfather Yudhishtira had rested on the bank of the Tungabhadra. The other three grants—Gauj, Kuppagadde and Begur, in Shikarpur taluk—profess to be grants made by Janamējaya to the officiating priests at the *sarpa yāga*, or serpent sacrifice, which, we have been told (under Kadur District), is supposed to have been performed at Hiremagalur. In these inscriptions, the king is said to be ruling in Hastināpura, and to have made the grants in the presence of the God Harihara, at the confluence of the Tungabhadra and the Haridra. Their period, if genuine, would be about 3012 B.C., the commencement of *Kali-yuga*, when Janamējaya is said to have reigned. The date of the Gauj *agrahāra*