

## P R E F A C E.

---

The first volume of the District Manual of South Kanara was compiled by Mr. John Sturrock, I.C.S., and published in 1894. Mr. Sturrock had been connected with the district from February 1866, within a few weeks of his landing in India as Assistant Collector, till the end of August 1872. He was then transferred to the Secretariat at Madras where he was also Kanarese Translator to Government on two occasions, which shows that he had a very good knowledge of one of the principal languages of the district. A few years later (1880) he came back to South Kanara as Commissioner to settle the boundary between this district and Mysore, and he was then (April 1881) posted as the Collector of the district and held charge of the district till June 1884. In 1887 he was appointed Commissioner a second time to settle finally the boundary between South Kanara and Mysore. He had to leave South Kanara soon after when he became a Member of the Board of Revenue, retiring eventually as its First Member in December 1898. He had during his long connection with South Kanara acquired a thorough knowledge of the district, its history and its people, notwithstanding his numerous and exacting duties as the Chief Revenue Officer and Magistrate and President of the District Board. His book contains only five chapters and deals with the physical features of the district, its political history, people, agriculture and land revenue administration. The volume therefore required to be supplemented, and Mr. H. A. (later Sir Harold) Stuart, I.C.S., after the census of 1891, of which he was the Superintendent, compiled the next volume and published it in 1895. This second volume runs into twenty-one chapters and contains a mass of statistics which are generally relegated to a special volume since the Government of India's orders of 1903 on the subject of compilation of District Gazetteers.

2. These orders\* contain general instructions for the re-writing of District Manuals and for compiling Gazetteers for all

---

\* G.O. No. 184, Revenue, dated 23rd February 1903.

the districts in this Presidency except Madras. They say in effect that the District Manuals had become largely obsolete within a few years of their publication, containing as they did not only matter of a more or less permanent character such as physical characteristics, history, religion, ethnography but also statistical matters which soon became out of date. The Government of India, therefore, decided that the District Gazetteers of the future should each consist of two volumes, A and B, the A volume containing only descriptive matter and such general figures as might be necessary to explain the text, the arrangement of the subjects following the order prescribed in the provincial articles in the Imperial Gazetteer of India, all detailed statistics finding place in the B volume. They also decided that the B volume should be recompiled periodically especially after each decennial census, that they should be expanded by the inclusion of any matters that might be necessary to correct or supplement the A volume and that this procedure should continue until the time came for revising the A volume when all or most of the supplementary text should be incorporated in the A volume.

3. Gazetteers of the type contemplated in these orders were issued between 1905-07 for the districts of Vizagapatam, Gōdāvāri, Bellary, Anantapur, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura and the Nilgiris. These were edited by Mr. W. Francis, I.C.S., with the late Mr. F. R. Hemingway as assistant, the latter being the author of the Gazetteers of Tanjore and (East) Gōdāvāri. The Gazetteers for a few other districts were published later—Malabar (by Mr. F. B. Evans, I.C.S.) in 1915, Tinnevely (by Mr. H. R. Pate, I.C.S.) in 1914, Cuddapah (by Mr. C. F. Brackenbury, I.C.S.) in 1914 and Salem in two parts (by Mr. F. J. Richards, I.C.S.) in 1918.

4. The late Mr. J. J. Cotton, I.C.S., was placed on special duty in 1926 to write A volumes of Gazetteers for Nellore, Chingleput, Kurnool, Ganjām, North Arcot, Kistna, Guntūr, (West) Gōdāvāri, Chittoor and Ramnad for the first six of which Manuals had been compiled several years before, and B volumes

for all the districts in the Presidency except Madras. The question of writing A volumes for the districts of Coimbatore and South Kanara which had Manuals that had been revised or supplemented later was then under contemplation. Mr. Cotton died about a year later, and Government dropped their scheme for writing A volumes for the above districts and decided to publish B volumes for all the districts and to complete the A volume for Nellore which had been started by Mr. Cotton. B volumes for all the districts were published between 1928-30 containing census statistics of 1921 among others and another set of B volumes embodying census figures for 1931 and other statistics of later years, was published between 1932-35.

5. There is thus for South Kanara no A volume of the type contemplated by the Government of India's Orders of 1903. Government finally decided that for the District Manuals of South Kanara and Coimbatore supplements should be prepared containing additions and alterations to the text in the Manuals, and included as a sort of appendix to their B volumes. This explains why the present volume includes a supplement to both the District Manuals of South Kanara. The alterations and additions made to the various chapters in these volumes have been arranged in such a manner as to be useful to any future compiler of a District Gazetteer for South Kanara on the standard plan. The chapter on Political History and Archæology written for his Manual by Mr. Sturrock stops with researches in the district's history made till about 1890. Since then the Government Epigraphical and Archæological Departments and various students of history have been able to collect a mass of valuable material for supplementing the political history of the district and of South India as a whole. We have been able to obtain valuable help from Dr. B. A. Saletore, M.A., PH.D., of Poona, who is a native of South Kanara and has written a valuable book on Tuluva History (South Kanara forms the southern portion of the Tulu country) besides two volumes on Social and Political Life in the Vijayanagara Empire which held sway over the district during the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.

6. In the compilation of the supplement to the two District Manuals much valuable help has been received from district officers and non-official gentlemen. It may appear invidious to mention names, although wherever possible special mention in the form of foot-notes has been made, of the various gentlemen who had helped in this work. In the compilation of notes of important places for the taluk gazetteers with historical events connected with them, that excellent school history on the district in Kanarese by Mr. M. G. Aigal has been freely used as its author has brought into his little book all the materials available in regard not only to the history of the district as a whole but to the various old chief-taincies that comprised it. The compiler has been much handicapped in the arrangement of the matter in the form of a supplement to the District Manuals but he has no doubt that the materials will be found useful when Government orders at a future date the compilation of a Gazetteer on the standard plan for the South Kanara district.

---