

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SOUTH KANARA
DISTRICT MANUAL, VOLUME II, BY SIR
HAROLD STUART, K.C.I.E., I.C.S., 1895.

CHAPTER I.

AREA AND POPULATION.

VOL. II.
CHAP. I.

Area and
administra-
tive
divisions.

*Pages 1 to 10.—Substitute :—*The area of the South Kanara district is 4,021 square miles and excluding Madras town (29 square miles) there are only five districts in the Presidency of a smaller extent, these being the Nilgiris (982), West Gōdāvari (2,361), Chingleput (3,091), Kistna (3,547) and Tanjore (3,742). It consists of six Government taluks; and a small group of islands in the Indian Ocean known as the Amindivis, three square miles in extent, is also attached to it. There had been in 1896 only five Government taluks, Mangalore, Coondapoor, Udipi, Kásaragód and Uppinangadi. A new taluk with Mudbidri as the headquarters and called after that place was formed in 1910 with an area of 640 square miles. The extents of the four older taluks were in consequence reduced, Kásaragód from 1,032 to 762, Udipi from 787 to 725, Uppinangadi from 951 to 890 and Mangalore from 620 to 382 square miles, the extent of Coondapoor taluk alone being increased from 512 to 619 square miles. For administrative reasons, the Mudbidri taluk was abolished two years later and a new taluk called the Kárkal taluk was formed from 1st July 1912, its extent being 629 square miles. The areas of three other taluks surrounding it were revised, that of Uppinangadi which was re-named Puttúr in 1927 being increased from 890 to 1,246 square miles, and that of Mangalore from 382 to 406, but Udipi taluk suffered a reduction from 725 to 357 square miles. The district has been divided for the purpose of revenue administration into three charges or divisions, Coondapoor, Mangalore and Puttúr, the first under an Indian Civil Service Officer, comprising the three northern taluks of Coondapoor, Udipi and Kárkal and the last under a deputy collector including the two southern taluks of Kásaragód and Puttúr, Mangalore taluk alone being under the headquarters deputy collector. The Puttúr revenue division is the largest in point of area and the Coondapoor division is the largest in point of population.

Population.

The population of the district in 1931 was 1,372,241, Madras, the four Ceded districts and the Nilgiris being the

only other districts which had a smaller population. This involved an increase of 316,160 from the figures in 1891 or 3·3 per cent. The percentage could have been higher but the influenza epidemic of 1918 gave a set-back to the natural increase, for the census that followed three years later showed that the district had the poorest increase of any inter-censal period from 1891 to 1931. Details as to the actual areas of the various taluks, the number of towns, occupied villages and houses in them, their total population and the distribution of sexes in 1921 and 1931, the total population in the three previous censuses 1901, 1911 and 1921 and the percentages of variation and density have been given in Table I of this volume at pages 1 and 90. Figures for distribution of the population among the three great religions prevalent in the taluks and in the district are also given in Table V at pages 18 and 104 of this book.

VOL. II.
CHAP. I.

There were at the 1931 census 341 persons to the square mile, the average for the presidency being 329. The density was naturally enough highest (838) in the Mangalore taluk which contains the headquarters of the district and its chief port. Puttúr taluk which is the largest in point of area, more than one half of it being covered with forests and the slopes of the Western Ghats, returned the lowest population per square mile (165). The other taluks stood in the following order—Udipi (637), Kásaragóđ (356), Coondapoor (241) and Kárkal (227). In the two west coast districts, Mangalore was the third taluk with the heaviest density, Ponnani and Calicut taluks of Malabar returning respectively 1,471 and 921 people per square mile. There were 800 revenue villages in the district, but each village includes a few hamlets. A village or hamlet does not as in other districts connote a cluster of houses; it simply means an area lying within certain limits and the population mostly live as in Malabar on their homesteads and there are but few collections of dwellings so close as to constitute a street.

Density.

There has been a large increase in the total number of occupied houses in them and in towns during the last forty years. There were (in 1891) 189,584 houses and the number in 1931 was 244,232 which works out to 5·62 persons on an average to a house—an excess of ·05 over the average for 1891. Thatched houses form more than 95 per cent of the number of dwellings and there has been a great improvement since 1891 when only 2·78 per cent of the houses were not thatched. The use of machine-made tiles from the numerous factories in this district is no doubt responsible for the decrease, however small, in the number of thatched dwellings. Most of the dwellers are found only in villages, for only 91 out of 1,000 of the population live in urban areas, a figure which is higher than

Houses.