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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MYSORE

Vol. II MYSORE, BY DISTRICTS



Editor

Benjamin Lewis Rice

MYSORE

A GAZETTEER COMPILED FOR GOVERNMENT

REVISED EDITION

BY

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P R E F A C E

WHEN the former edition of this work was published, I little expected to be called on, twenty years later, to revise it. And Mysore in the interval has undergone such great and radical changes, and so much has been added to our knowledge of its past by recent discoveries, that what appeared in the prospect a comparatively easy task has proved to be in reality one of considerable difficulty, and involving for its completion a longer period than was anticipated, especially as I have been at the same time engaged on other duties of an exacting nature.

While the general arrangement of the work in the original edition has been adhered to, nearly every part has been either entirely re-written or greatly altered and extended. But the present edition is confined to the State of Mysore, and does not, as before, include Coorg. In the first volume, the section on Geology was in the press before the appointment of Mr. Bruce Foote to Mysore was known to me or he had arrived here, otherwise I would gladly have handed over that special subject to him for revision. His views are, however, quoted in the Addenda at the end of the second volume. Most parts of the sections on Flora, Fauna and Ethnography have been entirely re-written in accordance with the latest information. So also, in an especial manner, the chapters on History and Literature : the former having been greatly added to in both the most ancient and the most modern periods ; while the latter is almost entirely new. The chapter on Administration has been revised throughout and brought up to date with as much fulness as could be done in the space at disposal. The Appendix on Coins is mostly new. In the second volume, there has been a close and general revision of local details, the topical changes of recent years having been both frequent and extensive. In the Glossary at the end have been included new terms of the Revenue Survey.

Of the country which forms the general subject of the work, it cannot be denied that public interest in it has much increased since the former edition of this work appeared, its enlightened progress and its prominent position as a chief Native State in India having excited general attention. But, apart from this, there are not wanting in the

country intrinsic elements of attraction which have given it importance in the past. On first joining the service here I was considerably disappointed to be told, on inquiring from persons supposed to be acquainted with the subject, that Mysore had no history, was quite a modern State, and virtually unknown before the wars with Haidar and Tipu brought it into prominence. As regards its language and literature, also, I was led to suppose that the language was merely a rude dialect of Tamil, and that literature it had none. Of the accuracy of these views I had doubts at the time, and how completely opposed they were to actual facts the present work will, it is hoped, serve to make clear. For the researches in which I have been for long engaged have brought to light a body of evidence which carries back the history, with scarcely a break in the sequence, as far as to the 3rd century B.C., while the language is found to have been highly cultivated at probably an earlier date than any other South Indian vernacular, and to be replete with a literature of great volume and interest.

If there be any truth in the observation that small countries with diversified and distinctive physical characteristics have played the greatest part in the world's history, and given rise to its most distinguished men,—Greece, Palestine, England and others being quoted as instances,—Mysore, it seems to me, may fairly claim a place in the category. Not only does she abound in the picturesque features of lofty mountains and primeval forests, of noble rivers and mighty cataracts, but—to mention only a few of the products specially pertaining to her—she yields by far the most gold of any country in India, and her treasure in the past, carried off to the north by Musalman invaders, may have found its way to Central Asia among the spoils of Tartar hordes; she is the peculiar home of the sandal and also of teak, a special haunt of the elephant, rears a famous and superior breed of horned cattle, supplies as the staple food of her people the nutrient grain of *râgi*, was the cradle in India and is still the chief garden for coffee cultivation. Thus in every department of the natural world she may claim some pre-eminence. In the fine arts she has produced marvellous examples of architecture and sculpture. In relation to humanity, again, she has been to the two greatest Hindu reformers a home for the monastery of one, and an asylum to the other. Nearly every form of faith, from Buddhism and Jainism to Islam, has here had its day, and she is now known as having largely adopted and still strongly holding a special cult of native origin not conforming to Brahmanism. The Malnâd region of Mysore has been the birthplace of royal races dominant in the south—the Kadambas, the Hoysalas, and perhaps also the Vijayanagar sovereigns. In modern times, the great general of the

age, the Iron Duke, learned in the Malnád wilds of Mysore, no less than in the plains of the Deckan, those lessons of warfare which enabled him to end the ambitious career of the subjugator of Europe, who once thought to make an ally of Mysore and to conquer the East. Waterloo may in one sense have been won in the playing fields of Eton, but it was Mysore that contributed to develop the genius of the commander who carried the day, decried though he had been as the Sepoy General.

One cannot but be struck, in going over the modern history of Mysore, with the magnanimity of the British to this country, and equally with the manner in which the country has responded to the good influences exerted upon it. That it may continue to prosper must be the wish of all.

As in the former edition, so in this, I hold myself solely responsible for all information it contains, though I have endeavoured throughout to indicate the authorities on which it is based. The work has been left by Government entirely in my hands. The published Administration Reports are now not annual but quinquennial, and the last issued is to 1891. I have had, therefore, to resort to various sources for later information. But the greatest drawback I have felt has been the want of a good general library of reference.

No one can be more conscious than the author of the shortcomings of a work embracing such a variety of subjects and extending over so great a range of time. I have striven to accomplish to the best of my ability the task entrusted to me, and can only bespeak for the present edition as indulgent and favourable a reception as was accorded to the original one.

BANGALORE, *Sept. 1897.*

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

ON the termination, in May 1799, of the last English war with Mysore, and the restoration of the Hindu Ráj, which followed, it was resolved by the East India Company to obtain a topographical survey and general statistical account of the Territories that, for many years preceding, had been the scene of political events which attracted a large measure of attention not only in India and the East, but also in England, France, and other European countries.

Dr. Francis Buchanan (who subsequently assumed the name of Hamilton) was accordingly deputed, in February 1800,¹ by the Governor-General, the Earl of Mornington, afterwards Marquis Wellesley, to travel through and report upon "the Dominions of the Rájá 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." He set out on this journey from Madras on the 23rd April 1800, and completed it on the 6th July 1801. His report was written from day to day, while travelling, in the form of a Journal, which, on completion, was transmitted to England and placed in the library of the East India House. On the recommendation of the learned Dr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Wilkins, the Librarian, its publication was sanctioned at the end of 1805, but the manuscript went to press apparently without the knowledge of its author. "Soon afterwards," says Dr. Buchanan, in his introduction, "my duty having unexpectedly brought me to England, I was agreeably surprised to find that my Journal had obtained a reception so favourable. It is true I wished to have abridged the work before publication, and altered its arrangement; but as the printing had commenced before my arrival, and as my stay in England was likely to be very short, I could not undertake such alterations. I have therefore contented myself with revising the manuscript,

¹ Then already well known for his valuable botanical researches in Burma and Chittagong.

and the superintendency of the press has been entrusted to Mr. Stephen Jones."

The work appeared in 1807, in three quarto volumes, under the title of *A Journey from Madras through the Countries of Mysore, Canara and Malabar*. Every page teems with valuable information, but the disjointed style, inseparable from the nature of a daily journal, makes it difficult to consult, and it is much to be regretted that the accomplished author had not the opportunity of throwing the work into a more suitable form for publication. It was reprinted, in two volumes octavo, at Madras in 1870.

While Dr. Buchanan was engaged in these travels, Colonel Colin Mackenzie—eventually Surveyor-General of India, and well known to Orientalists for his antiquarian collections in Southern India¹—was commissioned by the Governor-General to make a Survey of Mysore. He was allowed only three assistants, with a medical officer as surgeon and naturalist. In spite of many obstacles, however, the survey was continued till 1807. The result was not alone a valuable contribution to geographical knowledge, but considerable materials were acquired of the statistics and history of the country. These were recorded in folio volumes transmitted to the East India Company. Copies of eight volumes, attested by Colonel Mackenzie's signature, are deposited among the records of the Mysore Residency. The most novel and important of the discoveries made by him was that of the existence of the sect of Jains in India, which he was the first to bring to notice.

The first surgeon and naturalist attached to the Mysore Survey was Dr. Benjamin Heyne, whose papers on a variety of subjects relating to this and the neighbouring countries were published in London in 1814 (also by the recommendation of Dr. Wilkins, Librarian at the East India House) under the title of *Tracts, Historical and Statistical, on India*. Subsequently, the gifted Dr. John Leyden² was attached to

¹ Including, according to the catalogue by Prof. H. H. Wilson, 1,568 manuscripts of literary works, 2,070 local tracts, 8,076 copies of inscriptions, 2,150 translations, 2,709 plans and drawings, 6,218 coins, and 146 images and antiquities.

² "He rose," as Sir John Malcolm, Resident of Mysore describes, "by the power of native genius, from the humblest origin to a very distinguished rank in the literary world. His studies included almost every branch of human science, and he was alike ardent in the pursuit of all. The greatest power of his mind was perhaps shown in his acquisition of modern and ancient languages. . . ."

His end was most sad. On the conquest of Java in 1811, he accompanied the Governor-General, Lord Minto, to that island, and hearing at Batavia of a library containing a valuable collection of Oriental manuscripts, hastened to explore it. The long low room, an old depository of effects belonging to the Dutch Government, had been shut up for some time, and the confined air was strongly impregnated with the poisonous quality which has made Batavia the grave of so many Europeans. With-

the Survey in the same capacity, but beyond a few anecdotes and verses in his *Poetical Remains*, published in London in 1819, I have failed to meet with anything of his specially about this Province, though it is stated that "he drew up some useful papers, which he communicated to the Government, relative to the mountainous strata and their mineral indications; as to the diseases, medicines and remedies of the natives of Mysore, and the peculiarities of their habits and constitution by which they might be exposed to disease; as to the different crops cultivated in Mysore and their rotation; and to the languages of Mysore, and their respective relations." Heyne's observations were confined to the north and east; Leyden's papers, if traced, would give us information regarding the south and west.

Colonel Mark Wilks, distinguished as the historian of Mysore, at which Court he was for a time Resident, published his well-known work under the title of *Historical Sketches of the South of India*, in three volumes quarto; the first of which appeared in London in 1810, and the two last not till 1817, owing to his appointment during the interval as Governor of St. Helena, which office he held until the imprisonment on that island of the emperor Napoleon Buonaparte. "It displays," as an old reviewer justly observes, "a degree of research, acumen, vigour, and elegance, that render it a work of standard importance in English literature." A reprint, in two volumes octavo, was published in Madras in 1869.

Some monographs drawn up by officers of the Mysore Commission soon after the assumption of the Government by the British in 1831, with kindred papers, were printed in 1864 as *Selections from the Records*. In 1855 a *General Memorandum* was prepared by Sir Mark Cubbon for the Marquis Dalhousie, and since that time *Administration Reports* have been regularly issued every year.

out the precaution of having it aired, he rushed eagerly in to examine its treasures, was seized in consequence with a mortal fever, and died on the 28th August, after three days' illness, in the 36th year of his age.

Southey wished "that Java had remained in the hands of the enemy, so Leyden were alive," while Sir Walter Scott paid the following tribute to his memory in the *Lord of the Isles*:—

His bright and brief career is o'er,
And mute his tuneful strains;
Quenched is his lamp of varied lore,
That loved the light of song to pour;
A distant and a deadiy shore
Has Leyden's cold remains.

The centenary of Leyden's birth was celebrated with public rejoicings in 1875 at his native village of Denholm, on the banks of the Teviot, in Scotland.

Other sources of information exist,¹ for a good deal has been written in connection with Mysore during a century back, much of it partisan ; but the above were some of the chief public and authentic materials accessible for a work which had become a desideratum, namely, a Gazetteer of Mysore brought up to date, presenting in a handy form and within a moderate compass all that was of interest in relation to the natural features, resources and productions of the country ; its history, population, industry, administration, and any other subjects that had a claim to be treated of in such a handbook.

The first step taken towards supplying the want was in June 1867, when a circular was addressed by Mr. Saunders, C.B., the officiating Chief Commissioner, to the Superintendents of Divisions, directing the compilation, for each District, of a Gazetteer similar to one then lately published of the Bhandara District in the Central Provinces. In pursuance of these orders, during the next two years, nine manuscript volumes were prepared. Only two, however, came to be printed ; namely, one for Mysore District, by Mr. H. Wellesley ; and one for Kolar, I presume by Mr. Krishnaiengar, C.S.I. Of the remainder, those for Bangalore and Kadur were not completed ; the one for Shimoga bears the signature of Captain Gordon Cumming ; that for Hassan of Major W. Hill ; that for Tumkur of Major C. Pearse ; and that for Chitaldroog of Mr. Krishna Rao. The subsequent *Reports on the Census* of November 1871, by Major Lindsay, naturally superseded most of the statistical information contained in them.

The design to appoint an editor who should bring out one work on a uniform plan was next adopted, and eventually, in 1873, with the sanction of the Government of India, it was proposed to me to undertake the compilation of the *Gazetteer of Mysore and Coorg*. A personal acquaintance more or less with every part of the two countries, in the course of official duty ; a familiarity with the local vernaculars ; and some measure of information regarding the literature and ancient history of this part of India, derived from antiquarian studies ; led me to anticipate the work with interest. But being, at almost the same time, raised to the head of the Educational Department, I found that the labours of a new office which is no sinecure, left little leisure for the extra duty imposed upon me. I was therefore forced to be content for some time with making tours to such parts of the country as I had not recently visited, and collecting information from various quarters.

¹ I would particularly mention *Eastern Experiences*, by Mr. L. Bowring, C.S.I., late Chief Commissioner, published in London in 1871.

² A paragraph relating to Coorg is here omitted.

However, when in 1874 Dr. Hunter, Director-General of Statistics, who is charged with the editorship of the Imperial Gazetteer for the whole of India, visited Bangalore, I was able to lay before him the plans I had formed for the work, and at his request undertook to prepare for Mysore a manual of each District separately, which I had not at first intended, as it seemed to involve a certain degree of repetition. I am now glad that I did so, as it obliged me to go more minutely into several subjects. Dr. Hunter again paid a visit to Bangalore in January 1876, when a part of the work had been printed, and in his report to Government was pleased to express the strongest approval of what had been done, and his "sense of the high value of the materials that had been supplied."

The Gazetteer has thus finally taken the shape of two volumes devoted to Mysore (and a third to Coorg). Of the former, the first treats of Mysore in general, the second of Mysore by Districts, eight in number. A reference to the table of contents prefixed to each volume will enable the reader to see at a glance the arrangement and distribution of subjects. Volume II, it should be stated, was printed first. . . . In general the present work has been brought down to 1875, but in the portions printed after that, a few statistics of later date have been admitted. I had thought to append a short biographical notice of some of the remarkable men, both Native and European, who have been connected with Mysore, but feared it would extend the work too much, and perhaps be considered foreign to its design. The subject, however, is one full of interest.

I will not deny that the Gazetteer has caused far more labour than I had anticipated, principally owing to the demands of an extensive Department, which prevented my ever giving undivided attention to the compiling of it. But these are conditions under which much of the best work in India has been accomplished, and I gratefully acknowledge the indulgence which has been extended by Government to any apparent, but unavoidable, delay in bringing the task to completion.

With regard to all such information and statements contained in these volumes as I am not personally responsible for, I have endeavoured to make a point of mentioning throughout the body of the work the authorities on which they are based; and my sincere and hearty thanks are tendered to all who have favoured me with any information or assistance, as well as to the Press. I may add that the proofs have been seen, on the part of Government, by Major Tredway Clarke, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

BANGALORE, Xmas 1876.

CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

With the passing on of the Mysore Administration to the British hands in 1831 the European officers posted to look after the affairs of Mysore found it difficult to understand the regional issues of the state. In 1867 the then Commissioner, Mr. Saunders C.B. issued a circular to the Superintendent of Divisions, directing them to initiate for the compilation of a Gazetteer each for the district. As a result of this order, during the next two years, nine manuscripts (volumes) were prepared for the then princely state of Mysore. Out of which only two however came to be printed viz. one for Mysore district by Mr. H. Wellesly (1867) and one for Kolar by Mr. Krishnaiyengar.

Sir. Benjamin Lewis Rice edited and published the Gazetteers of Mysore and Coorg in two volumes in 1876. The Volume on the state of Coorg which was then a Chief Commissioner's Province came to be published in the year 1878. This being heralded as a pioneering effort by Sir. W.W. Hunter, edited the Imperial Gazetteers of India in 1881. Later on B.L. Rice was again entrusted with the work of revising the already published Mysore and Coorg Gazetteers. He eventually published the Mysore and Coorg Gazetteers in two volumes only in 1898.

After the establishment of the Karnataka Gazetteer department in 1958 as an independent unit, publication of the 20 district gazetteers has been completed. Later, the department undertook the task of publishing the revised district gazetteers in Kannada and has so far accomplished the publication of five Gazetteer volumes including the Mandya district volume which was released a couple of months ago.

At present this office, under the on-going scheme of scanning and reprinting of pre Independence volumes, has taken up the publication of the Mysore and Coorg Gazetteers in three volumes edited by Sir. Benjamin Lewis Rice. In order to maintain the nostalgic memories only the contemporary photographs have been used which are not incorporated in the original volumes. These volumes in CD format will be hosted on the website of the department.

I wish to express here my deep sense of gratitude to the hon'ble minister for Kannada and Culture, Smt. Rani Satish for her encouragement in this endeavour. I thank Shri. B.S.Patil IAS, Chief Secretary and Chairman, Gazetteer Advisory Committee who retired on 31-01-04 and Shri. K.K.Mishra, IAS the present Chief Secretary and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee for their valuable guidance in the activities of our department. I sincerely acknowledge the encouragement of Dr. C.S. Kedar, IAS, former Secretary to Government, Department of Kannada and Culture and Smt. Usha Ganesh IAS the present Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Kannada and Culture, who have been beacon lights in all our ventures. Dr. K. Paddayya, Director, Deccan Institute of Advanced Studies in Archaeology, Pune, has been kind enough to lend the rare volume of the Coorg District Gazetteer (1876). I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my gratitude to the M/s. Mahabharatha Samshodhana Pratishthana, Bangalore, for their brilliant scanning of the brittle pages of these volumes.

The contribution of Sri. Paramesh Pandey IAS, who headed the department from 21-04-03 to 14-07-03 to the progress of the department is gratefully acknowledged. I place on record the services of Mr. S.A. Jagannath, Senior Editor (I/C Chief Editor from 25-08-03 to till 09-01-04) and Dr. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator who have overseen the printing. I thank M/s. Vinayaka Offset Printers and M/s. Parishree Printers for their neat printing work.

H. Chittaranjan, KAS
Chief Editor

CONTENTS OF VOL. II.

	PAGE
BANGALORE DISTRICT, with Map	1-94
General Description :—Physical Features, 1 : Rocks and Soils, 2 ; Climate, 4 ; Vegetation, 8 ; Arboriculture, 10 ; Crops, 11 ; Horticulture, 12 ; Wild Animals, 14 ; Domestic Animals, 15. History :—Early Legends, 17 ; Gangas, Pallavas, Rashtrakutas, Cholas, 18 ; Hoysalas, Yádavas, Vijayanagar, 19 ; Morasu Wokkalu, Jaya Gauda, 20 ; Kempe Gauda, 21 ; Jagadeva Ráyal, Shahji, 22 ; Mysore Wodeyars, 25. Population :—Distribution, Increase, 27 ; Classes, 28 ; Stock and Dwellings, 29 ; Towns and Villages, 29 ; Festivals and Fairs, 30 ; Vital Statistics, Diseases, 30. Trade :—Manufactures, 33 ; Arts, 34 ; Marts, 34. Revenue , 34. Communications :—Railways, 35 ; Roads, 35 ; Travellers' Bungalows, 36.	
Gazetteer of Principal Places, Rivers, &c.	36-94
Bangalore, with Plan.	43
 KOLAR DISTRICT, with Map	 95-154
General Description :—Physical Features, 95 ; Tanks, 96 ; Rocks and Soils, 98 ; Climate, 99 ; Vegetation, 100 ; Agricultural Produce, 102 ; Animals, 103. History :—Legends, 105 ; Mahávalis, Gangas, 105 ; Pallavas, Vaidumbas, Cholas, 106 ; Hoysalas, Vijayanagar, 107 ; Timme Gauda, Chikka Ráyal, 107 ; Shahji, 108 ; Malla Baire Gauda, 109. Population , 110 ; Towns and Villages, 112 ; Festivals and Fairs, 112 ; Vital Statistics, 113. Revenue , 114. Trade :—Manufactures, 114 ; Exports and Imports, 115. Communications :—Railways, 115 ; Roads and Travellers' Bungalows, 116.	
Gazetteer of Principal Places, &c.	117-154
Kolar Gold Fields, with Plan	138
 TUMKUR DISTRICT, with Map	 155-205
General Description :—Physical Features, 155 ; Rocks, Minerals, Soils, 157 ; Climate, 158 ; Vegetation and Cultivation, 160 ; Animals, 161. History :—Legends, 162 ; Gangas, Nollambas, 162 ; Hoysalas, 163 ; Chálukyas, Vijayanagar, 164 ;	

Baire Gauda, 164; Sál Nayak, 165; Bijapur, Mughals, 166; Subadars of Sira, 166. Population , 167; Towns and Villages, 169; Festivals and Fairs, 170; Vital Statistics, 170. Revenue , 171. Trade , 171; Manufactures, 172. Communications :—Railways, 173; Roads, 173; Travellers' Bungalows, 174.	
Gazetteer of Principal Places, &c.	174-205
MYSORE DISTRICT, with Map	206-319
General Description :—Physical Features, 207; Channels, 207; Rocks, Minerals, and Soils, 209; Climate, 210; Vegetation, 213; Forests, 215; Cultivation, 215; Wild Animals, 218; Domestic Animals, 220. History :—Early Legends, 222; Gangas, 223; Cholas, Hoysalas, 224; Vijayanagar, 225; Mysore Wodeyars, 225. Population , 227; Towns and Villages, 229; Festivals and Fairs, 230; Vital Statistics, 231. Revenue , 232. Trade :—Manufactures, 232; Commerce, 233. Communications :—Railways and Roads, 234; Travellers' Bungalows, 235.	
Gazetteer of Principal Places, Rivers, &c.	236-319
Mysore City, with Plan	276
Seringapatam, with Plan	294
HASSAN DISTRICT, with Map	320-366
General Description :—Physical Features, 320; Malnád and Maidán, 321; Channels, 322; Rocks and Soils, 322; Climate, 323; Vegetation, 326; Forests, 327; Cultivation, 328; Wild and Domestic Animals, 330. History :—Legends, 331; Kadambas, 331; Gangas, Hoysalas, 332; Vijayanagar, 333; Balam, 333; Mysore Rájas, 333. Population , 335; Towns and Villages, 336; Festivals and Fairs, 337; Vital Statistics, 337. Revenue , 338. Trade :—Manufactures and Marts, 338. Communications :—Railways and Roads, 340; Travellers' Bungalows, 341.	
Gazetteer of Principal Places, &c.	341-366
KADUR DISTRICT, with Map	367-414
General Description :—Physical Features, 367; Soils, 371; Climate, 371; Vegetation, 372; Cultivation, 373; Wild Animals, 375; Domestic Animals, 377. History :—Early Legends, 377; Kadambas, Gangas, Hoysalas, 379; Vijayanagar, 380; Mysore Rájas, 380. Population , 381; Towns and Villages, 383; Festivals and Fairs, 383; Vital Statistics, 384. Revenue , 384. Trade , 385. Communications :—Railways and Roads, 385; Travellers' Bungalows, 386.	
Gazetteer of Principal Places, Rivers, Mountains, &c.	387-414

CONTENTS

vii

PAGE
415-488

SHIMOGA DISTRICT, *with Map*

General Description:—Physical Features, 415; Rocks and Soils, 417; Climate, 418; Vegetation, 420; Cultivation, 421; Animals, 426. **History**:—Janamejaya, Kubattur, 427; Mauryas, Guptas, Satavahanas, Kadambas, 428; Gangas, Chálukyas, Ráshtrakútas, Humcha, 429; Chálukyas, Kalachuryas, Hoysalas, 430; Vijayanagar, 431; Keladi, 431; Basvapatna, 437; Capture of Bednur, 437; Nagar Insurrection, 438. **Population**, 439; Towns and Villages, 441; Festivals and Fairs, 441; Vital Statistics, 442. **Revenue**, 443. **Trade**, 443. **Communications**:—Railways and Roads, 444; Travellers' Bungalows, 445.

Gazetteer of Principal Places, Rivers, &c. 446-488

CHITALDROOG DISTRICT, *with Map* 489-539

General Description:—Physical Features, 489; Rocks, Minerals and Soils, 491; Climate, 492; Vegetation, 495; Cultivation, 497; Animals, 498. **History**:—Janamejaya, 498; Mauryas, Satavahanas, Kadambas, Chálukyas, Ráshtrakútas, Nolambas, 499; Hoysalas, Vijayanagar, 500; Chitaldroog, 500; Nidugal, 504; Mysore Ráj, 505. **Population**, 505; Towns and Villages, 507; Festivals and Fairs, 508; Vital Statistics, 509; **Revenue**, 509. **Trade**:—Manufactures, 509; Marts, 511. **Communications**:—Railways and Roads, 511; Travellers' Bungalows, 512.

Gazetteer of Principal Places, &c. 512-539

APPENDIX.

Glossary of Official Terms 541-565

Addenda et Corrigenda 567

INDEX 569-581

STAFF LIST

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1897 Mysore a Gazetteer compiled for Government, revised edition in two volumes with maps and illustrations.

“A work of great magnitude and research very carefully prepared and edited”.

- *Annual address by the Dewan (Sir. K. Sheshadri Iyer)
to Representative Assembly 1898.*

“A second edition of Rice’s admirable Gazetteer. The first edition was published more than twenty years ago, and the immense progress made by the State in the interval fully justifies bringing the work upto date”.

- *Pioneer.*

“Complete without being diffused and accurate without being dry”.

- *Madrás Mail*

"Mr Rice has shown how interesting a work of this sort can be made". – "It is highly instructive work and so readable that if once taken up one is quite fascinated by its contents".- "In order to bring the work up-to date a great deal has been required of the author as he indicates in the preface. Both volumes are provided with excellent maps.

- *Glaxo Herald*

"As a repertory of all available knowledge about Mysore, admirably written and arranged, it is inestimable merit under the highest authority".

- *Scotsman.*

"Brought up to date not without considerable labour for indeed there is much to be added and changed. Mysore was given back to native rule in 1881 and it is worthwhile to note Mr. Rice's opinion on the relations between the Imperial Government and the State"

- *Spectator.*

"The name of the author is sufficient guarantee for its excellence and accuracy"

- *Athenaeum.*

"Another proof (the further evidence was required) that good work gets found out. Mr. Rice himself remarks that when he first published his book, he little thought that he would be called on to issue a second edition. But during twenty years his account of Mysore has served as a guide not only to the administrative staff but also the British investors who have sent their capital to the Gold fields and coffee plantations of that State. It is difficult indeed to name a subject of interest whether from the official, the antiquarian, or the industrial point of view which does not find patient and thorough treatment in his volumes"

- *The Times.*

BENJAMIN LEWIS RICE (1837-1927)-

Benjamin Lewis Rice was born at Bangalore on the 17th July 1837. His father Benjamin Holt Rice was a Christian Missionary and was incidentally appointed Bishop. After completing the primary education in Bangalore, Benjamin Rice went to England for higher studies in 1848 and obtained B.A. degree and later came back to Bangalore in 1860. He was subsequently appointed principal of the central high school. In 1865 he was made the Inspector of schools for Mysore state and Coorg. After his retirement on 1st July 1890 till his age of 69 Rice rendered meritorious service to the Mysore state. He worked in several capacities as Director of public instruction, chief officers census, Police Department, Director of Archaeological Research etc. Even while in service till his retirement his literary contributions are remarkable. He edited fourteen volumes of *Epigraphia Carnatica*; four volumes of gazetteers (including two revised editions in 1898), editing of five great Kannada classics of old poets; seven works on inscriptions, census reports etc. He also published more than twenty-eight research papers in various periodicals. He had the credit of discovering Roman coins near Bangalore Air port in 1891.

It is true that a plan of preparing Gazetteer of Mysore in 8 volumes one for each district of the state, was first formulated in 1867. Accordingly two volumes relating to Mysore and Kolar compiled by H. Wellesly and B. Krishniengar were published. The other volumes owing to some reason could not be prepared. In 1871 Lewis Rice then Director of public instruction in Mysore and Coorg, was entrusted with the task of compiling the Gazetteer on a uniform pattern. But information necessarily to be entered in the Gazetteer were not systematically available in the Government offices. Yet Lewis Rice devised his own methods to collect information as systematically as possible. W.W. Hunter the editor of imperial gazetteer of India during his visit to Bangalore in 1874 on seeing the work being carried out by Rice was all appreciation for it and suggested him to prepare Gazetteer for the entire state and also for each district. Rice agreed to the suggestion. He was successful in bringing out the Mysore and Coorg Gazetteers, in three volumes in 1886-1887. The first volume exclusively deals with Mysore; the second gives district-wise information and the third is concerned with Coorg (Kodagu). These Gazetteers contain information on the physical feature and other geographical aspects of the land, economic and administrative matters etc. Besides they contain the history, religion, current arts of the land etc. As a result one

can get a good historical account and also various aspects of the land; administrative, economic, social etc. These Gazetteers are in English and therefore people from other States also could know about the land. They were acclaimed as the most objective and comprehensively informative and therefore could be the best model for Gazetteers of the other States. The Central Government then had also planned to prepare Imperial Gazetteers for the Country. Rice's Gazetteers were extensively used in their preparation. Twenty years later these Gazetteers were again revised by Rice and brought out more usefully. They were acclaimed as of high standard and merit. The Calcutta Review appreciates them as containing : " A mine of information about the country, Evidently written 'con a move' it shows great care and research, knowledged of language and literature of the country and thorough appreciation of the subject in hand". It is worthy of note in this context that although being exceedingly busy in preparing the volumes of *Epigraphia Carnatica*, he did undertaken this monumental work because of his love for the land, the language and the people abundantly obvious in his exemplary remarks on the land.

His poineering, splendid, versatile and fruitful work of various kinds for the Department in the latter part of his life (53-69 of his age), has no doubt earned a lasting place of honour in the academic world for him and gratitude of the people of Karnataka. One finds absolutely no exaggeration in the cryptic and precise description of his personality by L.D. Barnett: "A man of untiring industry, wide learning and earnest devotion to the pursuit of truth, he has rendered exceedingly great services to the cause of knowledge by the stimulus which he has given to Historical and literary studies in South India'.