



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Provincial Series
Hyderabad State
RAICHUR



KARNATAKA GAZETTEER DEPARTMENT
BENGALURU



**IMPERIAL GAZETTEER
OF INDIA**

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PREFACE

The articles in this volume were drafted by Mirza Mehdy Khan. When the drafts had been finished, the Districts into which the State is divided were rearranged; and it has not been found possible to deal completely with the Districts as now constituted, though revised statistics have been included so far as available. Materials were largely collected by District officers and heads of departments; and sections on technical subjects have been contributed by Mr. E. Vredenburg (Geology) and Lieut.-Col. Prain, C.I.E. (Botany). Mirza Mehdy Khan also received valuable assistance from Major Haig, I.A., and Mr. C. Wilmott, formerly Assistant Financial Secretary in Hyderabad.

PREFACE BY W.W.HUNTER

Early
efforts
under the
company,
1769 to
1855.

'We are of opinion', wrote the Court of Directors in 1807 to their servants in Bengal. 'that a Statistical Survey of the country would be attended with much utility; we, therefore, recommend proper steps to be taken for the execution of the same. The despatch from which these words are quoted forms one of a long series of instructions in which the East India Company urged a systematic inquiry into its territories. The first formulated effort in Bengal dates from 1769, four years after that Province came into its hands; the latest orders of the Court of Directors on the subject were issued in 1855, three years before the administration of India passed from the Company to the Crown. During the interval many able and earnest men had laboured at the work, manuscript materials of great value had been amassed and several important volumes had been published. But such attempts were isolated, directed by no central organization, and unsustained by any continuous plan of execution.

Efforts
under the
Crown,
1858-69.

The ten years which followed the transfer of the government of India to the Crown in 1858, produced a new set of efforts towards the elucidation of the country. Conspicuous among them was the work begun in 1866 under the direction of Sir Richard Temple, when Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. The controlling power in England had now passed from a body of experts, the Court of Directors to Parliament and the nation at large. Accurate and accessible information regarding India has become, under the new system, an essential condition for the safe exercise of that control. Accordingly, in 1867 the Viceroy, acting on instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary

¹ Executed by Mr. Charles Grant, of the Bengal Civil Service, afterwards (1880) Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

of State, ordered an account to be drawn up for each of the twelve great Provinces of India¹.

Their
failure,
1869

The Provincial Governments struck out widely divergent schemes for conducting the work. It was as if a command had issued from some central power for a Statistical Survey of all Europe and each nation set about its execution on a separate plan. It became apparent that vast sums of money would be expended, while considerable uncertainty existed as to the results. One local Government started on a scale which, if generally adopted, would have involved an outlay of £100,000 for the District materials alone. The head of another Province himself carried out the work, expeditiously and at scarcely any cost to the State; but on a system which although admirably suited to the territories under his care, could not be applied to the rest of India. Meanwhile, the commercial community and various public bodies were pressing upon the Government the necessity of systematic organization with a view to ensure uniformity in the execution of the work. Without such uniformity, the Council of the Asiatic Society pointed out that, when the local compilations came to be finally digested into the General Account of India, there would be no basis for comparative statistics and much 'of the original work would have to be gone over again *de novo*'.

Remon-
strances
by public
bodies,

Renewed
efforts,
1869

The Viceroy arrived at the same conclusion; and in 1869, His Excellency directed me to visit the various Provincial Governments, with a view to 'submit a comprehensive scheme for utilizing the information already collected; for prescribing the principles' to be thenceforth adopted; 'and for the consolidation into one work of the

1 These Provinces or rather political divisions under separate administration, were-(1) Bengal; (2)Bombay; (3)Madras; (4)The North Western Provinces and Oudh; (5)The Punjab; (6)Assam, in 1867 included in Bengal; (7)Central Provinces; (8)British Burma; (9) The Berars, under the Resident at Haidarabad; (10) Mysore and Coorg; (11) Rajputana; (12) Central India- Orders of the Government of India, No.1758, dated 19th October 1867.

2 Mr.Alfred Lyall, C.B., of the Bengal Civil Service, then Commissioner of West Berar, now Foreign Secretary to the Government of India

whole of the materials that may be available'.

Causes of
previous
failures,

Two stages
of the
work,

In carrying out these instructions, I found that the series of previous efforts had failed from two distinct causes. In one class of cases, a central officer of rank and ability had been appointed; but he had not been supported by adequate machinery for collecting the local materials. In another class, the District Officers had been left to work each on his own plan, without the guidance of any single mind. The first class had failed from want of local organization; the second, from want of central control¹. The task set before me consisted, in fact, of two separate stages- First, a 'local inquiry', conducted on a uniform scheme, throughout each of the 240 Districts, or administrative units, of British India. Second, the consolidation of the materials

1: The Governor-General in Council thus summed up the previous efforts, in a Resolution dated the 8th September 1871; 'Three distinct series of operations have in time past been undertaken or encouraged by the Government, with a view to obtaining trustworthy accounts of the country, such as might form a Gazetteer of India; the whole representing a very large outlay, commencing as far back as 1769, and one of the efforts costing £30,000 for merely collecting the materials for part of a single Province. From a variety of causes, all more or less proceeding from defective organization, this large expenditure, while accumulating isolated materials of great value, failed to yield any systematic and comprehensive result'. The Resolution then reviewed the fresh operations ordered by the Secretary of State in 1867. 'Various schemes were set on foot to give effect to these orders, some of them so costly as to be altogether disproportionate to the results to be obtained. But His Excellency in Council observes that excessive costliness is not the only unfortunate effect of the want of organization, which left each local Government to invent a scheme of its own, irrespective of what was being done in other provinces. There was, in fact, no unity of plan or central supervision, and the results did not contain the materials required for the comparative statistics of the Empire... Widely different schemes have been propounded by the local administrations, some of them involving a very extravagant outlay, others of too meagre a character. Each local Government has given its own interpretation to the work; and the experience of the last few years shows that, in the absence of a central organization, the cost of the enterprise will swell to an enormous total, while the same heterogeneous incompleteness, which rendered all previous efforts infructuous, will gain result.

thus obtained into one book. The first state could be effected only by a statistical Survey of India; the second is represented by the Imperial Gazetteer of India. No basis existed at that time for either of these works. A Census had never been taken for British India; and in some Provinces the different departments of the same Government grounded their financial and administrative demands on widely diverse estimates of the population.

**Plan for a
Statistical
Survey,
and an
Imperial
Gazetteer,
1869**

Its objects

Accordingly, in 1869, I submitted to the Governor General in Council a Plan for a Statistical Survey and an Imperial Gazetteer of India¹. It endeavoured, First, to eliminate the causes of previous failures, by providing a uniform scheme, a local mechanism and a central control. Second, to clearly define the objects of the present undertaking. These objects were partly of an administrative and partly of a general character; namely, 'for the use of the Controlling Body in England of administrators in India, and of the public'. Third, to secure the co-operation of the Provincial Governments, -lukewarm heretofore in such matters-by respecting their individuality and by modifying the uniform scheme to suit the circumstances of their several Provinces. Fourth, to collect the materials at once systematically and cheaply, by enlisting the unpaid agency of the District Officers throughout India under a central control. The Government was pleased to approve of this Plan, and to 'secure for the execution of the design the supervision of the designer'².

**Extent
of the
operations.**

'The operations', wrote the Governor-General in Council, 'will extend over ten separate Governments which, with their Feudatory States, administer a territory of 1½ million square miles and govern a population estimated at 200 million souls (since found to be 240 millions). The work represents, therefore, a series of local inquiries and comparative statistics, spread over an area but little less than that of all Europe, excepting Russia', and a population then exceeding that of all Europe, less Russia. With

1 Printed at the Home Secretariat Press, 144 pp.folio. Calcutta, 1870

2 Proceedings of the Government of India, dated 8th September 1871.

Mechanism of the Statistical Survey.

a view to securing uniformity in the materials, I drew up six series of leading questions,¹ illustrating the topographical, ethnical, agricultural, industrial, administrative, and medical aspects of an Indian District. These have served as a basis for the Survey throughout all India. With a view to securing punctuality of execution, Provincial Compilers were appointed, each of whom was made responsible for getting in the returns from the District Officers within the territories assigned to him; for supplementing those returns by information from heads of Departments and other local sources; and for working up the results into the Statistical Account or Gazetteer of the Province. In this way, the unpaid co-operation of the administrative staff throughout the 240 Districts of India was enlisted; the best local knowledge was brought to bear, while in each Province a paid editor was answerable for the completion of the Provincial Account on a uniform plan and within a reasonable time. The supervision of the whole rested with me, as Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India. During one-half of each year, I visited the various Provinces, especially Bengal, which I retained in my own hands as Provincial Editor in addition to my duties as Director-General. The other half, I devoted to testing and working up the results.

Its Practical working.

The Statistical Survey of India.

During the past twelve years, the Statistical Survey has been carried throughout the whole of British India. The District forms the administrative unit in India, and the Statistical Survey furnishes an elaborate account of each of the 240 Districts. The Province is the administrative entity in India and the Statistical Survey groups the whole of the District materials into fifteen Provincial Accounts or Gazetteers. Such a work, if it is to furnish a basis for administrative action in India, and supply data to the Controlling Body in England, must be at once comprehensive and minute. The District and Provincial Accounts form,

¹ Circulated to the Provincial Governments, under the title of 'Heads of Information required for the Imperial Gazetteer'.

The 100
Volumes
of the
Survey;

now
practically
completed.

Statistical
operations
in Native
States.

Excep-
tional
opportu-
nities.

Five great
groups of
States.

therefore, about 100 printed volumes, aggregating 36,000 pages, of which 90 volumes, making over 32,000 pages, have already been issued. The operations have now been completed throughout 12 Provinces and 210 Districts, representing a population of about 190 millions of souls. The small unfinished section deals with a few Districts, for which the materials have been, or are being, collected; and the printed accounts of which will be issued for the most part, it is hoped, during the current year.

The Feudatory States and Chiefdoms, exceeding 300 in number, with 50 millions of people, were from the first placed outside the scope of the Statistical Survey. In these territories it was unsuitable to attempt minute investigations, which the native princes would have been likely to misunderstand, and able to frustrate. Accordingly, my Plan of 1869 restricted the Survey to the British territories, but, at the same time, pointed out that the Native States must be included in the ultimate work for all India, that is, the Imperial Gazetteer. Steps were therefore taken to bring together the information already existing regarding them, and to modestly supplement it. In States tempo rarely under British management, this was quite practicable; and Major Powlett's account of Ulwar supplies an admirable specimen of what may be done under such circumstances.

But apart from exceptional cases, I found that the 300 Native States of India had to be dealt with in five great groups. The first and most numerous class comprised the States and Chiefdoms which are in political dependence to the Provincial Governments. These States have accepted a large measure of British supervision, and the Provincial Compilers were able to draw up fairly adequate accounts of them. The second group consisted of the Rajputana States; and two valuable volumes have been collected regarding them by Mr. Alfred Lyall, C.B., when Governor-General's Agent¹ For the thier group in including the Central India States, I did not find myself in a

¹ The Rajputana Gazetteer, 1879-80. I regret that the period necessarily occupied in collecting the materials, rendered it impossible for the whole results to reach me in time for the Imperial Gazetteer.

How dealt with; separately.

Frontier Kingdoms.

Mechanism employed for the Native States.

Its imperfect results.

position to bring forward specific proposals; and in the case of several of them, this book will add but little to the sum of human knowledge. In the fourth group, or the Territories of the Nizam, efforts were made at an early stage to obtain the necessary materials from His Highness' Government. These efforts did not prove fruitful of results. The fifth group consisted of Frontier and Independent States, such as Afghanistan, Burma and Nepal. Some account of such States would be expected in the Imperial Gazetteer of India. But any account of them, drawn up from official sources and issued under the authority of the British Government, might give rise to uneasiness among the Princes who rule those territories, our neighbours and allies. After full consideration, it was decided that no special inquiry should be made with regard to Independent Kingdoms and that no official documents should be used. The articles upon them in the Imperial Gazetteer are, accordingly, a mere reproduction of accounts already before the public, and for which no responsibility attaches to the Government.

Of the five groups of Native States, therefore, the first was satisfactorily dealt with by means of the Provincial Compilers; the fifth can scarcely be said to have been dealt with at all. In the three intermediate groups, many isolated efforts were made, and a special Assistant was deputed to me in the Foreign Office, Calcutta, with a view to putting together the materials already existing. His labours were afterwards supplemented in the Political Department of the India Office. But the confidential relationship between the Government of India and its Feudatory States, the dislike of the native Princes to inquiries of a social or economic character, and the scrupulous delicacy of the Foreign Office to avoid grounds of offence, have rendered a complete treatment of such territories impossible. I beg that those who use this book will believe that the occasional meagerness of the results, and several instances of quite inadequate treatment, are due not to want of anxious effort on my part, but to the conditions under which I worked. In some cases I have had to fall back on the old materials compiled, at the expense of

No Statistical Survey of Native States.

The three objects of the work:

- (1) For Indian administrators ;
- (2) For the Controlling Body in England ;
- (3) For the public.

Initial steps in compiling the Imperial Gazetteer.

the Court of Directors, by Mr. Edward Thornton in the India House, and published by their authority, in four volumes, in 1854. As a whole, therefore, the articles on the Native States represent a much less exact method of inquiry than those on the British Provinces. They will be found, however, to mark a material advance in our information regarding Feudatory India. The basis for more systematic operations, a Census, does not exist; and a Statistical Survey of the Native States still remains unattempted.

The two primary objects of the operations were for the use of Indian administrators', and 'for the use of the Controlling Body in England'. The hundred volumes of the Statistical Survey were expressly compiled for these purposes; and of the twelve years which have elapsed since its commencement, the first eight were devoted to that part of the work. But these hundred volumes, although by no means too elaborate for administrative requirements, are practically within the reach of but a small official class. The third object of the undertaking had been defined in my original Plan, to be 'for the use of the public'¹ and the remaining four years of the twelve have been chiefly occupied in reducing the voluminous records of the Statistical Survey to a practicable size for general reference. The result is now presented in the nine volumes of the Imperial Gazetteer.

Previous Gazetteers had described, with industry and sometimes with eloquence, the famous cities of India, its historical sites, and great Provinces. But in the absence of systematic materials, they had to depend on the chance topography of tourists, or on a place happening to find its way into the records of the India House. A petty hamlet in which some traveller halted for a night, or any locality that had formed the subject of a correspondence with the

¹:under the title of A Gazetteer of the Territories under the East India Company and of the Native States on the Continent of India. (4 volumes). this work, excellent at its date, was compiled between the years 1844 and 1854; Mr. Thornton being paid a sum of money by the Court of Directors in addition to his salary, 'it being distinctly understood that the copyright is to vest in the East India Company' (Resolution of the Court of Directors, 18th February 1846).

Previous chance topography *Court of Directors, stood out in bold relief; while great tracts and rivers, or the most important features of large Provinces, were passed over without a word. My first business, therefore, was to take care that every place which deserved mention should be enumerated; my second, to see that it received neither less nor more space than its relative importance demanded. With a view to the first object, I sent circulars to the Provincial Editors and District Officers, calling for a return, upon clearly-stated principles, of every town, river, mountain, historical site, religious resort, commercial fair, harbour, or other place of importance in each District of British India. This list I checked from the Statistical Survey, and supplemented with many places which, although of no local significance, had obtained prominence in the literature of India. Eleven thousand names were thus arranged in alphabetical order. No such list had ever before been compiled for Her Majesty's Indian Empire. After being thinned out, it was printed in a folio volume, and forwarded to all the Local Governments in India, with a request that they would ascertain that the enumeration was correct as regards the territories under their care. I finally revised the list by the light of their suggestions, and selected about 8000 places for treatment in the Imperial Gazetteer.*

List of places.

The first of the kind for India.

System of uniform treatment.

Model articles

During the interval which elapsed before their replies could be received, I drew up model articles, showing paragraph by paragraph the method of treatment; and I got together the missing materials for Provinces where the Statistical Survey had not sufficiently advanced to yield them. In this way, I placed in the hand of each contributor to the Imperial Gazetteer the names of the places of which he was to treat, together with the complete materials for dealing with them, and with an exact mould into which those materials were to be squeezed.

The value of the work, as a guide to administration, is impaired by the fact that its figures cannot be brought up to date. The basis of Indian statistics is still the Census of 1872, taken a few months after my appointment as Director-General; and the Government has decided that the publication of the Gazetteer must not be delayed, with a

Defects of the work, as an Administrative Guide-book.

Period to Which the statistics refer.

Its defects as a General Gazetteer.

Deficient in history.

view to obtaining the results of the new Census of 1881. Even the Census of 1872 does not supply a uniform basis for the whole of India; and in certain Provinces I have had to found on enumerations taken in 1867, 1868, and 1869. Much labour has been expended in bringing up the economical statistics to a more recent date, with the help of Administration Reports, and by special inquiries. But the length of time necessarily occupied by a Statistical Survey of a continent, nearly equal to all Europe less Russia, rendered it inevitable that the results should refer to different years during its progress. My figures represent substantially the population statistics of India in 1872, with the administrative and trade statistics from 1875 to 1879. In some cases, even this degree of uniformity has not been found practicable; in others, I have brought the facts down to 1880. But the reduction of the statistics of India to a uniform basis must be deferred for a second edition, after the results of the new Census are obtained.

In its other aspect, as a book for general reference, the Imperial Gazetteer is also less perfect than I could have wished in several points. The Governor-General in Council found that the task of collecting the administrative materials and statistics would prove a burden quite as heavy as he deemed expedient to lay upon the Local Governments. The historical aspects were expressly left to the voluntary research of the Provincial compilers. From the first, one of the Local Governments objected even to this moderate scope being allowed for matters not directly of an official character. The emphasis which the Governor-General in Council laid in 1875 on the responsibilities of the Provincial Governments for the tone and contents of the work, seemed to several of them to render general disquisitions unsuitable. Even in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam, which I retained in my own hands as Provincial Editor, every sheet had to receive the sanction of the Local Government before it was printed off. Many topics of social or political interest were excluded, and a general introductory volume, after being in part printed, was not issued.

But if the history of India is ever to be anything more than a record of conquest and crime, it must be sought for among the people themselves. Valuable historical materi-

The true history of India.

Where it is to be found.

Some progress made.

Geographical details.

als had been collected for the Statistical Survey; and in 1877, the Secretary of State for India decided that a wider scope should be allowed me for their use in the Imperial Gazetteer. I have done my best to give effect to that view; and it will be seen, for the first time in these volumes, that every Indian District has its own history. The true territorial unit of Indian history is, indeed, much smaller than the British District. For example, he who would study the history of Oudh must search for it in the Pargana or parish; in other parts of India, the Zamindari or estate is the historical unit; in others, the chiefship; while in a few, the rural districts were mere appendages to the great cities. Had it been permitted to subject the rural annals of India to systematic inquiry, as I wished, a rich harvest would have been gathered in. The historical accumulations made by the wayside, in conducting the Statistical Survey, have proved of much value. But in attempting to incorporate them in the Imperial Gazetteer, I have had frequently to choose between using materials which owing to the earlier instructions, I had been unable to test; or rejecting statements, in themselves novel and interesting, but which, in the later stages of the work, I could not personally verify.

The latitudes and longitudes have, with a few exceptions, been tested by the Surveyor-General's Department¹. I have to thank General Sir H. Thuillier for many years of friendly help, and Colonel J.T.Walker for more recent assistance, in the geographical details. Areas, distances, and similar details have been taken from the latest scientific measurements; but the frequent changes in the jurisdiction of Indian Districts introduce an element of variation difficult to eliminate. In some cases, averages will

¹The longitudes require a constant correction of minus 2½ minutes (-00 2'30") to reduce them from the adopted value of 800 17' 21" for the longitude of the Madras Observatory, on which they have been based, to the value of 800 14' 51", which was determined electro-telegraphically in 1876-77. It is not improbable that some further minute correction may be hereafter made; and the Surveyor-General has deemed it undesirable that the values of all the individual longitudes should be altered, until the final determination has been arrived at.

Elements
of error.

not work out correctly, as in the rates of local taxation per head, where the municipal area often differs from the town area taken for the Census. In other instances, the items will not add up; as in certain Districts where the religious classification of the people does not yield the exact total arrived at by the general enumeration. There are not very many discrepancies of this sort, and no labour has been spared to get rid of them. But in several cases I cannot go beyond the figures supplied to me by the local authorities; and although I may see that there is something wrong, I am unable to set it right. I beg that those who may come after me will, in improving on my work, remember the conditions under which it has been done. When it was begun, no one knew exactly the population of a single Province of India, or of a single District of Bengal. In the latter Province alone, the Census of 1872 suddenly disclosed the presence of 22 millions of British subjects whose existence had never previously been suspected. The population of Bengal and Assam, up to that time reckoned at 40 millions, was ascertained to number 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ millions of souls.

Spelling of
Indian
Proper
Names.

The spelling of names of Indian places has long formed a subject of controversy. Without a uniform system of rendering them, an alphabetical Gazetteer could not start; and one of my first duties was to lay down a system for transliterating Indian Proper Names. In existing Gazetteers of India, the same word appears under many forms. The best work of this class gives eleven different spellings of the same town, not one of which is exactly correct; and in order to be sure of finding a place, the inquirer has to look it up under every possible disguise. The truth is, it requires a long study of the vernacular languages of India, and some knowledge of Sanskrit, which forms the key to them all, before one is able to spell names even in the native alphabets. It next requires a well-considered system of transliteration in order to render the word in the English character. For it must be remembered that the Sanskrit alphabet has fifty letters or signs, while the English alphabet has only twenty-six. Thus, the Roman alphabet has but one letter for the consonant n: the Sanskrit has four letters for it, in its various modifications, as a dental, lingual, palatal, and guttural. On the other

Inherent
difficulty
of trans-
literation.

hand, the Indian alphabets attach a uniform sound to each vowel; while in English, the same vowel may have several sounds, such as u in but, put, cure, rural. Indian names can, therefore, be represented only in a loose and popular manner in our alphabet; unless, indeed, we manufacture a new Roman alphabet with additional letters, by means of accents over the vowels, dots under the consonants, italics, or similar devices of typography.

System
adopted
in this
work.

A recognition of this fundamental difficulty should make an Indian spelling-reformer moderate in his aims and patient of opposition. I first collected about 15,000 names of places, written out by competent natives in the vernacular character; and transliterated them accurately on the method adopted by the Royal Asiatic Society. But the multitude of accented vowels and dotted consonants convinced me that such precision was impracticable for popular use. I, therefore, re-transliterated them on a more simple system, discarding dotted consonants altogether, using as few accents as possible over the vowels, and abstaining from liberties with the alphabet which would give it an un-English look, and perplex the ordinary reader. My object was, not to write a paper for the Asiatic Society's Journal, but to lay down a uniform system which would settle the long discussion about Indian orthography, by being adopted by all fairly educated men.

Difficulties
of the
task.

The task was complicated by the circumstance that three systems had co-existed during nearly a century. For two of the rivals a good case might be made out. Popular usage had drawn at random from all three, and a number of important places had thus obtained an historical or literary fixity of spelling. Wellknown names of this class, when transliterated in an unwanted fashion, or by a rival method, had a strange look, which afforded scope for pleasantries. Yet one system had to be accepted and resolutely adhered to. The method which I have adopted does not attempt to represent the fine distinctions of the Sanskrit consonants, such as the dental and lingual d. But it attaches a uniform value to each vowel, namely, a and u as in rural: c as in grey, merchant; and i and o as in police. The accented a, i, and u represent the long forms of the same vowels in Sanskrit, or the sounds in the English words far, pier, and

Uniform
vowel
sounds.

lure.

Names
with
historical
fixity of
spelling.

Some Indian names, however, have grown so familiar as to render a rectification of their spelling impracticable. Such names have been considerably dealt with. I found that they arranged themselves under two classes. In the first class, the popular or historical fixity of spelling had so hardened and set as to preclude any alteration whatever; thus, Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. In the second class, it was possible to bring the spelling somewhat nearer to the uniform system' without destroying the historical or popular identity of the word. For example, the multiform terminal *pur, pore, poor, poore, a city*, might be uniformly given in its correct Hindi form as *pur*, even if the body of the word could not be rectified; while the similar termination *nagar, nagore, nugger, nuggur, naggore, etc.*, a town, might be uniformly rendered *nagar*. Such a system, like all compromises, was open to the strictures of both the extreme parties—of the scrupulous purists on the one hand, and of the obstinate upholders of the old confused spelling on the other. It commended itself to the intermediate body of reasonable men. The Government of India, in 1870, accordingly promulgated my system of transliteration in the Official Gazette, and formally authorized its adoption

Introdu-
tion of the
system

It remained to organize machinery for enforcing its general use. Several of the leading Indian journals at once expressed their willingness to adopt a uniform system which presented no typographical difficulties. Up to that time, the same place used to appear under diverse forms in the different newspapers, and was often variously rendered in different columns of the same journal. A printed volume containing the correct spelling of all Indian places was circulated to the Press, to literary institutions, libraries, publishing houses, and to the official Departments. But the chief sources from which Indian news is derived, and from which Indian orthography emanates, are the Government Gazettes and Administration Reports. The official Gazettes in India give much of the information which in England would be communicated by Her Majesty's Min-

The new system adopted for all official publications.

Provincial lists revised by Supreme Government of India.

Spelling in the Imperial Gazetteer.

isters to Parliament. Each Provincial Government has its own set of Reports and its own Gazette—the latter sometimes swelling into a weekly folio of over a hundred pages, filled with state papers. The Governor-General requested each of the Provincial Governments to draw up a list of places within its own territories, spelt on my system. These lists, after receiving his sanction, were to be published in the Gazettes, and to be thenceforth adopted in them and all other official publications.

The Provincial Governments carried out the principles of transliteration with varying degrees of uniformity, and took widely different views as to the number of names which had obtained a popular fixity of spelling. This was inevitable; and the Governor-General in Council, in revising the lists, endeavoured to remove divergences and to attain the maximum degree of uniformity. Owing to the number of languages and alphabets used in India, the work extended over nearly ten years. The Provincial Governments have been induced to reconsider their first efforts; and in each new edition, they have approached more closely to the lines originally laid down. In one Presidency, indeed, the latest revision has gone beyond the limits of accuracy which I had thought practicable. Throughout India, every year sees the uniform system of spelling more generally introduced; it has been accepted in the Parliamentary blue-books at home, and is irresistibly forcing its way into the English press.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Gazetteer had to march on. The Government decided that the publication of the whole work should not, in any circumstances, be delayed beyond the year 1881. the proof sheets had to pass under the revision of the Secretary of State in Council; and most of them were, accordingly, printed in 1879 and 1880. I, therefore, did my best to arrive at the true spelling of each name, starting from my own lists in the vernacular character, and usually accepting the Provincial lists as drawn up by the Local Governments, when they arrived in time; although not delaying the work by waiting for their final revision.

It sometimes happened that adjoining Governments

Provincial variations.

No common alphabet in India.

Dialectic variations.

Acknowledgments.

Thanks to the District Officers;

adopted different renderings for the same word, such as a river or a border district; while each Government introduced variations in revised editions of its own list. If an attempt were made to introduce a uniform system of spelling proper names for all Europe, similar delays and difficulties would arise. It must be remembered, too, that India has no common alphabet, like the Roman in Europe, but a variety of local characters, which render the same words by different letters. Thus, apart from the difficult subject of dental and lingual forms; the commonest of all terminals, pur, a town, is spelt with short u in Hindi and by most of the Sanskrit family of alphabets, and with a long u in the Urdu alphabet, derived from Arabic sources. Dialectic variations also play a confusing part; a universal place-name like Sivapur or Shivapur, being hardened into Sibpur in Bengal, and softened into Hiwapur in the adjoining Province of Assam. It will, therefore, be possible to discover instances in which the rendering of a name in the Imperial Gazetteer differs from that ultimately sanctioned by the Government of India. But candid inquirers will, I hope, find the degree of uniformity which has been arrived at by the Provincial Governments and myself, more surprising than the occasional variations.

I must not let this work pass from my hands without expressing my sincere thanks for the help which I have so liberally received in its preparation. It has been officially described as the only example of a great national undertaking of the sort, being carried out under the uninterrupted direction of one mind, from the initial District Survey to the final alphabetical compilation in a Gazetteer. But such merits as it may be found to possess, are due in large measure to the zealous and friendly help of my fellow-workers. I feel especially grateful to the District Officers throughout India who have supplied the local materials. On their unselfish labours the fabric of this work, as, indeed, of the whole Indian administration, rests. The Provincial Compilers of the Statistical Survey, enumerated on page xii, have also my sincere thanks. In particular, the volumes of Mr. Atkinson on the North-Western Provinces: of Mr. Campbell on the Bombay

to the
Provincial
Compilers.

Presidency: and of Mr. Rice on Mysore, form models of administrative research. Mr. Hughes' work on Sind also deserves high praise.

Thanks
to my
coadjutors
in England.

The condensation of the Statistical Survey of the Provinces into the Imperial Gazetteer has been conducted chiefly in England, where the cost of literary work is much less than in India. In that task I have had, at intervals, the aid of Mr. H. P. Platt, Fellow of Lincoln College: Major-General J. Clarke, formerly commissioner in Oudh: Mr. J. S. Cotton, late fellow and Lecturer at Queen's College, Oxford: Mr. Grant Allen, late of Merton College, Oxford: Miss Alice Betham (now Mrs. Mackenzie), sometime Acting Tutor of Girton College, Cambridge: Miss Margaret Robertson: Mr. G. Barclay, M.A.; the Rev. E. Cunningham, M.A.: Mr. Philip Robinson, late Professor of History in the Government College, Allahabad. I shall ever look back with pleasure to my connection with this able and friendly body of fellow-workers. To Mr. Cotton, and to Mr. Charles Dollman who has been my assistant throughout, I owe in a special manner my thanks.

Acknowledgments
to former
Administrators.

Apart from the literary compilation, I have endeavoured to bring the best practical knowledge to bear upon the revision of the work. My obligations in this respect to distinguished Indian Administrators are too numerous to be specifically detailed. But I desire particularly to thank Sir William Muir, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, for his kind revision of the article on those territories; Sir William Robinson, sometime Acting Governor of Madras, for his contributions to articles on that Presidency, and for his untiring friendly help; Sir Robert Montgomery and Sir Henry Davies, sometime Lieutenant-Governors of the Punjab; Mr. Lewin Bowring, C.B., sometime Chief Commissioner of Mysore; and General Fytche, C.S.I., sometime Chief Commissioner of British Burma, for their Personal contributions to, or revisions of, the articles on the Provinces which they formerly ruled. Mr. J. H. Batten, sometime Commissioner of Kumaun and Garhwal, supplied in chief part the articles on these Districts. Many other retired administrators have, in like manner, enriched my materials with monographs

on the territories in which their life's work was done. In each of the principal articles, I have tried to get the sheets revised by the person with the largest administrative experience of the Presidency or Province. To Colonel Yule, C.B., the editor of *Marco Polo*, I am indebted for scholarly and most generous aid in all articles which deal with the mediaeval history of India.

The Archaeological Sections.

Why deficient.

A separate Archaeological survey is now at work in India; but only a very small portion of its results reached me in time to be incorporated into the *Imperial Gazetteer*. The existence of that Survey precluded me from independent researches within its jurisdiction. I hope, therefore, that the next edition of this work will deal more fully and accurately with Indian antiquities than it has been in my power to do. But the reader will find how deeply my pages are indebted to the Reports already issued by General Cunningham, the head of the Archaeological Survey; and to Dr. Burgess, the Archaeological Surveyor for Western India. Mr. W. Rees Philipps has assisted me in the revision of the Madras articles, and supplied an interesting monograph on the Christian population. Mr. Buchan, the Secretary to the Royal Scottish Meteorological Society, kindly revised the section of article INDIA which deals with his branch of science. My obligations to other friends, too numerous to enumerate here, are mentioned in the body of the work. Finally, I beg to tender my thanks to their Excellencies the Viceroy of Portuguese India, and the Governor-General of French India, for their courtesy to me while visiting their territories: and for materials placed at my disposal by the chiefs of their respective administrations.

Revision by the Local Governments.

But I cannot close these acknowledgments without recording my sense of the fairness with which I have invariably been treated by the Governments that have had to supervise the work. Twelve years ago, I laid down the conditions which I regarded as essential for the right conduct of the enterprise, and on which I was willing to un-

dertake it. Very deliberately, indeed not till two years afterwards, were those conditions accepted by the Supreme Government of India of that day. But it attached to them a proviso that each of the Local Governments should be responsible for the general scope and contents of the Provincial Accounts of its own territories; and the Secretary of State accepted a similar responsibility as regards the final compilation of the Imperial Gazetteer.

The shifting personnel of the revising bodies.

The result was that, as already stated, every page of the twenty volumes of the Account of Bengal had to be passed by the Government of that Province, and every sheet of the Imperial Gazetteer has been submitted to the Secretary of State. But during the progress of the work, the personnel of the Local Governments has changed over and over again. More than thirty Governors or heads of administrations have ruled the Indian Provinces, while four successive Vice-Roys and four Secretaries of State have directed the Indian Empire. Some of these great functionaries have held decided opinions of their own on many important questions which arose in the conduct of operations. The work, therefore, is the result of several not perfectly parallel forces. On the one hand, there was myself, with a staff of fellow-workers chosen not more for their accuracy of mind than for their firmness of character, and representing the Plan as originally laid down: on the other hand, there were a number of shifting Governments, local and central, some of them divergent in their views, and any one of them able to render my position difficult, and even, for a time, to impede the work.

The difficulties of the situation.

The delicacy of the situation was enhanced by the circumstance, that many points had to be decided in my absence from the headquarters of the Government of India. From the first, during half of each year I was visiting the Local Governments, or on circuit through the Provinces; latterly, I have been in England for considerable periods, while compiling the Imperial Gazetteer. I have to thank the Indian Governments, not only for the patience with

which they have always listened to my views, but for the courteous reconsideration of decisions which they had arrived at in my absence. I undertook to see the work to an end, and I was placed in the best position for doing so. I have been enabled to examine the various Provinces of India with my own eyes, to study their local circumstances, and to travel over fifty thousand miles by every means of civilised and uncivilised transport.

If I have brought to a successful issue and enterprise in which abler men had failed, it is due to the loyal support which I have received. The Governor-General in Council, or the Secretary of State, might at any time have simply ordered me to adopt the methods or measures which seemed to him best. Yet not only has there never been a single occasion during the twelve years in which commands have thus been substituted for argument; but orders, passed after full deliberation, have been modified or rescinded to suit what I believed to be the requirements of the work. Nor revision by the Indian Government could take the primary responsibility off myself. This has been generously recognised throughout; and the double supervision has never been permitted to give rise to a strain in the conduct of the undertaking. Whatever blemishes or deficiencies may be found in these volumes are due, therefore, not to the difficult double system of responsibility imposed by the Government, but to my own self, or to the fundamental conditions under which statistical inquiries have to be conducted in India.

Those
difficulties
Successfully
averted.

The Mughal
Survey of
India,
1580 A.D.

Now that the twelve years' work is over, and nothing can be added or taken away, I feel those blemishes and deficiencies acutely enough. When I started, I had two national enterprises in my mind: the Ain-i-Akbari, or Statistical Survey of India, conducted three hundred years ago by the Finance Minister of Akbar, the greatest of Mughal Emperors: and the military survey of Egypt. Executed by France in the first quarter of the present century.¹ The former is a masterpiece of administrative details; the latter

The
french
Survey of
Egypt,
1815.

a brilliant effort of organized research. It was my hope, and the wish of the Viceroy-now, alas! gone from this world-who most deeply impressed his personality on the undertaking, to make a memorial of England's work in India, More lasting, because truer and more complete, than these monuments of Mughal Empire and of French ambition.

Separate
Scientific
Surveys of
India.

The scientific aspects of the country, its fauna, flora, and geology, already form the subject of elaborate volumes. For the most important of them, such as the fishes, Botany, Geology, Meteorology, and Medical aspects of India, special Surveys or Departments exist. It would have been improper for me to intrude upon the ground so ably occupied. I have therefore confined myself on these heads to brief but careful sketches, such as might be useful to practical administrators, and referred the scientific inquirer to the separate standard works, or to the publications of the professional Indian Surveys.

The work
paid for
by India;
and for its
use.

I have ever borne in mind that the work has been paid for by the Indian people, and that it was primarily designed as an aid to the better government of their country. Since the authority passed from the Company to the Crown, fundamental changes have taken place alike in the central control and in the local administration. As already mentioned, the transfer of the controlling power from the Court of Directors, a small body with special knowledge of the country, to Parliament, an assembly whose members have had for the most part no opportunity of studying Indian affairs, caused the necessity for a standard account of In-

1Description de L'Egypte, ou recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont ete faites en Egypte pendant l'expedition de l'armee Francaise. (36 Volumes, 1821.) Twenty-one years were given to this magnificent work, four of them being devoted to local inquiries at the time of the military occupation, and seventeen being spent in working up the results. 'La France', says the preface, after setting forth the brilliant and numerous staff of savans who took part in the survey, 'avait reuni tous ses efforts pour la conquete de cette contree; tous les efforts des arts ont ete employes pour sa description.' The area dealt with was only a fraction of that now covered by the Statistical Survey of India; the cost of the operations was many times as great. The results were sumptuously published under an Ordennance du Roi, dated 1820, and dedicated to His Majesty Louis XVIII., in 25 volumes of letterpress and II double folios of maps and

dia to be more keenly felt. No book exists, sufficiently accurate and sufficiently comprehensive, to be generally accepted as a work of reference. Contradictory assertions can therefore be safely hazarded on almost every point of Indian statistics: and Indian discussions commonly lose themselves in a wilderness of irrelevant issues.

Altered conditions of Indian Government;

Provided for by this work.

But if a standard account of India is required for the Controlling Body in England, the altered conditions of Indian service have rendered such a work still more necessary for the local administrators. The Company's servants accepted India as their home, and generally remained a long time in one district. But under the beneficent policy of the Queen's Proclamation, the natives of India every year engross a larger share of the actual government. The English administrators are accepting their ultimate position as a small and highly-mobilised superintending staff. They are shifted more rapidly from District to District, and the new system of furlough, with a view to keeping them at the utmost efficiency, encourages them to take their holidays at short intervals of four years, instead of granting long periods of idleness once or twice in a quarter of a century's service. They have not the same opportunities for slowly accumulating personal knowledge of one locality; on the other hand, their energies are not allowed to be eaten away by rust. An officer, who had spent a dozen years in one district might have little to learn from a printed account of it; but to the present generation of quickly changed 'officiating' functionaries, such a work is indispensable.

Conclusion.

The thanks, gazetted and private, of the Provincial Governments prove that the Statistical Survey has fulfilled this its primary design in India. I hope that the Imperial Gazetteer will be found to answer the same purpose for the Controlling Body in Parliament, and the English public. It furnishes, for the first time, an account of India based upon a personal survey of the country, and upon an actual enumeration of the people. I trust that it may transfer many Indian questions, from the region of haphazard statement, to the jurisdiction of calm knowledge. 'Nothing', I wrote in my original Plan, submitted to the Viceroy in

The cost
of ignor-
ance.

1869, 'nothing is more costly to a Government than ignorance'. I believe that, inspite of all its defects, this work will prove a memorable episode in the long battle against ignorance; a breakwater against the tide of prejudice and false opinion flowing down upon us from the past; and a foundation for a truer and wider knowledge of India in time to come. Its aim has been, not literary graces, nor Scientific discovery, nor antiquarian research: but an earnest endeavour to render India better governed because better understood.

For the first time in the history of our rule, an opportunity has fallen to me of finding out the truth about the Indian people, and of honestly telling it. Whether I have used that opportunity in a worthy spirit, and whether I have succeeded in the task in which so many previous attempts have failed, it is for others to judge. Sound knowledge is of slow growth, and no intensity of effort can do in twelve years for India what centuries of local research have accomplished for Europe. But when I compare the basis for future effort created by these volumes, with the absence of any systematic materials when I commenced the work, I feel that the first and most difficult stage has been passed. If the statistical survey of the Mughal India, conducted by Akbar's Finance Minister, had afforded such a basis, it would have proved invaluable to English Administrators. What would European scholars not give for a similar account of the Roman Empire! The territories dealt within these volumes far exceed the Provinces which paid tribute to the Great Akbar, and contain a population exactly double Gibbon's estimate of all the nations and races that obeyed Imperial Rome. I leave the work to the charitable judgment of those who can contrast it with the efforts of Indian States who have gone before me; I also leave it with a sure confidence that it will be improved by brethren of my Services who come after me.

Calcutta
April 12, 1881.

W.W.Hunter.

Chief Editors Note

This volume is among the series of Pre-Independence Gazetteers taken up by the Department of Gazetteer for scanning and reprinting, indeed a challenging task. As the title suggests, this volume is a part of provincial series under Imperial Gazetteers of India, then published by the British Government. The first print was during 1909, covering the districts of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar. The Nizam's Government brought out a second issue concerning these districts during 1941. The original text was not available in any of the libraries in Karnataka. The state Archives Department of Andhra Pradesh could provide only statistical supplements of the Hyderabad District Gazetteer relating to Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar Districts. Efforts were continued to trace at least one volume in its original form so as to take up scanning and reprinting of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar Districts, then under Nizam's regime. The continuous search yielded its result in finding a copy at the National Archives of India, New Delhi. The original preface written by William Wilson Hunter in April 1881 for the Imperial Gazetteers of India is incorporated. Besides scanning and reprinting of original text, photographs, illustrations concerning these districts, as printed in the books on Bidar by Yazdani, Henry Cousens and Meadows Taylor have been supplemented to enhance the nostalgic and heritage value. This volume will be useful not only to the general readers but also to the Scholars who want to conduct further research concerning these districts.

I express my gratitude to Sri Govinda Karajola, Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Kannada and Culture, Textile, Sri S.V.Ranganath I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee and Sri Ramesh B.Jhalki I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture and Information. I also express my gratitude to Prof Mushirul Hasan the then Director General of the National Archives of India for providing the Photo copies of the Provincial Gazetteer pages of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar in the erstwhile Hyderabad

State and Sri LalRoshan I.A.S., the then Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh State Archives for sparing the three Supplement Volumes of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar District Gazetteers. I also acknowledge the reproduction of the old and ancient photographs from various sources including Archaeological Survey of India.

The other books brought out by the department under scanning and printing series are Mysore volumes I&II, Mysore &Coorg III by B.L.Rice, Bijapur, Dharwad, Kanara& Belgaum by James M.Cambell, South Canara by John Sturrock, Bellary by John Kelsall.

I also thank Sri.S.A.Jagannath, Senior Editor, Editors and supporting staff for the completion of this volume as scheduled.

Bangalore
Dt:04-07-2011

S.Anees Siraj
Chief Editor
Karnataka Gazetteer Department

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