

## P R E F A C E

THE earliest attempt to bring out District Gazetteers in Mysore State was made in June 1867, when Mr. Saunders, the officiating Chief Commissioner, wrote to the Superintendents of Divisions directing them to compile a gazetteer for each district. Though nine manuscript volumes were prepared in the next two years, only two relating to the districts of Mysore and Kolar were published. About Coorg, Lieut. Connor of the Royal Engineers wrote a clear and comprehensive book in 1817 under the name "Memoir of the Codagu Survey" and in 1855, Dr. H. Moegling, the first Protestant Missionary in Coorg, wrote a little book entitled "Coorg Memoirs". In 1870, the Basel Mission Book Depository published "The Manual of Coorg—a Gazetteer of the natural features of the country and the social and political conditions of its inhabitants" compiled by Rev. G. Richter who was the Principal, Government Central School, Mercara, and Inspector of Coorg Schools. This publication took into account the great changes that had taken place in the previous thirty-six years during which the province of Coorg was under British rule and gave a sketch of the past history and physical and political position of Coorg at that time.

With the sanction of the Government of India, Mr. B. Lewis Rice, who was the Director of Archaeological Researches and the Director of Public Instruction in Mysore and Coorg, was entrusted in 1873 with the work of compilation of the Gazetteer of Mysore and Coorg. He prepared three volumes, the first of Mysore State in general, the second of Mysore by districts and the third devoted entirely to Coorg, which was published as Volume III in 1878 under the series "Mysore and Coorg". Another publication containing articles drafted by Mr. B. Lewis Rice from notes received on various technical subjects from the departments concerned was published in the first decade of this century in a volume entitled "Provincial Gazetteers of India—Mysore State" in which a section was devoted entirely to Coorg.

The old gazetteers were mainly intended to give background information to the foreign administrators about the district and the people. After the attainment of independence, this outlook has undergone a change and the gazetteers will have to focus more on the history, culture and people and pinpoint the progress achieved and benefits that have accrued to the people as the result of the implementation of the successive Five-Year Plans.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, drew up an all-India scheme and requested the State Governments to take

up the compilation of District Gazetteers as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and promised a grant-in-aid. The Government of Mysore sanctioned a scheme for the compilation of a gazetteer for each one of the districts of the State. An Advisory Board consisting of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore as the Chairman and Dr. D. C. Pavate, M.A. (Cantab), Sri V. L. D'Souza, B.A., B.COM. (Lond.), Sri P. H. Krishna Rao, M.A., Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, M.A., and Dr. S. C. Nandimath, M.A. Ph.D. (Lond.) as Members was also constituted to scrutinise the chapters compiled by me and to guide me in the work. The Central Gazetteers Unit, New Delhi, have also thoroughly scrutinised the various chapters and made useful suggestions with a view to improving the standard of this volume.

The Gazetteer of Coorg is the first to be published in the series of District Gazetteers of Mysore State. The chapter headings and contents are in accordance with the pattern laid down by the Government of India. Its publication was held up for some time in order to include the figures of the 1961 Census. The available Census data of 1961 have been given and in other cases the figures of the 1951 Census had to be depended upon. Every attempt has been made to include the latest figures as far as possible.

I have received valuable co-operation and assistance from various sources and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board, the Central Gazetteers Unit, Sri D. N. Krishnayya of Mercara, the Indian Meteorological Department, the Survey of India, the Director of Printing, Stationery and Publications, and the departments of the State Government. I have also received valuable assistance from the members of my staff consisting of Sri A. Ramakrishnan, Administrative Officer, Sriyuths P. B. Srinivasan, K. Puttaswamaiah, J. G. Alavandar Naidu and M. A. Narasimha Iyengar, Editors, (the first two of whom have since left the Department), K. L. Anantha Raman and G. V. Subbaramu, Stenographers, N. K. Neelakantaradhya, Assistant and M. Rudrappa, Junior Assistant. Sri K. Abhishankar, who joined the staff recently as Editor, has rendered assistance at the stage of printing the Gazetteer. To all of them, my gratitude is due.

BANGALORE,  
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B. N. SRI SATHYAN,  
Chief Editor.