

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1901.
VOLUME XX.

COCHIN.

PART I.
REPORT.

BY

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COCHIN STATE.



ERNAKULAM.

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PREFACE.

THIS Volume consists of two distinct parts: the Introduction and the Report proper. The Introduction covers a much larger number of pages than is allowed for it in the general plan of the Report on the present Census, as prescribed by the Census Commissioner in his Fourteenth Note dated 6th November, 1901. As the first census of the century that has just dawned upon us, a record of it carries with it its own interest and importance. So far as this State is concerned, it has completed a century since it came under British supremacy, and a retrospect, however meagre, of its conditions, social and political, both before and after that event, cannot fail to be of some interest to the readers of this Report, and of some use for purposes of future reference. Moreover, in his letter No. 822, dated 25th November, 1901, the Census Commissioner intimated that 'in view of the interest attaching to the Census of Cochin and the advanced administration of the State, he proposed to show the census figures under a separate heading in the India Tables'. As Cochin is not much known to the outside world, and as this Report goes out for the first time as a Volume of the Imperial Series of Census Reports, it is hoped that a sketch of the kind I have attempted will be deemed an appropriate Introduction, the general plan of which was approved of by Mr. H. H. Risley.

The Introduction is divided into four Sections. Of these, Section A contains the glimpses of early times down to the advent of the Portuguese; Section B deals with the relations of the State with the European nations down to the establishment of British supremacy; in Section C, the geography and administration of the State are treated of at some length so as to bring out the various stages in the process of development; and lastly, Section D is devoted to a brief consideration of the methods and the machinery employed for taking the census of the State, and for compiling the statistics relating thereto.

The Report proper is divided into 9 chapters in accordance with the instructions issued by the Census Commissioner. Wherever the subject matter of any chapter has a history to tell, it has been attempted. All the Imperial Tables were submitted to the Census Commissioner early in 1902, and advance copies of complete chapters were sent up to him as soon as each chapter was ready.

I may state here that the delay in the publication of the Report has been due chiefly to a desire to include in this Report as much information about the State as may with due regard to relevancy be inserted in it. Further, I have had to do the work almost single-handed, and during the greater portion of the time that I was engaged in writing the Report, I have had to attend to the duties of one, and at times of two, of the most important Branches of the Diwan's Office.

In regard to the conduct of the operations, it may be stated that in the midst of their heavy duties, revenue and magisterial, the Tahsildars who were the Charge Superintendents of their respective Taluks promptly carried out the instructions issued to them, and exercised a wholesome check upon the work of their census subordinates. The Supervisors spared no pains to make the undertaking a thorough success, and the enumerators on the whole did their share of the work satisfactorily. In the Office for Abstraction and Tabulation, Supervisors M. H. Kasturi Ranga Aiyar and C. K. Harihara Aiyar, Overseer M. Narayana Menon and Record-keeper K. Govinda Menon diligently discharged the duties entrusted to them. The laborious work of preparing the Subsidiary Tables was carried out by C. K. Harihara Aiyar and P. Velayudha Menon to my complete

satisfaction. I cannot speak too highly of the valuable and devoted assistance rendered to me by my clerk K. Sekhara Marar in the matter of drawing up the Report. Mr. C. Achyuta Menon, the Census Reporter of 1891, has placed me under great obligation. With the experience he had gained in compiling the statistics and writing the Report on the previous occasion, and with his general knowledge of men and things in the State, he helped me with his advice and suggestions from the very commencement of the operations. In the midst of his multifarious duties as Secretary to the Diwan, he was good enough to look over and revise the proofs of the Report. My thanks are due to Mr. J. Thompson, Superintendent of Revenue Survey in the State, for having readily undertaken the preparation and the printing of the census maps and diagrams. The Superintendent of the Sirkar Press detailed a small staff of compositors* for census work, who did their work very willingly and diligently, and the Assistant Superintendent often helped me in correcting the final proofs. Finally, I must gratefully acknowledge the most cordial support I have, throughout received from the successive Diwans who presided over the administration, while my work was in progress.

* P. V. Vanchiswara Aiyar, K. L. Ousep, K. W. Pailo and P. Nagalingam Achari.

HUZUR OFFICE,
ERNAKULAM,
15th July, 1903.

}

M. Sankara Menon,
Superintendent of Census Operations.

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