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FOREWORD.

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I am glad to accept the suggestion of Mr. Ranade to associate myself with this interesting volume by saying a few words about it.

India is a land of villages. The study of Indian economic conditions is, therefore, mainly a study of the economic life of the villages of India. This study is obviously the necessary precedent to the economic uplift of this great but poor country. It does not, therefore, require any elaborate argument to emphasise the importance of a detailed intensive study of the conditions of life in Indian villages. In saying this it is not intended to minimise the importance of the study of other equally important aspects of Indian economic development.

The pioneer work in this connection has been done in this Presidency by Dr. Harold Mann, whose famous village surveys will be the guiding lights of all future workers in this unlimited field. The spirit of Dr. Mann's work in the south has as it were flown to the north. The rural section of the Punjab Board of Economic Enquiry is making organised efforts to do similar work in that Province, and has at present a programme of at least one village survey in each District. The Punjab imbibed the spirit of Bombay; Bombay must adopt the methods of the Punjab

Though such desirable organised work has not yet begun in Bombay, it may be pointed out that signs are not wanting to show that a gradual development in the right direction is going on. Mr. Ranade worked as a research student of this School under my guidance during the years 1922-24. His work which forms the subject matter of this book, was submitted as a thesis for the M. A. degree of this University in 1924. Regarding the merits of the work, I can do no better than refer to the remarks of the examiners—
"The thesis is an excellent piece of research work, showing an

46125

almost unexpected grasp of the principles and methods of first-hand social and economic investigation. In a few places the candidate has allowed his statement of opinions to go beyond his data, but generally the papers submitted form a thoroughly scientific discussion of data carefully collected and presented. We congratulate Mr. Ranade on his work and the University on the possession of such a promising economic investigator."

As another illustration of the gradual development of such work, it may be pointed out that a research scholar in this School is at present engaged in the study of the social and economic conditions of a village in the Surat District.

Along with Mr. Ranade, those who are interested in such work will feel grateful to the authorities of the Provincial Co-operative Institute, Bombay, for kindly undertaking the publication of this book. The wider outlook of the Institute in connection with such economic investigation has been manifested in the enquiry conducted under their auspices in the Districts of Kolaba and Ratnagiri, and more recently in the Pardi Taluka of the Surat District. I trust that the time is not distant when such independent efforts will be co-ordinated, and this important work carried on in an organised manner, in view of the fact that the Institute is already considering plans in this direction.

*School of Economics,
University of Bombay, }
March 1927.*

C. N. VAKIL

PREFACE

What follows is an attempt to depict, as correctly as possible, the prevailing state of affairs in a typical Konkani village. Away from the gaze of public workers, the Konkani farmer leads his lonely life in his far-off village, unhampered by the feverish activity, so characteristic of big cities like Bombay. Having devoted myself to the cause of the Konkani Education Society, an educational body whose sole aim is the uplift of the masses in the Konkani by the spread of education, I was brought in direct contact with the Konkani villagers, which would not have been possible otherwise. I shall consider it a sufficient reward, if this publication succeeds in attracting the attention of social workers, to the great and urgent need of devoting some of their time to solve this vital national problem of revitalising village life.

I feel that the survey has not been as comprehensive as one would wish it to be. But it would have been difficult to present even these facts but for the guidance and help of several friends. Professor C. N. Vakil, who so kindly consented to write a Foreword to this book, was mainly instrumental in inspiring this work, and in enabling me to give a definite shape to my vague ideas on the subject, by continuous sympathetic criticism and encouragement during all its stages. I have also derived much help from Professor N. V. Kanitkar of the Agricultural College, Poona, whose work in Agricultural Economics is well-known. To Dr. H. H. Mann go my sincere thanks for enlightening me on many a difficult problem during the course of the work; and also to Mr. J. B. Hartsborne, the then Collector of Kolaba for his courtesy in placing at my disposal some of the figures included in this volume. My friend and colleague, Mr. K. R. Athavale, has been of great help to me in carrying on the tedious work of the actual village survey, for which it is impossible for me to express my obligations to him adequately.

I must also thank the Provincial Co-operative Institute, Bombay, for undertaking the publication of this volume. I must admit that but for their help it would have been difficult for these pages to see the light of day.

Alibag,
March 1927. }

V. G. RANADE.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I	Page
Introduction	1
 CHAPTER II	
Physical Characteristics	7
Physical and Geological Features of the Village ...	8
Rainfall and Climate of the Village	9
Drainage and Water Supply	14
 CHAPTER III	
Land and its Distribution	18
Extract from the Kharip Sud of the Village ...	19
Division of Land according to Ownership ...	26
Areas taken or held for Cultivation	28
Land Revenue of the Village	32
 CHAPTER IV	
Crops and Cultivation of the Village	33
The Trees of the Village	35
Implements for Cultivation	36
The Crops of the Village	39
 CHAPTER V	
The Live Stock of the Village	51
Poultry	55
The Housing of the Cattle	57
 CHAPTER VI	
The People of the Village	58
Housing of the Village	64
Some Religious and Social Customs of the Village	65
Education	67
Emigration	68
Litigation	70
The Daily Routine and Amusements of the Villagers	71

CHAPTER VII

Economic Condition—General Features	...	...	...	75
Indebtedness	...	...	...	75

CHAPTER VIII

Economic Conditions	...	...	...	82
Occupations	...	...	...	82
Food	...	...	...	85
Clothing	...	...	...	86
Other Expenses	...	...	...	87
The Balance Sheet of the Village	...	...	...	89

CHAPTER IX

Economic Conditions (Contd.)	...	...	...	95
Capital Wealth, Annual Income and Taxation	...	...	...	95
Value of Land	...	...	...	95
Value of Live Stock	...	...	...	97
Value of Implements	...	...	...	98
Cow-Sheds	...	...	...	99
The Total Annual Income of the Village	...	...	...	99
Produce of the Land	...	...	...	99
Income from Labour	...	...	...	101
Income from Cattle	...	...	...	101

CHAPTER X

Concluding Remarks	104
Production	104
Labour	107
Capital	109
Distribution	109

APPENDIX	112
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	113
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APPENDIX.

AREA OF LANDS IN BOTH KHURD.

	1892 to 93	93 to 94	93 to 99 A. G.	95 to 96	99 to 1900	1900 to 01 A. G.	1901 to 1902	1902 to 1903	1903 to 1904	1905 to 1906	1906 to 1907
Net area under Crop						140-21½	140-46½	134-20½	134-9½	123-½	131-25
Fallow	61	61	43-6	62-38	62-38	40-30½	46-35½	56-29	56-19½	65-2½	35-30
Double-cropped						16-0	16-0	8-0	8-0	16-5	8-11½
##	1908 to 1910	1910 to 1911	1912 to 1913	1913 to 1914	1917 to 1918	1918 to 1919	1919 to 1920	1920 to 1921	1921 to 1922	1922 to 1923	
Fallow	64-16½	64-22½	63-26½	63-17	63-17	63-17	63-17	63-17	62-18½	74-14½	
Double-cropped	8-37	8-37	1-13½	1-30	1-20	1-20	1-20	1-10	1-3	10-15	
Rice	123-23½	126-23½	127-21½	127-21½	1 7-21½	127-21½	127-21½	127-21½	128-12	116-25½	
Nagli	9-0	3-0	3-0	11-0	2-0	2-0	11-0	9-0	18-0	12-0	
Wari					9-0	9-0		2-0			
Wall					Bhendi-10	Bhendi-10		Melon-10			
Rice	119-2	119-2	1 2-½	117-24	117-24	128-3	128-6½	131-10½	131-9½	195-30½	131-11
Nagli	4-20	4-20	1-37	3-0	3-0	6-20	6-20	6-30	6-30	10-0	0-12
Wari	4-0	4-0	8-½	5-0	5-0	5-30	5-30	6-20	6-20	0-0	
Wall										5-0	
Toor										4-0	
Muga											

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