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PREFACE

THE Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency was originally compiled between 1874 and 1884 and this revised edition of it has been prepared under the orders of the Government of Bombay. The work was entrusted to the Bombay District Gazetteers (Revision) Editorial Board which was specially created for that purpose in 1949. The following members constituted the Board during the period of the compilation of the Poona District Gazetteer :—

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Director of Archives, Bombay.

Executive Editor and Secretary.

Shri M. D. Bhat, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, was Chairman of the Board from April 1949 to April 1952 and on his retirement was succeeded by Shri M. D. Bhansali, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, who continued to be Chairman till the date of publication of this volume.

Dr. P. M. Joshi, Director of Archives, was a member throughout the period.

Prof. D. G. Karve was appointed the first Executive Editor and Secretary in May 1949 and after his resignation was succeeded by Prof. M. R. Palande in September 1952. The press copy of this volume was prepared under the direction of Prof. D. G. Karve.

Diacritical marks to explain the pronunciation of place names and of words in Indian languages have been used only in two chapters, namely, chapter 3—The People and Their Culture, and chapter 20—Places of Interest, and also in the Directory of Villages and Towns. In other chapters the current spellings have been retained. A key to the diacritical marks used is given at page 689.

M. R. PALANDE,
Executive Editor and Secretary.

BOMBAY,

June 1954.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

AS EARLY as 1843 an attempt was made to arrange for the preparation of Statistical Accounts of the different districts of the Bombay Presidency. The following extract* will be found interesting as giving an idea of the intention of those who desired to have such Accounts compiled :—

“Government called on the Revenue Commissioner to obtain from all the Collectors as part of their next Annual Report the fullest available information regarding their districts.....Government remarked that, as Collectors and their Assistants during a large portion of the year moved about the district in constant and intimate communication with all classes they possessed advantages which no other public officers enjoyed of acquiring a full knowledge of the condition of the country, the causes of progress or retrogradation, the good measures which require to be fostered and extended, the evil measures which call for abandonment, the defects in existing institutions which require to be remedied, and the nature of the remedies to be applied. Collectors also, it was observed, have an opportunity of judging of the effect of British rule on the condition and character of the people, on their caste prejudices, and on their superstitious observances. They can trace any alteration for the better or worse in dwellings, clothing and diet, and can observe the use of improved implements of husbandry or other crafts, the habits of locomotion, the state of education, particularly among the higher classes whose decaying means and energy under our most levelling system compared with that of preceding governments will attract their attention. Finally they can learn how far existing village institutions are effectual to their end, and may be made available for self-government and in the management of local taxation for local purposes.”

“In obedience to these orders reports were received from the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Broach, Kaira, Thana and Khandesh. Some of the reports contained much interesting information. These five northern reports were practically the only result of the Circular Letter of 1843.”

The matter does not seem to have been pursued any further.

In October 1867, the Secretary of State for India desired the Bombay Government to take concrete steps for the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency on the model of the Gazetteer prepared during that year for the Central Provinces. The Government of Bombay then requested some of its responsible officials to submit a scheme for carrying into effect the orders of the Secretary of State, and in 1868 appointed the Bombay Gazetteer Committee to supervise and direct the preparation of the Gazetteer. After a few organizational experiments the responsibility was finally entrusted to Mr. James M. Campbell of the Bombay Civil Service, who commenced the compilation in 1874 and completed the series in 1884. The actual publication, however, of these volumes was spread over a period of 27 years between 1877 and 1904, in which year the last General Index volume was published.

Though a gazetteer literally means only a geographical index or a geographical dictionary, the scope of this particular compilation was much wider. It included not only a description of the physical and natural features of a region but also a broad narrative of the social, political, economic and cultural life of the people living in that region. The purpose which the Gazetteer was intended to serve was made clear in the following remarks of Sir William Hunter,

*Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Vol. I, Part I (History of Gujarat), pp. iii and iv.

Director General of Statistics to the Government of India, when his opinion was sought on a draft article on Dharwar District in 1871. He said :—

“ My own conception of the work is that, in return for a couple of days' reading, the Account should give a new Collector a comprehensive, and, at the same time, a distinct idea of the district which he has been sent to administer. Mere reading can never supersede practical experience in the district administration. But a succinct and well conceived district account is capable of antedating the acquisition of such personal experience by many months and of both facilitating and systematising a Collector's personal enquiries. But in all cases a District Account besides dealing with the local specialities should furnish a historical narration of its revenue and expenditure since it passed under the British rule, of the sums which we have taken from it in taxes, and of the amount which we have returned to it in the protection of property and person and the other charges of civil government.”*

The Gazetteer was thus intended to give a complete picture of the district to men who were entire strangers to India and its people but who as members of the ruling race carried on their shoulders the responsibility of conducting its administration.

The Gazetteer had 27 Volumes, some split up into two or three Parts, making a total of 35 books including the General Index which was published in 1904. Some of the Volumes were of a general nature and were not confined to the limits of a particular district. For example, Volume I dealt with History and was split up into two Parts, one dealing with Gujarat and the other with Konkan, Dekhan and Southern Maratha Country; Volume IX was devoted to the Population of Gujarat and contained two Parts, one describing Hindus and the other Mussalmans and Parsis; Volume XXV gave an account of the Botany of the area covered by the whole Presidency. The remaining Volumes dealt with the various districts of the Presidency and with what were then known as Native States attached to the Bombay Presidency. Some of the District Volumes had two or three Parts, for example, those of Thana, Kanara, Poona and Bombay. On the other hand, there was only one combined Volume for some districts, as for example, Surat and Broach, and Kaira and Panch Mahals.

The scheme of the contents was more or less the same for all the District Volumes though the accounts of particular items varied considerably from district to district. Information was collected from Government offices and, in respect of social and religious practices, from responsible citizens. Eminent scholars, experts and administrators contributed articles on special subjects.

This Gazetteer compiled over sixty years ago had long become scarce and entirely out of print. It contained authentic and useful information on several aspects of life in a district and was considered to be of great value to the administrator, the scholar and the general reader. There was a general desire that there should be a new and revised edition of this monumental work. The Government of Bombay, therefore, decided that the old Gazetteer should be revised and republished, and entrusted the work of revision to an Editorial Board specially created for that purpose in 1949. This new edition has been prepared under the direction of that Editorial Board.

* *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. I, Part I (History of Gujarat), p. vii.

In the nature of things, after a lapse of over sixty years after their publication, most of the statistical information contained in the old Gazetteer had become entirely out of date and had to be dropped altogether. In this edition an attempt has been made to give an idea of the latest developments, whether in regard to the administrative structure or the economic set up or in regard to social, religious and cultural trends. There are portions in the old Gazetteer bearing on archæology and history which have the impress of profound scholarship and learning and their worth has not diminished by the mere passage of time. Even in their case, however, some restatement is occasionally necessary in view of later investigations and new archæological finds by scholars, and an attempt has been made to incorporate in this edition the results of such subsequent research.

In a dynamic world, circumstances and facts of life change, and so do national requirements and social values. Such significant changes have taken place in India as in other countries during the last half a century, and more so after the advent of Independence in 1947. The general scheme and contents of this revised series of the Gazetteer have been adapted to the needs of the altered conditions. There is inevitably some shift in emphasis in the presentation and interpretation of certain phenomena. For example, the weighted importance given to caste and community in the old Gazetteer cannot obviously accord with the ideological concepts of a secular democracy, though much of that data may have considerable interest from the functional, sociological or cultural point of view. What is necessary is a change in perspective in presenting that account so that it could be viewed against the background of a broad nationalism and the synthesis of a larger social life. It is also necessary to abridge and even to eliminate elaborate details about customs and practices which no longer obtain on any extensive scale or which are too insignificant to need any elaboration. In the revised Gazetteer, therefore, only a general outline of the practices and customs of the main sections of the population has been given.

An important addition to the District Volume is the Directory of Villages and Towns given at the end which contains, in a tabulated form, useful information about every village and town in the district. The district maps given in this edition are also fairly large and up-to-date.

The revised Gazetteer will be published in two series:—

I—*The General Series* : This will comprise Volumes on subjects which can best be treated for the State as a whole and not for the smaller area of a district. As at present planned, they will deal with Physical Features, People and Their Culture, History, Language and Literature, Botany, and Public Administration. The volumes of this series will be numbered in English alphabets (A, B, C, etc.) in the order in which they are printed and published, parts of volumes, if any, being numbered in Roman numerals (I, II, III, etc.).

II—*The District Series* : This will contain one Volume for each of the twenty-eight districts of the Bombay State and will thus comprise twenty-eight Volumes in all. The information given

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

in all Volumes will follow the same pattern, and the table of contents will be the same for all districts. The volumes of this series will be numbered in Roman numerals (I, II, III, etc.) according to the alphabetical order of the names of the districts, irrespective of the time of their publication.

M. R. PALANDE,
Executive Editor and Secretary,
Bombay District Gazetteers
(Revision) Editorial Board.

BOMBAY,

June 1954.

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[In this index diacritical marks have been avoided, although in certain chapters many of the place names and other words are marked diacritically in the text.]

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- (a) common to Poona City and the Cantonments of Poona and Kirkee, and
- (b) relating exclusively to Poona City.

(ii) *See* also Poona Cantonment and Kirkee Cantonment (pp. 648-50) for items which relate exclusively to those places.

(iii) For Objects of Interest in Poona City and the Cantonments of Poona and Kirkee *see* pp. 650-78 where they are arranged alphabetically.

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69	25	1931	.. 1941
79	30	more less	.. more or less
80	23	<i>lungadē</i>	.. <i>lugadē</i>
82	7	<i>candre-surya</i>	.. <i>candra-surya</i>
83	21	eight	.. eighth
110	30	state	.. stage
111	1	or	.. of
121	10	daity	.. deity
133	1	eighth	.. eighth
133	18	enought	.. enough
145	42	knee-beat	.. knee-bent
145	49	dislocation facture	.. dislocation, fracture
152	10	dofestic	.. domestic
165	45	resrepresents	.. represents
192	first line below the table No. 16,	<i>bojri</i>	.. <i>bajri</i>
216	4	progagated	.. propagated
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297	footnote 3	p. 414	.. p. 410
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348	24	africultural	.. agricultural
352	last line	shop :-	.. shops :-
358	39	For the portion "among them. In the year 1951, the largest imports" <i>substitute</i> the following :- "were food stuffs and cattle feed followed by building".
377	12	Maharatta	.. Mahratta
387	23	has owners	.. bus owners
391	42	puite	.. quite
403	45	1668	.. 1660
415	12	decriptive	.. descriptive
418	47	balanced	.. unbalanced
420	53	to the avoided	.. to be avoided
423	34	milking animal	.. milch animal
431	12	evining	.. evincing
434	36	enterprize	.. enterprise
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507	30-31	tax has to paid	.. tax has to be paid
510	21	graps-vine	.. grape-vine
515	46	member	.. number
540	34-36	For lines 34-36, <i>substitute</i> the following :- Schools aided by— Government .. 3 District Local Board .. 468 Municipalities .. 85
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590	5	has	.. have
590	18	gadianship	... guardianship
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624	11	U-shapped	.. U-shaped
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