

THE
TRAVANCORE
TRIBES AND CASTES

VOLUME II

BY

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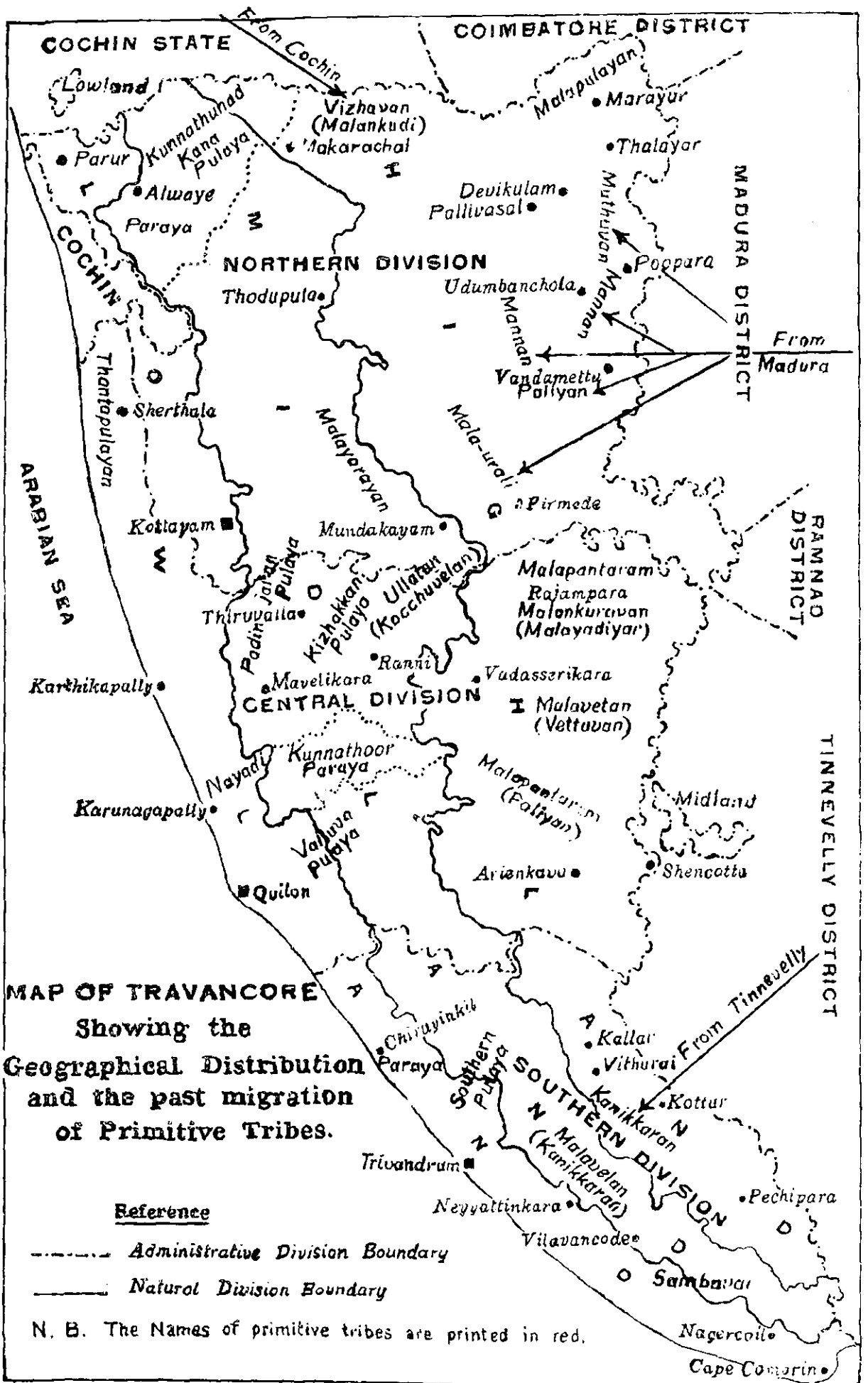
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MAP OF TRAVANCORE
 Showing the
 Geographical Distribution
 and the past migration
 of Primitive Tribes.

Reference

----- Administrative Division Boundary

———— Natural Division Boundary

N. B. The Names of primitive tribes are printed in red.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The author was placed on special duty in September 1937 to complete the ethnographic survey of the Proto-Australoid element in the population of the State. The survey was completed in August 1938. The present volume includes a descriptive account of the Muthuvan, Nāyādi, Paliyan, Parayan, Pulayan, Ullātan, Ūrāli and Vishavan tribes. It also includes a chapter on the "Physical Anthropology of the Primitive Tribes." The author has here tried to indicate the position of the tribes among the general aboriginal population of India. As His Excellency the late Lord Brabourne said in 1937, "Science is the search for truth, and establishment of facts must precede the drawing of inferences from them".* An effort is here made to present the maximum of factual material with as little theoretical speculation as possible. The author reserves his conclusions on the study of the tribes to the third volume.

In his Ethnographic Survey of India, Mr. R. E. Enthoven said that the publication of volume I of the "Mysore Tribes and Castes" seemed to bring to its termination the great work planned by Sir Herbert Risley as Census Commissioner of India in 1901.† The year 1937 witnessed the publication of the first volume of "The Travancore Tribes and Castes," which Mr. Enthoven considers "a valuable contribution to the great work set on foot by Risley". The publication of the second volume is due to the generosity of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja Sri Chitra Thirunal. The author desires to acknowledge his profound gratefulness to the Dewan, Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. I. E., whose encouragement and

* The Anthropological Society of Bombay—Jubilee Volume—Presidential Address by the late Lord Brabourne, page 18.

† Do. do. The Ethnographic Survey of India by R. E. Enthoven, page 54.

FOREWORD

It is an accepted dogma of biologists that acquired characteristics cannot be inherited, but the existence of inherited tendencies is generally admitted, while no one would deny the influence of environment; so it is perhaps not surprising that the son of Dewan Bahadur Dr. L. K. Ananthakrishna Iyer is to be found following in his father's footsteps and producing an account of the tribes and castes of Travancore. The Dewan Bahadur was one of that band of anthropologists who worked with Sir Herbert Risley in 1901. *Longa ars, Vita brevis*. He is now, alas, no longer with us. But his son who took up his torch with an account of the Travancore Hill Tribes for the 1931 Census for which I was responsible is now in 1938 accomplishing yet another item in that comprehensive survey which Risley envisaged.

It is fortunate for ethnographers that the Travancore State, which includes in its population some of the most primitive tribes of the peninsula, tribes in some cases less changed perhaps by external contacts than those of any other Indian State, should be blessed with so generous and broadminded a

ruler as His Highness the Maharaja and so far-sighted a Dewan as Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer. Money spent on the investigation of the customs and habits of tribes, even when they are so few in numbers and of no account politically, is very far from wasted if the administration of these tribes is made easier and better, more satisfactory to the administrators and more acceptable to the administered. It is not every government however that recognises this and is willing to set aside the necessary funds.

And so, when any Government finds a servant intimate enough both with its tribes and castes and with current anthropological science to write a detailed account of their customs and society, it is fortunate not only for that government and for its tribes and castes, but also for ethnographers again, and we shall look forward with anticipation to the succeeding volumes which are to complete the series which Mr. L. A. Krishna Iyer has so happily begun and so happily continues in this second volume.

Cambridge,
August 1938.

J. H. HUTTON

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