## A CASE FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW PROVINCE

### UNITED MAHARASHTRA"

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Printed by R. G. DHAWALS, at Karnatak Printing Press, 163, Sion (East), Bombay 22. Published by Shri Shankarrao Dzo, President Samyakta Maharashtra Parishad, 219, Shivaji Nagar, Poona 5.

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#### FOREWORD '

The principal demand of the Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad purports to be that a new province to be called Samyukta Maharashtra, consisting of contiguous Marathispeaking areas, as a Constituent Unit of the Indian Union be created. The Parishad has been making efforts with a view to getting distinct recognition for this province by educating public opinion in these areas and getting it realised in the shortest period of time. It is quite necessary that the Marathispeaking people should know what their province is going to be like, in respect of its geographical boundaries, population, economic condition and possibilities.

The present work is an attempt in the direction of visualising as clear a picture as possible of this contemplated province. There are no two opinions that provinces hereafter should be formed on the linguistic basis. All are agreed in regard to its theoretical aspect. All the same, they have not before their mind's eye how such a province will figure out in practical affairs. In the absence of such a clear vision this demand of linguistic provinces amounts to a mere belief, unsupported by cogent reasoning. It is not enough for anyone to believe in the rightness of a thing. It is necessary to back it up by ceaseless action for its realisation. It is only a conscious knowledge of all the aspects of our demand that will impel us to such action.

The Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad has published some tracts, leaflets and pamphlets, in support of this demand. Various writers have also usefully contributed to its discussion in the press. Yet the need has always been felt for a comprehensive, if brief, work giving all the relevant information regarding the proposal of a United Maharashtra. If this work fulfils that need, it will surely create a new enthusiasm amongst the protagonists of this demand.

It was by no means easy to collect information as regards the possible revenues of the United Maharashtra that we have in mind. In the present posture of things, the Marathi-speaking areas have been distributed in two distinct provinces of the Indian Union, a number of Indian States and a foreign territory like Goa under the Portuguese domination. Therefore, the possibly correct figure of the revenues of the United Maharashtra, could be worked out only by adding together the revenues of all the Marathi-speaking districts in these territories. The Governments of Bombay and C. P. made this information available and therefore we are in a position to state as correctly in figures, as possible the revenues of the Government of the future United Maharashtra. Other relevant information in regard to population, land under the plough, industries etc., has been collected also on the basis of various Government blue-books and publications.

Mr. Y. K. Sovani, one of the organisers of the Parishad put through the work of coordinating and collecting all this information in the form of this book. From the beginning, he was guided in his work by such an eminent economist and public man as Principal D. R. Gadgil of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona. Mr. Sovani has freely drawn on the pamphlets previously written by Principal Gadgil for the Samyukta Maharashtra Parishad. The Parishad is deeply indebted to Principal Gadgil for his very valuable help and to Mahamahopadhyaya D. V. Potdar for having read the book in its manuscript form and made a number of useful suggestions.

The original work of Mr. Sovani was in Marathi and the same is now being rendered into English with some suitable alterations by Mr. T. V. Parwate, a wellknown Bombay journalist, who carried out this translation work with surprising speed and to whom cordial thanks of the Parishad are due. The introductory part of this book contains a little of ancient and medieval history of Maharashtra. That a common historical and cultural background makes for national homogeneity to a considerable extent is the only object in making a brief reference to this history. We hasten to add here, as clearly as we may, that we do not base our demand for a United Maharashtra on such an appeal to the past. The only principle that we regard as fundamental and conclusive while

making this demand is, that with a view to creating a powerful sovereign state like the Indian Union, its constituents must be culturally and spiritually homogenous. One of the main determining factors of such homogeneity of a given population, is undoubtedly a common language.

SHANKARRAO DEO,

President,

SAMYUKTA MAHARASHTRA PARISHAD.

