Economic Organisation of Indian Villages

Vol. I. DELTAIC VILLAGES

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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INTRODUCTION.

The field of Realistic Economics has not received in India th attention which it deserves. Our Colleges and Universities have f a long time been dominated by the Abstract, Deductive Englischool of Ricardo and Mill, and it is only within recent years tito the realistic and historical schools of investigation which had the origin in Roscher, Schmoller List and other German savants have begun to influence thought and study in our country. K. T. Shah is doing much to promote statistical and inductive research into economic problems. Dr. Harold Mann has made the intensiv study of the Indian Village and Rural conditions generally his per liar province in Bombay and has brought out some valuable public cations. Dr. Gilbert Slater organised a school of rural research ik Madras which in his day produced some illuminating monograpor Generally speaking realistic investigation has caught on in the coal try and not a year passes without witnessing the publication and number of valuable studies. It is now widely and deeply realis that a detailed diagnosis of the situation is necessary before statesm and Governments can prescribe remedies and that the condition sof India, impregnated as they are with social and religious elements of le uneconomical character, are a peculiarity which requires spittle treatment or perhaps baffles it.

The present book has individual features of its own, which the reader will at once recognise. It is the product of private as distinguished from official or university enterprise. The writes Mr. N. G. Ranga, is himself a member of the agricultural community of which he treats with such copious and intimate detail. He is and bred, so to speak, in the subject itself; he has thought his of into it, and felt himself into it; and yet observes the detachment to discrimination proper to a scientist in the social field. His prench ation of the facts is objective, true, and comprehensive.

Intensive studies of this type must naturally observe the prad ple of geographical or other field-limitation. Mr. N. G. Ranga taken Guntur District as the object of his economic exploration. deals with every phase of the Agricultural life there; dry crops,

.ops, cattle breeding, position of ryots, condition of labourers, farm adgets, do mestic budgets, agricultural indebtedness and so on, reveal, to us in its integrity a picture of village life in Guntur. If the ture is not very attractive and happy looking, it is due to the sorry lity and not to the author's want of insight or sympathy.

I congratulate Mr. N. G. Ranga on the excellence of his mono, ph and its timeliness in view of the interest awakened in these roblems by Lord Irwin's policy, and heartily commend it to the ention of the public.

Bezwada, -11-26.

C. R. REDDY.

PREFACE.

This monograph was originally prepared to be submitted to the Social Work Committee of the Oxford University. It was completed about 6 months ago but the difficulties of publication have prevented me from putting it before the public till now. Its companion volume on dry villages is now ready for publication and I to bring it out as soon as possible.

I must particularly mention the constant help, encouragem and advice given by Miss. Butler, the Secretary of the Social work committee and I take this opportunity to thank the committee for giving me all possible opportunities to pursue my studies of the Local Government, Trade Unions and Cooperative Movement of Europe and the Indian agricultural conditions.

Dr. Gilbert Slater who was for some time Professor of Indian Economics in the Madras University rendered me invaluable assistance while he was supervising my work at Oxford and not a little of what excellence there is in this volume is due to his advice. Mr. C.S. Orwin, Director of the Insitute for Research in Agricultural Economics, Oxford, has kindly read through my chapter on Farm Cost Enquiry. I am particularly fortunate in finding Mr. C. R. Reddi to write the introduction and I am deeply conscious of my indebtedness to him.

The book is dedicated to Messrs J. B. Baker M. A. Censor of Non-Collegeate Students, Oxford who continually encouraged me to pursue my studies, Wyll Evans, Secretary of the Gowerton Branch of the Iron and Steel and Tin plate Workers' Federation, who helped me to become a social worker and Z. Anjaneyulu who first picked me up from among the most unruly boys of my village as one who had some promise in him.

Bezwada : 5—12—26 \$

To

J. BERNARD BAKER

WYLL EVANS

Z. ANJANEYULU

My Teachers and Friends.

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