

Dhananjayrao Gadgil Library



GIPE-PUNE-017890

~~_____~~ *ion*

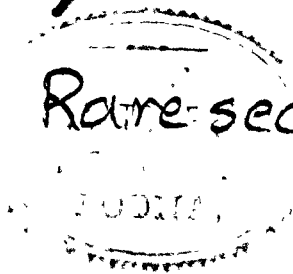
! 190

(19) 190
22-2-23

~~190~~
17890

Rare-section

U, 21K
E5.6.1.1



MADRAS DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

—◆—
SALEM.

VOLUME I—PART I.

MADRAS DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

SALEM.

BY

F. J. RICHARDS,
INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

VOLUME I—PART I.

MADRAS:

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1918.

PREFACE

MR. LEFANU'S "Salem Manual" is a classic, and its revision is a work of vandalism. In preparing the revised volumes, as much as possible of the original matter is retained, but a plethora of new material and the exigencies of space necessitate ruthless condensation. Perhaps before long Mr. LeFanu's volumes will be reprinted.

My thanks are due to those whose assistance is acknowledged in the foot-notes to the text, and especially to the District Officers of all departments for the unfailing courtesy of their co-operation. Chapter II (History) is based on a memorandum specially drawn up by the late M.R. Ry. Rai Bahadur V. Venkayya, and owes much to M.R. Ry. Rao Sahib H. Krishna Sastri and Professor S. Krishnaswami Ayyangar. Invaluable help has been rendered by Lieut.-Col. R. K. Mitter (on Public Health), by Messrs. F. L. C. Cowley-Brown and H. A. Latham (on Forests), Messrs. J. Inglis and A. R. deChazal (on Irrigation), Mr. Alfred Chatterton, C.I.E (on Textiles), Mr. S. F. Chetham (on Crime) and M.R. Ry. P. S. Abbāyi Nāyudu, M.R. Ry. Rao Sahib K. D. Subrahmanya Ayyar and others (in collecting ethnographic data).

For convenience of reference a list of the principal books consulted is printed on page ix.

The spelling of vernacular names presents serious difficulties, owing partly to the circumstance that the District is triglott, and names crop up in Tamil, Telugu, Kanarese and Sanskrit forms, and partly to the ineradicable carelessness, in this respect, of official correspondence. The language locally prevailing has been ordinarily preferred; thus *Kōta* is used in a Telugu tract *Kōttai* in a Tamil taluk and *Kōte* in the Kanarese

country. I have adopted the forms "*Kāvēri*" and "*Pennaiyār*" in preference to the cacophonous anglicized corruptions "*Cauvery*" and "*Penner*," and have taken the liberty of splitting up some sesquipedalian place-names by hyphens into their component parts, because, to English readers, a word like "*Anantakrishnarayasamudram*" is even more uncouth than "*Fortsaintgeorge*" or "*Burtonontrent*." In such cases the duplicate consonants are usually dropped, e.g., "*Palli-patti*," instead of *Palli-ppatti*; and the doubled *śś* I have transliterated as *ch*, instead of *cch*, *c'ch*, *chch*, or *chchh*, which are unnecessarily "frightful." The names of those who have kindly lent a hand to the Sisyphean task of proof-reading are too numerous for insertion, yet I fear that perfect consistency in the spelling of South Indian proper names is humanly unattainable.

Nāmakkal Taluk was transferred to Trichinopoly in 1910, and Tiruppattūr Taluk to North Arcot in 1911. Hence statistics later than 1910 cannot adequately illustrate the growth and progress of the District in comparison with former years, and have been, for the most part, omitted. The revised volumes were completed early in 1913, and the task of incorporating changes subsequent to that date has been carried out in the office of the Board of Revenue.

VELLORE, 7th March 1916.

F. J. RICHARDS

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

- ALLAN, CAPT. A. *Views in the Mysore Country*, 1794.
- ANON. *Memoirs of the Late War in Asia*, by an Officer of Col. Baillie's Detachment, 1788.
- BRATSON, LT.-COL. ALEXANDER. *A View of the Origin and Conduct of the War with Tippoo Sultaun*, 1800.
- BERTRAND, FATHER J. *La Mission du Maduré*, 1847-50.
- BETHAM, MAJOR B. M. *Marathas and Dekhani Musalmans* (Hand-books for the Indian Army), 1908.
- BEVAN, MAJOR H. *Thirty Years in India*, 1839.
- BLAGDON, F. W. *A Brief History of Ancient and Modern India*, 1805.
- BOWRING, L. B. *Haidar Ali and Tyru Sultan* (Rulers of India), 1899.
- BRADSHAW, JOHN. *Sir Thomas Munro* (Rulers of India), 1894.
- BRANDIS, SIR DIETRICH. *Indian Trees*, 1906.
- BUCHANAN, FRANCIS. *Journey from Madras through Mysore, Canaru and Malabar*, 1807.
- CLARKE, RICHARD. *Regulations of the Government of Fort St. George in force at the end of 1847*.
- COTTON, J. J. *List of Inscriptions on Tombs and Monuments in Madras possessing historical or archæological interest*, 1905.
- COX, A. F., and STUART, H. A. *Manual of North Arcot District*, 1894 and 1895.
- DANIELL, THOMAS. *Oriental Scenery*, 1795-1807.
- DUBOIS, THE ABBÉ J. A. *Hindu Manners, Customs and Ceremonies* (ed. H. K. Beauchamp, 1897).
- DUFF, JAMES GRANT. *History of the Mahrattas*, 1826.
- DYKES, J. W. B. *Salem, an Indian Collectorate*, 1853.
- ELLIOT, SIR WALTER. *Coins of Southern India* (Part 2 of Vol. III of Marsden's *Numismata Orientalia*), 1885.
- FERGUSON, JAMES. *History of Indian and Eastern Architecture*, 1897.
- FRANCIS, W. *Bellary Gazetteer*, 1904. *South Arcot Gazetteer*, 1906. *Madura Gazetteer*, 1906.
- FULLERTON, WILLIAM. *A View of the English Interests in India and an Account of the Military Operations in the Southern Parts of the Peninsula*, 1782-84, 1787.
- GLEIG, REV. G. R. *The Life of Major-General Sir Thomas Munro, Bart.*, 1830.
- HEMINGWAY, F. R. *Tanjore Gazetteer* 1906. *Trichinopoly Gazetteer*, 1907.
- HERKLOTS, G. A. *Qanoon-e-Islam*, 1833.
- HUNTER, LIEUT. JAMES. *Picturesque Scenery in the Kingdom of Mysore*, 1805.
- INNES, C. A. *Malabar Gazetteer*, 1908.
- KANAKASABHAI, V. *The Tamils Eighteen Hundred Years Ago*, 1904.
- KEARNS, REV. J. F. *Kalyana Shatak, or the Marriage Ceremonies of the Hindus of South India*, 1868.
- KRISHNASWAMI AYYANGAR, S. *Ancient India*, 1911.
- LADNAY, ADRIEN. *Histoire des Missions de l'Inde*, 1898.
- LEFANU, H. *Salem District Manual*, 1883. (Referred to as S.D.M.)
- MACQUOID, CAPT. C. E. K. *Strategy Illustrated by British Campaigns*, 1904.
- MILES, COL. W. *History of Hydur Naik, etc.*, 1842.

- NANJUNDAYYA, H. V. *The Ethnographical Survey of Mysore, 1907-12.* (Referred to as E.S.M.)
- NATESA SASTRI, PANDIT S. M. *Hindu Feasts, Fasts and Ceremonies, 1903.*
- NELSON, J. H. *The Madura Country, 1868.*
- NICHOLSON, F. A. *Manual of the Coimbatore District, 1887 and 1898.*
- OMAN, J. C. *Brahmans, Theists and Muslims of India, 1907.*
- OPPERT, GUSTAV. *On the Original Inhabitants of Bharatavarsa or India, 1893.*
- PHILLIPS, DR. MAURICE. *Evolution of Hinduism, 1903.*
- RICE, B. L. *Mysore* (referred to as *Mysore Gazetteer*), 1897. *Epigraphia Carnatica*, Vols. I to XII, 1888-1905. *Mysore and Coorg from the Inscriptions, 1909.*
- RISLEY, SIR H. H. *The People of India, 1908.*
- SALT, HENRY. *Views taken in St. Helena, the Cape, India, etc., 1809.*
- SCURRY, JAMES. *The Captivity and Escapes of James Scurry, 1824.*
- SEWELL, E. *A Forgotten Empire (Vijayanagar), 1900. The Indian Calendar, 1896.*
- SHORTT, DR. JOHN. *Hill Ranges, 1870.*
- SMITH, V. A. *The Early History of India, 1904.*
- THOMPSON, REV. E. W. *A History of India, 1909.*
- THURSTON, DR. E. *Ethnographic Notes in Southern India, 1906. Castes and Tribes of Southern India, Vols. I to VII, 1909.*
- VALENTIA, GEORGE, VISCOUNT. *Voyages and Travels to India, Ceylon, etc., 1811.*
- WATT, SIR GEORGE. *The Commercial Products of India, 1908.*
- WELSH, COL. JAMES. *Military Reminiscences, 1830.*
- WILKS, COL. MARK. *Historical Sketches of the South of India, in an attempt to trace the History of Mysore.* (The references quoted relate to the second edition, 1869.)
- WILSON, W. J. *History of the Madras Army, 1882-1889.*
- YULE, SIR HENRY. *Ser Marco Polo, 1903.*
- ZIEGENBALG, B. *Genealogy of the South Indian Gods, 1869.*

Reference has also been made to the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, the *Census-Reports of Madras and Mysore*; the *Annual Progress Reports of the Archaeological Survey of Madras and Coorg*, the *Annual Reports of the Government Epigraphist, 1888-1912* (referred to as G.E.), to *Epigraphia Indica* (Ep. Ind.), to the *Madras Museum Bulletins*, to Dr. Hultzsch's *South Indian Inscriptions* (S.I.I.), to the *Bombay Gazetteer*, to *Baramahal Records*, Sections I Management and III Inhabitants (published by the Madras Government, 1907), to the *Press List of Ancient Records in the Salem District, 1906*, to *A Concise History of the Jagheers and Poliems in the District of North Arcot* (North Arcot Collectorate Press, 1864-65), to the *Madras Catholic Directory*, to the *Indian Antiquary* (Ind. Ant.), to the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, and to the Journals of the Royal Asiatic Society (J.R.A.S.), the Folk-Lore Society and the Mythic Society (Bangalore). Proceedings of the Board of Revenue and Orders of Government, Madras, are referred to as B.P. and G.O., respectively.

PLAN OF CONTENTS.

PART I.

CHAPTER	PAGES
I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	1-40
II. HISTORY	41-89
III. THE PEOPLE	90-204
IV. AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION	205-247
V. FORESTS	248-258
VI. OCCUPATIONS AND TRADE	259-293
VII. COMMUNICATIONS	294-302
VIII. SEASONS	303-310
IX. PUBLIC HEALTH	311-319
X. EDUCATION	320-328
