

STUDIES
IN
INDIAN RURAL ECONOMICS

BY

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Published in Great Britain

by

P. S. KING & SON, LTD.

Orchard House, 2-4, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

LONDON S. W.



1927

15 SHILLINGS

RUPEES EIGHT.

PREFACE

The chapters on Indian Rural Economics contained in this volume, have been remodelled upon a series of articles contributed by the author over the past one year to the columns of the *Statesman*, the *Times of India*, the *Pioneer*, the *Indian Daily Mail*, the *Mysore University Magazine*, and the *Hindu*. A good bulk of the material was collected in the course of the Economic Survey of the Mysore Malnad; and while purely local matters referred to or dealt with in his Report to the Government of Mysore have been eschewed, the possibilities of putting in the hands of the Indian and the British public and the student world a concise volume comprising his main findings and suggestions on rural matters (so kindly emphasised by Sir Albion Rajkumar Banerji, lately the Dewan of Mysore) have been attempted by the author in these pages. The views expressed here are wholly from the university study room (though based upon firsthand investigations on the spot) and it may be clearly stated in the very opening paragraph that no sort of comment is meant on any of the Governments in India. The author would feel amply rewarded if this little book should induce Indians and the world at large to think more seriously of the rural side of Indian life, if our rural economic conditions should find more attention at the hands of our Universities and Legislatures.

The Punjab has led the way—thanks to the untiring efforts of pioneers like Messrs. Darling, Calvert and Myles—in making available scientific pen-portraits of rural life of that part of the country, and on the basis of the Punjab publications and his own investigations the author believes that, numerous as the superficial differences are as among the rural tracts in the different provinces and States, the Indian ryot's present condition is fundamentally the same over almost the whole of the country.

It is not possible to adequately express the debt the author owes the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore on account of the invaluable moral support given by them (quite apart from the very liberal material grants made by them

of the requirements of the Economic Survey) to the cause of social advancement: it is the bare truth to say that in the Mysore State—as in many another part of India—the Government is strenuously and laudably trying to lead public opinion along the path towards maximum social welfare.

In their No C 1-50 Sany. 17-26-1 dated October 11, 1926, the Government of Mysore have passed orders on three of the suggestions made, namely, the inauguration of district land mortgage banks, the enacting of an Agriculturists' Relief Act and the institution of a Record of Land Rights. It is earnestly hoped that very soon they will find it possible to take up more of the measures proposed (on the basis of the Economic Survey) for the augmentation of social welfare.

Thanks are due to the concerned Journals for having kindly permitted the author to utilise the special articles published in their respective columns, for the purpose of this book. Medical examination in connection with the Economic Survey, was conducted by Messrs. M. Rama Rao, L.M. & S., and Basil L. D'Costa, L. M. & S., Assistant Surgeons, Mysore Medical Service; and in the study of agricultural processes and costs Mr K. Nagappiah of the Mysore Agricultural Service was of much help. To these officers with whom the author had the privilege of working but a short time, his warm acknowledgements are hereby made. Messrs. Mahomed Mir Khan, B.A., (of the Hyderabad Civil Service) and N. G. Muthanna (of the Junior, B.A., class) took considerable pains in scrutinising the proof slips: to them, and specially to Mr. K. Burnett, M.A., (Oxon.), Principal of the Nizam's College, for so kindly going through the final proofs, the author is grateful.

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January 15, 1927.



A well-maintained Malnad Farm : observe the impliments and accessories used by the gardeners, and shown in the picture.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1. A Well-kept Malnad Garden Frontispiece.
2. A Government Well in the Malnad .. Facing page 21.
3. An Indigenous Type of Agricultural
Labourer in the Mysore Malnad .. Facing page 121.
4. A Below—Ghat Type of Coolie Woman
with her Child Facing page 127.

Correction Slip.**“ STUDIES IN INDIAN RURAL ECONOMICS ”**

Page 74, line 6, omit the last two words “ to Britain ”.

S. KESAVA IYENGAR.

The Nizam's College, Hyderabad (Dn.),

August 6, 1927.

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