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MADRAS DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.



SALEM.

VOLUME I—PART II.

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MADRAS DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

SALEM

BY

F. J. RICHARDS,
INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

VOLUME I—PART II.

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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 *ss* I have transliterated as *ch*, instead of *chh*, *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

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