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THE INDIAN

CONSTITUTION

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A. RANGASWAMI IYENGAR,

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M. A. Namatkristina Ariga

# THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

THE  
INDIAN CONSTITUTION

AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY

BY

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TO  
THE MEMORY OF  
the late Dewan Bahadur  
S. Srinivasaraghava Iyengar, C.I.E.  
MY UNCLE  
WHOSE STUDY OF INDIAN PROBLEMS  
WAS AN INSPIRING AND INVALUABLE EXAMPLE  
TO ALL THOSE WHO KNEW HIM

## PREFACE

This book is intended to meet a demand which is likely to be increasingly felt with the widening of the political life of the Indian people by the inauguration of the new Reform Scheme. Accessible information on the constitutional aspects of the Government and administration of British India is not found in recognised books treating of the laws and institutions of India. Official publications also hardly go beyond bare summaries of facts and events. A systematic treatment of the features of the Indian Constitution, studied from the point of view of the Indian citizen and of the Indian student of political science, has not so far been attempted. Students of Indian history, as it is taught in our schools and Colleges, hardly obtain an idea of the machinery whereby the Indian Constitution works and the lines on which it has been constructed and developed during more than a century of British rule. Such

standard books as Cowell's "Courts and Legislative Authorities in India" and Sir Courtenay Ilbert's "Government of India," do, of course, treat of the Indian Constitutional Laws as they have been enacted, in all their details; but they deal only incidentally with the constitutional or political principles, understandings and conventions, on which so large a part of the working of British institutions all over the world depends.

It is to stimulate the study of the Indian Constitution in this direction that this introductory sketch is primarily placed by the author before the public. It is also attempted in the book to furnish the Indian citizen with a hand book of information to be of use to him in the discharge of his duties. The average Indian who cares to interest himself in politics, gains a knowledge of political problems in a haphazard way. Such knowledge as he obtains by his business contact with other men, the reading of newspapers and the hearing and reading of political speeches, can but give him a slender acquaintance with the subject.



Matters are not very much better even in regard to many who take an active, instead of a passive, part in public affairs. The author ventures to hope the present publication will give them some preliminary help in this direction.

The book lays no claim whatever to originality or research except in its method of presenting the leading facts and features of the Indian Constitution. Written, moreover, in the intervals of busy work, it is likely to contain many errors of style and of statement. For fuller information he would refer the readers to the authoritative works of Cowell, Ilbert and others, and to the many State Papers and Proceedings published by Government. A small collection of select constitutional documents is, however, published in the Appendix, which the author trusts will prove useful both to students and to politicians.

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A. R.

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