

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INDIA.

(1765--1900)

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the M.Litt. Degree By

Kopparty Venkatarao, B.A., (Hons.)

(Nataraja Gold Medalist)

Lecturer in Economics,

Maharaja's College,

PARLAKAMEDI.

PRODUCED UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND SUPERVISION

OF

Dr. B.V.Narayanaswami Naidu, M.A., B.Com., Ph.D.,
Bar-at-law,

University Professor of Economics &

Dean Faculty of Arts,

Annamalai University,

ANNAMALAINAGAR.

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P R E F A C E.

What is responsible for the meagre economic achievement of a country? - Is it the State or is it the general backwardness of the people due to their social organisation, and lack of Education? Some scholars are of the opinion that "India's economic problems could never be solved by the mere adoption of certain specific lines of policy but that the -- obstacles to progress were rooted deeply in the every day life, customs and social organisation of the --- people." 'This is one view. My contention is that errors of 'the customs and social organisation' of the Indians are not the cause of the absence of India's economic progress but only the effect of it. No country can prosper without the aid of the State. All modern states enjoying great economic prosperity today what they are only on account of the 'mere adoption of certain specific lines of policy', and no one of them could have developed if the State in those days adopted the same policy which the English adopted in India during their rule.

One wonders how the customs and social organisation to be found in India stand in the way of India's economic development. In my opinion, all the Social and economic backwardness that is today found in India is due to the lack of General Education and wealth and all evils disappear when the State adopts a deliberate policy in order to increase the wealth of the country and drive away poverty and ignorance.

India is mainly an agricultural country and any reform must start from the rural problems. What is the part played by the State in India to increase ---

India's Economic Wealth, how far is it responsible for the present State of Rural India, why did it fail, is it because of the 'customs and social organisation' of the Indians that there was no economic progress or is it due to the lack of support from the state?

These are the problems investigated by me in the following pages.

C O N T E N T S.

INTRODUCTION.

- Chapter I. Land Revenue Policy of the Government.
- " II. Land Revenue Policy of the Government,
(cont.).
- " III. Famine Policy of the East India Company.
- " IV. Famine Policy of the Crown till 1880.
- " V. Famine Policy between 1880-1900.
- " VI. Public Works Policy of the East India
Company.
- " VII. Public Works Policy of the Crown.
- "VIII. Agricultural Policy of the Government.
