

ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

KORAPUT

BY

R. C. S. Bell, I.C.S.



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KORAPUT



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PREFACE

THIS book is based substantially on the Gazetteer of the Vizagapatam district by W. Francis, I.C.S., which was published in 1907. Some information about the early history of the district has also been extracted from D. F. Carmichael's Manual of the Vizagapatam district, published in 1869, and in particular the extracts from reports and diaries given in the chapter on the Meriah Sacrifices have been taken from that work. Koraput was made a separate district in 1936 and now requires a Gazetteer of its own. Moreover more than thirty years have elapsed since the publication of Francis's Gazetteer, in the course of which many changes have come about, which require to be recorded. Much new information has had to be collected, and the material available in the old Gazetteer has also had to be extensively rearranged.

My obligations to the various gentlemen who have helped with the production of this book are acknowledged wherever possible in the body of the volume. I am specially indebted to Mr. R. Senior White, F.R.S.E. and to Mr. J. W. Nicholson, C.I.E., I.F.S., for their assistance with Chapters V and VI respectively, and to successive Collectors of Koraput district for valuable suggestions and help in collecting materials. My thanks are also due to Kumar Bidyadhar Singh Deo and Sri Godavarti Ramdas Pantulu for some interesting information about the ancient monuments and inscriptions of the district, of which use has been made in Chapters II and XV.

The Gazetteer was completed at the beginning of 1940, but publication was held over until the Census figures for 1941 should be available. However only a few of the usual Census tables were eventually compiled. The results of these have been embodied in the Gazetteer, but the 1931 figures have been retained in dealing with subjects regarding which the 1941 Census can provide no information. On the 1st March 1941, the Narayanapatnam Agency was transferred from the Rayaghada taluk to the Koraput taluk. The figures of area and population given in Chapter I apply to the taluks as reconstituted. Apart from this, administrative changes that have occurred since the end of 1939 have not been referred to in this book.

1941

R. C. S. BELL



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