



PREFACE.

The first *District Gazetteer of Champaran* edited by Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S., was published in 1907. Mr. R. E. Swanzy, I.C.S., revised the first edition of the *Champaran District Gazetteer* in 1932 and this was published in 1938. Mr. O'Malley acknowledged the great assistance he had received from the Champaran Survey and Settlement Report (1900) by Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moor, I.C.S. In his Preface to the second edition Mr. Swanzy mentioned that he had referred freely to the later Settlement Report of Mr. Swanzy which had been invaluable. The second edition was a book of 182 pages.

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of re-writing and publishing the District Gazetteers. The old District Gazetteers are not easily available. They were meant to be more an administrator's hand-book and were written from a particular angle. In the last three decades there have been very many basic changes in the district and the country. With Independence the very character of the State Government had changed. Although replete with facts and brilliantly written the previous series of Gazetteers had a limited objective and do not satisfy the present requirements. There is also the need for the reappraisal of many of the previous features and data in the light of facts now made available and to incorporate the changes and the new features.

This re-written *District Gazetteer of Champaran* is my sixth publication in the new series. Our new District Gazetteers of Hazaribagh, Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Singhbhum had been re-written before the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi, had taken up the work of publishing four Central Volumes of Gazetteers for India and to co-ordinate the series of the re-written District Gazetteers in the different States. In consultation with the State Editors the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi, had drawn up a general plan to be followed as far as possible by the States for the District Gazetteers. This scheme was followed in *Saran Gazetteer* published in early 1960 (fifth of our series). This pattern has also been followed for Champaran as far as possible. As a matter of fact, the *Champaran District Gazetteer* may have been published earlier but a lot of realignments had to be done to follow India's pattern.

The task of re-writing the *District Gazetteer of Champaran* had its own difficulties. There have been no Survey and Settlement Operations recently nor any economic survey. The Gazetteers of the neighbouring districts in other States are not published yet. The march of events since 1947 has been extremely rapid and some of the changes are quite basic. Owing to their preoccupations the help of the local officials was not always available.

I have, however, derived great help from some of the old English Correspondence Volumes in the Record Room of Motihari, published and unpublished documents in the National Archives, New Delhi, various published books, Government reports like District Census Hand-Book, 1951 and data supplied by collaborators and institutions. Extensive tours had to be undertaken. My previous researches regarding Gandhiji's movement in Champaran and my previous official assignments in Tirhut Division were very helpful.

A book of this type can only be compiled by the pooling of resources, observation, intensive study, research and personal contact. I am grateful for the great fellowship that I have had from various sources in this very responsible task. My first gratitude is to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of Indian Republic, who was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi in his first struggle for independence in India which took place on the soil of Champaran district. Dr. Rajendra Prasad had spared me some of his valuable time for a detailed discussion and gave me a lot of information which has been incorporated in the book. I am also much indebted to Sri Binodanand Jha, Revenue Minister, and Sri Radha Govind Prasad, Deputy Minister, Revenue who have always helped me with their thoughtful suggestions whenever I have had occasions to approach them.

The authorities of the National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Calcutta, Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta and the Historical Archives, West Bengal Government, Calcutta, have, as before, ungrudgingly loaned me their rare books and documents and afforded me facilities for research in their Archives. Sri Adrish Banerji, Assistant Superintendent, Archaeological Department, Mid Eastern Circle, Patna and some Roman Catholic Fathers have helped me with valuable contributions. For some of the photos I am thankful to Sri P. C. Singh of Bihar Civil Service. I am much obliged to Dr. S. B. Chaudhury, Editor, Gazetteers of the Central

Gazetteers' Unit and the District Magistrate of Champaran for a number of valuable suggestions on the texts. The Superintendent, Secretariat Press, Gulzarbagh and his staff have taken personal interest in the printing of the book. The team-work has been a pleasure.

An attempt has been made to provide an objective book of reference for a wider range of readers including politicians, researchers, writers, journalists, teachers, students, and, by no means, least, the interested man in the street. The work has been very exacting but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. It will be my privilege and I would be happy if the book provides some information and thought for further enquiries along with the five re-written Gazetteers published before.

PATNA :

The 10th May, 1960.

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P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY.