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#### PREFACE.

The first District Gazetteer of Monghyr by Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley, i.c.s., based on the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of North Monghyr (1905—7) was revised in 1926. The revised edition was a book of 277 pages with appendices.

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of re-writing and publishing the District Gazetteers. In the last few decades there had been very many basic changes in the district and the country. The old series of District Gazetteers although brilliantly written and replete with facts were meant more or less to be an administrator's hand-book and had a limited objective. They were written from a particular angle and cannot meet the present requirements. With independence in the country, the very character of the State Government has changed. There is also scope for the reappraisal of many old features in the light of data now made available. It was felt that the District Gazetteers had to be entirely re-written.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi, has recently taken up the work of publishing four Central Volumes of Gazetteers for India and in consultation with the State Editors has drawn up a general plan to be followed as far as possible by the States for their District Gazetteers. The State Government have agreed to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

This re-written District Gazetteer of Monghyr is my seventh publication in the new series. The re-written District Gazetteers for Hazaribagh, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Saran and Champaran have already been published.

The work of re-writing the District Gazetteer of Monghyr has its own difficulties. There have been no recent Survey and Settlement Operations. No comprehensive socio-economic survey of the district has been undertaken. The Annual Administrative Reports are not published at the present time. The march of events since 1947 has been extremely rapid, and the very face of the district is being changed. Officers in key position have their own problems which leave them little leisure for giving active collaboration in a task of this type.

I was, however, fortunate in receiving help from various sources and in some cases they were unexpected. Institutions like National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Galcutta, Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, gave me valuable help as before. Any reference to them has been met with prompt courtesy. They have ungrudgingly allowed me loan of rare books. The old records in Monghyr Collectorate were looked into and materials collected from them have been utilised. For the later events, I have had help from various books, census reports, manuscripts and data collected from collaborators, personal investigation and research. "The Statesman" of Calcutta readily gave me permission to utilise data from an excellent brochure they had published after the great earthquake of 1934.

It is only by the pooling of resources, personal contacts, extensive tours, observation and study that a book of this type could be compiled. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Srikrishna Sinha, the Chief Minister of Bihar who comes from Monghyr district for his great interest in this work. I had called upon his valuable time with my texts and photos. Sri Binodanand Jha, Revenue Minister, and Sri Radha Govind Prasad, Deputy Minister, Revenue, have always helped me with valuable suggestions.

I am indebted to Sri Biswanath Singh, Advocate and Secretary of Srikrishna Seva Sadan, Monghyr for loaning me a manuscript of the late Sri Hem Chandra Bose, an eminent Advocate of Monghyr. I have also received great help from a number of persons some of whom are Sri Santosh Kumar Bose of Bihar Judicial Service and a son of the late Sri Hem Chandra Bose, Professor Radha Krishna Chaudhury of Begusarai College, Sri Aghore Nath Banerji, Advocate, Sri D. N. Gupta, Lawyer and Journalist and several successive District Magistrates of Monghyr. Mrs. Ambler, "Statesman", P. T. Factory and Hari Sabha of Jamalpur have helped me with some rare photos.

My thanks are due to Dr. S. B. Chaudhuri, Editor, Gazetteers and his team of Compilers of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs for going through the texts and giving many valuable suggestions.

My thanks are also due to the Superintendent of the Secretariate Press, Gulzarbagh, the Deputy Superintendent, Bihar Surveys for their interest in the printing of the book and the maps.

An attempt has been made to provide an objective book for a wide range of readers including politicians, researchers, writers, journalists, teachers, students, tourists, and, by no means, least, the interested man in the street. It will be a privilege if the book is of some help to the readers. When I look back on so much happiness, so many friendships and so much good fortune in re-writing this new series of District Gazetteers, I feel I have earned my reward.

The 8th October, 1960.

P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY.

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