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H.E.H. THE NIZAM'S DOMINIONS
(Hyderabad State)
PART I.—REPORT

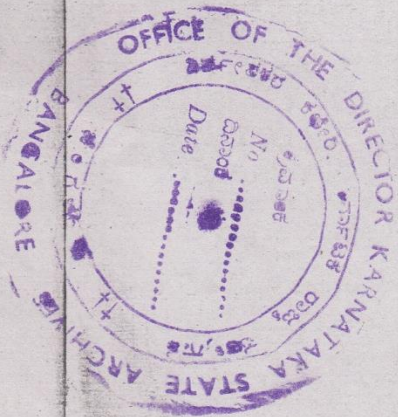
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ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎ.ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.
ಸಹ ಸಂಪಾದಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರಾಗಾರ
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this community that Christianity and Islam recruit their members, thereby affecting the percentage growth of the community.

The community is fairly evenly distributed in the two natural tracts, Telingana claiming as many as 186 and Marathwara 171 per mille of their respective population.

184. *Virashaiva or Lingayat*.—"Virashaiva or Lingayat is a religious sect of *Saivites*, deriving their name from the *lingam* or the phallic emblem of the god Siva, a model of which, in gold or stone, they enclose in caskets of gold or silver and wear on their bodies either fastened to their left arm or suspended from the neck."

"This sect was founded during the 12th century in Gulbarga District by a Brahman named *Basava*, whose aim seems to have been to abolish caste and polytheism. Although he succeeded in forming a community composed of all grades and castes, yet social distinctions asserted themselves soon after his death, and the Virashaiva community is gradually drifting to a caste with its endogamous and hypergamous divisions." The community may be divided into four main groups, viz., the first the *Jangams* or priests, the second the Virashaivas proper; these two are the first converts. The third group consists of converts recruited from occupational castes. The fourth includes the lowest unclean classes, who, though converted to the sect, still remain as impure as before.

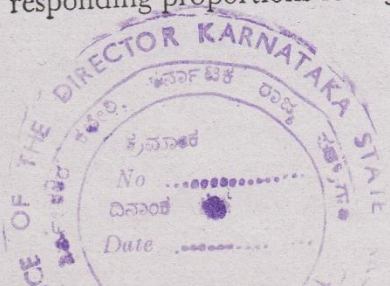
Virashaivas number 806,096 in the Dominions and have recorded an increase of 2.2 per cent. during the decade. They are very numerous in Gulbarga, Bidar and Raichur Districts and have spread all over the Dominions from this focus. Of their total population, nearly 89.0 per cent. are found in Marathwara. Their proportion has been gradually increasing in Telingana since 1921, while an opposite tendency is noticeable in Marathwara (*vide* subjoined statement).

| | | Actual Number | Proportion | |
|------------|----|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | 1941 | 1931 |
| Telingana | .. | 45,095 | 11 per cent. | 9 per cent. |
| Marathwara | .. | 365,105 | 89 per cent. | 91 per cent. |

185. *Aryas*.—The number of Arya Samajists has considerably increased. Compared to the preceding decade, their percentage increase works out to 1005.4.

| Year | Persons | Males | Females |
|------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 1941 | .. 40,900 | 21,530 | 19,370 |
| 1931 | .. 3,700 | 1,896 | 1,804 |
| 1921 | .. 545 | 268 | 277 |

It is one of the most unevenly distributed communities and the number of persons ranges from 10,854 in Bidar, to 34 in Baghat. Per ten thousand of the population of the natural divisions, Aryas constitute 12 and 40 respectively in Telingana and Marathwara; the corresponding proportions for 1931 were 14 and 11 only.



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