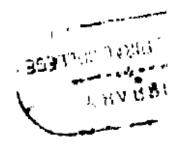
MYSORE GAZETTEER

COMPILED FOR GOVERNMENT_



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DESCRIPTIVE



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ETHNOLOGY AND CASTE

Holeya, Agasa, Komati, Uppara, Kumbara, Banjara, Sada, Handi Jogi, Nagarta, Telugu Banajiga and Devanga), linguistic, territorial, religious and occupational differences prove effectual bars to intermarriage. Among these, religion (excepting the Lingayat, which always creates a sharp line of difference) is seen to be the least harmful. In a very few cases, very trivial differences in the mode of pursuing the same occupation lead to the creation of additional bars to marriage. Thus

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(Chrysanthemum) from which the caste priests are recruited and consequently held in greater respect by the rest. They wear the Linga, doubtless the result of their coming under Lingayat influences. Marriage is either

Lingayat.—This is not the name of a single caste but Lingayat. a general designation for several castes, the members of (7,15,000). M. Gr. VOL. I. 8* 232

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all of which wear the Linga on their bodies after due initiation. In fact, there are many castes included in the A Lingayat, indeed, may belong to any caste name. from the Brahman to the Madiga. When a man who belongs to one of the traditional Hindu castes becomes a Lingayat, he has a new caste name given him. All Lingayats do not interdine, nor do they intermarry. Race has proved too strong for religion. The worship of the Junga is a very ancient one in India. It has been identified with phallic worship, which was known to primitive man in various parts of the world (Vide Chapter Linga worship has been supposed by some VIII). authorities to be recognized in the Pravargya (ceremony at Soma sacrifice), of the Sathapatha Brahmana. (See

and observances have appeared in recent publications, such as Hastings' Encyclopadia of Religion and Ethics, wherein Mr. Enthoven, I.C.S., has re-stated his views first propounded by him in a monograph devoted to the subject. For the history of the rise and progress of the religion of the Lingayats, see Chapter VIII. The name Lingayat means "one with a Linga," the reference being to the portable Linga worn in a silver or a metallic casket, usually suspended by a string in the neck, in the form of a pendant, or tied on the upper arm, or on the Downloaded from: www.lingayatreligion.com State, the Lingayat religion has been long professed by a variety of castes. Among those who have come under its influence at one time or another are the following :----

Kurubas.	Sanyasis.
Bilimaggas.	Kumbaras.
Telugu Banajigas.	Helavas.
Devangas.	Sudas.
Nayindas.	Handi Jogis.
Kunchigas.] Nagarthas.

In some of these castes, only sections of them profess the Lingayat religion. Lingayats take in marriage, in such cases, girls from the non-Lingayat sections, though they do so only after due admission of the girl into their religion. They do not, however, agree to give their girls in marriage to the non-Lingayats. Each caste, though professing the Lingayat religion, follows its usual caste customs and usages. But there are some notable

funerals. Then, again, the burying of the dead person among sections professing the Lingayat religion is usually in the sitting posture. No Sraddhas are observed and generally animal food and alcoholic liquors are abstained from. Marriage is, among the generality of the Lingayat sections, infant, and the bride-price that 236

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Madiga women let it fall on the left. The exact connection of Jambavas and Madigas generally to the Lingayat religion still remains to be cleared up. That they were influenced by the Lingayat religion is evident from the fact of the Jambavas, their *Gurus*, wearing the Linga. The Madigas also reverence Aralappa, said to be a contemporary of Basava, the originator of that

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Sale.—They apparently derive their name from Sans- sale. krit Salika, a weaver. They are divided into Padmasale, Pattusale (silk-weavers) and Sankusale. The origin of these distinctions is not clear. They all claim descent from Markandeya Rishi. The Padmasales speak Telugu, while the two others speak Kannada. Pattusales profess the Lingayat religion. The Padmasales are Vaishnavites. All of them worship the caste deity Chaudeswari.

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burned, the Lingayat section burying in the sitting posture. Outsiders are not admitted into the caste. The usual caste titles are Setti, Ayya, Appa. 234

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prevails in the caste is paid. Likewise, the titles added to the names are those prevalent generally among the castes to which the different sections belong. All this is sufficient to show that the term Lingayat has more a religious than a caste significance. All Lingayats in the State are subject to the jurisdiction in matters religious to their Gurus, who preside over their mutts. The Mysore Census Report for 1911 gives a good account of these mutts from the pen of Rajasabhabhushana Diwan Bahadur Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty, K.T., C.I E.

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Nonaba Vokkaligas.—These are so called because they are residents of the ancient Kingdom of Nozahambapadi or Nonambavadi. This was ruled over by the Pallavas up to the 10th century A.D. The Pallavas also called themselves as Nonambadhi Raja, Nonamba Pallava, Pallavadhi Raja, etc. This section of the Vokkaligas are Lingayats in religion. In most respects, they follow the same customs as the Gangadikara Vokkaligas. Their usual caste title is Gauda. Sadas.—These are cultivators found chiefly in the Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts. They appear to have been originally Jains, though many at present profess the Lingayat and Brahmanic religions. The last of these worship both Siva and Vishnu, while the Jains worship the Jain Tirthankaras and Hindu Gods as well. Lingayats and Jains do not interdine or intermatry. All the rest do both. Among the non-Lingayats, are

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them are also educated and occupy a responsible place in society. They call themselves *Kunchitigas or Kunchati Vokkalu*. According to tradition current in the caste, they appear to be a section of immigrant Kurubas who have turned Vokkaligas by taking to agriculture. A section of them profess the Lingayat religion. They take non-Lingayat girls in marriage, but do not give their girls in marriage to non-Lingayats. Another section of the caste known as *Maroru* (or Vendors, usually of buffaloes) is

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waist, called *udidhāra*, to which is sometimes attached a cylindrical silver bax, called $t\bar{a}yitta$, in which coins or other yaluables are kept, and a round *chunnam* box. Lingayats, men and women, wear a silver box, called a *chowka* or *karadiği*, containing the *linga*. It usually hangs on the breast tied by a string round the neck. These who cannot afford a *chowka*, tie the *linga* in a handkerchief either round the neck or to the arm above the elbow. Gold signet rings are common, Brahmans of the priestly order tying them to their sacred strings. IX]

POPULATION

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TABLE XI-STATISTICS OF, MAIN CASTES OR TRIBES-concld.

No.	Caste	·	Strength	Males	Females	Where chiefly tound
19	Lambani	•••	7,560	4,038	8,522	Kadur and Shimoga.
20	Lingsyst		7,14,784	3,59,163	3,55,571	Tumkur, Mysore, Chital- drug, Hassan, Kadur and Shimoga.
21	Madiga	•••	2,81,227	1,43,920	1,87,307	Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Chitaldrug, Has- san, Kadur and Shimoga.
29	Mahratta	•••	53,034	27,684	25,400	Baugalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Chitaldrug, Has- sau, Kadur and Shimoga.
	•					
23	Meda		7,170	3,790	3,380	Bangalore, Tumkur, Mysore, Hassan, Kadur and Shimoga.
24	Mudeli		22,379	11,803	10,576	Bangalore, Kolar, Mysore and Hassan.
2 5	Nagartha		17,810	9,116	8,694	Bangalore, Kolar, Mysore and Shimoga.
26	Nayinda		42,360	21,710	20,650	Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Hassan and Shimoga.
27	Neygi		63,450	31,73 3	81,717	Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Chitaldrug, Has- san, Kadur and Shimoga.
28	Panchala		1,92,187	68,194	63,993	Bangalore, Tumkur, Kolar, Mysore, Chitaldrug, Hassan and Shimoga.
89	Satani		21,914	11,122	10,792	Bangalore, Tomkur, My- sore, Hassan and Shimoga.

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-	74,118	37,790	36,323	Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur.
Јррага	1, 0 8, 58 0	54,968	58,612	Mysore, Tumkur, Chital- drug and Shimoga.
Vokkaliga	12,94,801	6,52,116	6,42,685	Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Chitaldrug, Has- san, Kadur and Shimoga.
Vaisya	38,173	19,860	1 6,31 3	Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Chitaldrug and Hassan,
7odds	1,52,18 8	78,180	74,008	Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Chitaldrug and Shimoga.
V	okkaliga Taisya	okkaliga 12,94,801 Jaisya 35,173	7okkaliga 12,94,801 6,52,116 7aisya 38,173 19,860	Vokkaliga 12,94,801 6,52,116 6,42,685 Vaisya 38,173 19,860 16,313