
The Survey of India

Author(s): F. S. Longe

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other an investigation into the changes that have taken place on the East Coast, especially in the neighbourhood of the Humber estuary. Good advance had been made with the first investigation, while something had been done in regard to the second, a very complete list of books and maps having been compiled by Mr. Shepherd, and lately published. The next step, based on those books and maps, would be to investigate the whole matter in order to see the changes that have actually taken place, and this would go on during the ensuing year. During the course of the past year a considerable number of papers had been read in the Research Department, their subjects being—"The Next Great Arctic Discovery," by Sir Clements Markham; "The Ordnance Survey Maps from the Point of View of the Antiquities on Them," by Mr. Haverfield; "Inquiry into the Resources of the British Empire," by Prof. Scott Elliot; "The Ruins of Rhodesia," by Dr. Randall MacIver; "Distribution of Alpine Races in Europe," by Mr. J. L. Myres; "Physico-Geographical Problems in Seistan," by Sir H. McMahon; and "A Plea for an Expedition to Melanesia," by Dr. A. C. Haddon.

Oceanographical Laboratory at Edinburgh.—A laboratory for oceanographical research, organized through the efforts of Mr. W. S. Bruce, leader of the Scottish Antarctic Expedition, was formally opened by the Prince of Monaco during a visit to the city in January. The laboratory is installed in a portion of the Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Survey of India.

Simla, September 12, 1906.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Royal Geographical Society's *Journal* for August, 1906. I have been a Fellow of the Society for many years, and receive my private as well as official copies as a matter of ordinary routine, and I therefore presume that the special copy to which I refer was sent me in order to call my attention to the review of the report of the Survey of India for 1903-04 by T. H. H.

I have no intention of embarking on any paper controversy, but I wish to point out that the review in question conveys a very inadequate idea of the great task that lies before the Survey of India at the present time.

The writer, while remarking that the report is chiefly interesting when read by the light of subsequent recommendations made by the special Survey Committee, proceeds to state that that committee concerned itself mainly with the question of *maintaining* an accurate and up-to-date topographical map of India and of the Indian border, and he goes on to say that it is therefore interesting to observe, from the map illustrating the progress of Imperial Surveys, that there is really very little of the Indian peninsula left to map topographically, etc., etc.

I think he must have overlooked that the committee recommend that a complete topographical map, *on the 1-inch scale*, shall be prepared and published in colours for the whole of India, and, further, that the scale of survey shall be usually at least double the scale of publication. It further lays down that the size of the maps shall be reduced by one-half, that they shall be based on the latest geodetic value of the longitude of Madras, and, though it lays down no definite rules, it laid great stress on the necessity of additional heights and contours, two important details to which all but the latest surveys have paid little attention. The map illustrating the progress of Imperial Surveys does not show the areas that have

been surveyed on scales suitable for the production of modern 1-inch maps, but merely shows the areas surveyed from the date of the commencement of survey work in India by organized parties of some form or other on a variety of scales, and the maps of vast areas are entirely out of date owing to their antiquity. As a matter of fact, there are at the present time no maps of India on the 1-inch scale which, either in form or quality, meet the requirements of the committee, and the whole series will have to be re-drawn. Those more nearly conforming to modern requirements cover a large portion of Burma and small areas in the Punjab, the Central Provinces, and the United Provinces, and next to these come the maps of the Bombay Presidency, of Mysore, and of portions of the Punjab, but none of these are based on the latest value of the longitude of Madras.

A glance at the "General Map to illustrate the Distribution of the Various Classes of Survey Work required for the Preparation of a Topographical Map of India on the scale 1 inch = 1 mile," published opposite p. 115 of vol. 1 of the Survey Committee's report, will give a rough idea of the work to be done. Of the areas coloured red no surveys on the 1-inch scale have ever been made, and consequently these areas must be actually surveyed on either the 1-inch or the 2-inch scale. Of the areas coloured, blue maps in some shape or other on the 1-inch scale exist, and this colour is used to denote areas where the topography will have to be re-done, but the trigonometrically fixed points *may* be found sufficient to obviate the necessity of re-triangulation.

The area under these two headings above amounts to approximately 1,159,300 square miles (*vide* p. 43, vol. 1, of the committee's report). Taking the area of India and its dependencies at approximately 1,830,600 square miles, and the area to be actually surveyed, or "re-surveyed" as opposed to "revised," at 1,159,300, it will be seen that in the twenty-five years allowed for the completion of the work no less than 73,224 square miles will have to be fair mapped, and 46,372 square miles will have to be actually surveyed or "re-surveyed" on the 1-inch or the 2-inch scale yearly, a task that no nation has yet had to attempt, and one which will require the utmost energy and determination to accomplish. Perhaps, if all goes well, some twenty-five years hence T. H. H.'s estimate of the work now before the department may be applicable to the then immediate future, but at present it falls far short of the absolute facts.

F. S. LONGE, Col. R.E.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1906-1907.

Christmas Lecture, Friday, January 4, 1907.—"Japan and the Japanese as I saw them." By Miss A. L. Murcutt.

Christmas Lecture, Monday, January 7, 1907.—"A Lady's Journey from the Cape to Cairo." By Miss Mary Hall.

The Right Hon. Sir G. T. GOLDIE, K.C.M.G., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Fifth (Special) Meeting, January 12, 1907. The Right Hon. Sir GEORGE T. GOLDIE, K.C.M.G., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The paper read was :—

"An Expedition to Mount Ruwenzori." By His Royal Highness the Duke of the Abruzzi.