

APPENDIX

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B.L. RICE (1837-1927)

His father Benjamin Holt Rice was Christian missionary. He came to Bangalore in order to preach religion. B.L. Rice was born in Bangalore and he spent the early days of his boyhood in Karnataka. He received higher education in England. He became proficient in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Sanskrit. He rendered good service in the field of education, study of history, epigraphy and oriental literature.

He became the Headmaster of Central High School in 1860 and devoted himself to the cause of education. Later on the school grew up into the famous Central College. After five years of service, He became the Inspector of schools for Mysore and Coorg Districts. Three years later he became the Director of public Instruction and the first secretary of Education for the Mysore state. He travelled all over the state and collected many inscriptions connected with ancient history. He had collected nearly nine thousand inscriptions which today throw a lot of light on the heritage and glory of the country. Thereby he inspired others to study the ancient history of this land. We cannot think of the bitter experiences he underwent during his extensive travels, when there was no better means of transportation and his valuable service compared to our own has put us to shame. When ever he went outside on official or private he use to collect something pertaining to ancient history. His collections include copper plates, palm leaves, inscriptions etc. It is said that there is no place that he has not visited in Karnataka. When the Oriental Research institute in Mysore was started he became as its first director. He retired in 1906 and to the end devoted himself to the historical research.

The Hunter Commission of India appointed Rice as its Secretary to bring out reforms in educational field. For sometime he served as the Secretary in the police Department too. The British Government conferred upon him the title of C.I.E. (Commander of the Indian Empire). The Madras Government honoured him with the degree of the Doctor of Philosophy. The following are his achievements in the fields of Research.

- 1) Mysore inscriptions-Its publication 1877.
- 2) Mysore Gazetteer.
- 3) Epigraphia Carnatika volumes-1886.
- 4) Shravana Belagola inscriptions volume.
- 5) Mysore and Coorg from inscriptions.
- 6) Finding of Ashoka's *Brahmagiri* inscriptions.
- 7) Bibliothica-Karnataka serial.
- 8) Editing *Pampa Bharata* or *Vikramarijana Vijaya*, *Nagachandra's pampa Ramayana*, *Kavi Raja Marga*, *Kavyavalokana*, *Amarakosha* and innumerable research articles.
- 9) Imperial Gazetteer. (Editor)

After his retirement in 1906, he returned to England. He settled at Harrow, but he was even thinking of Kannada state. He had to bring out ten more volumes of inscriptions.

The Gazetteers published by him were later on revised by Sri C. Hayavadana Rao. It is rather a surprise that a foreigner could devote his entire life to the cause of Kannada.

J.F. FLEET (1847 - 1917)

J.F. Fleet was born at Chiswick in 1847. George Fleet and Esther were his parents. He passed the Indian Civil Service examination at the age of eighteen and was appointed as the Revenue Officer in Bombay. By his efficiency and honesty he rose to higher positions. His contemporary B.L. Rice was an educational officer in the South Division (1872) of Karnataka. He served in Kolhapur as a Junior Collector, Magistrate and Political Agent, Senior Collector and Customs Commissioner and died in England in 1917.

Though a Revenue Officer, he took great interest in the study of History. He did in North Karnataka what Mr. Rice did in the South. He collected historical inscriptions and studied them scientifically. He was proficient in Pali, Prakrit, Kannada, Sanskrit and Marathi languages. His articles dealing with the ancient life and civilization, and the royal dynasties were published in the Royal Asiatic Society (Bombay Branch) and the Indian Antiquary Paper. He was good at the study of inscriptions. He knew well History, Geography, Linguistics. His book "*The Gupta Kings and their successors*" has become quite famous. "*The Kannada Royal Dynasties in Bombay Province*" is his another publication.

In England, even after retirement, he was interested in the study of History. He wrote many articles to Epigraphia Indica and the Imperial Gazetteer and brought out many folk songs. He enriched the Kannada language with his yeoman's service.