P R E F A C E.

The idea of undertaking the present study was first mooted when, as Commandant Border Security Force, not infrequently time hung heavy on my hands in keeping watch over the Indo-Tak (now Bangladesh) border. It was Dr. V. V. Rao of the Gauhati University, whom I met by chance and to whom I narrated my woes of a life bereft of intellect, who advised me to undertake the present study initially as an intellectual exercise. Later, as ideas began to crystalize and mature, I was fortunate to get posted as S.P., C.I.D. at Shillong, in which post there was ample opportunity of studying old files, crime statistics records and reports. The Assam Secretariat Record Office also happened to be near at hand, and thanks to Shri Sharma, the Keeper of Records, I was able to have access to many valuable reports and criminal statistics which made it possible to build up the continuity of record of police administration from 1874 to 1947. Then came a district posting and as the District Superintendent of Police I had further access to old correspondence, departmental instructions and Circulars lying in some of the way-out Police Stations.

The present study is thus the result of some four years of labour and compilation of data. An outline of organizational development has been provided in the beginning to provide the reader with a bird's eye view of the vast panorama of police administration spread over...
over two centuries. The growth of civil and military police structures has been studied in detail in the subsequent two chapters, and these are followed by a detailed study of the evolution of certain functional agencies which grew up as essential appurtenances to the police apparatus as time passed on and as circumstances warranted their development. A separate chapter has been devoted to the study of financial and personnel administration; the various reorganizations and reforms which resulted in benefits of pay and conditions of service to the police personnel and their implications in terms of an overall budgetary survey. The last chapter on Criminal Administration deals with the operative aspect of the police, namely investigation and prosecution of crimes and bringing the criminals to book. In some ways it is perhaps the most interesting chapter of the study and throws light on the gradual changes in the crime pattern over the years and the chain of causation behind the accelerated crime rate. Finally, the chapter on "Conclusions" summarizes and objectively concludes from the findings in various specific fields of study and dovetailed by the four general conclusions which inescapably emerge from the overall study of police administration in Assam between 1874 and 1947. Each chapter is fully documented and references are provided at the end. A selected bibliography and list of Govt. Resolutions and Important Notifications is also appended. Care has been taken to provide a list of
abbreviations commonly used in police parlance in the beginning. A list of Inspector General of Police from 1874 to 1947 has also been provided for easy reference.

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