VOLUME 11

Settlement Reports 1872 – 1900 (I)

Russell's Sambalpur Settlement Report, 1872 · Maddox's Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of Orissa, 1890–1900, Vol. I

11

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About this volume

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RUSSELL SETTLEMENT

REPORT.

FROM J.W. NEILL, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, - No. 637 - 40, dated Nagpur, the 28th February, 1872.

I am directed by the Officiating Chief Commissioner to submit now, as requested in the concluding paragraph of your letter No. 487, dated 28th of October, 1871, a brief report on the manner in which he considers the Settlement of the land revenue in the Sambalpur district should be effected.

2. The Officiating Chief Commissioner has himself visited the Sambalpur district and has discussed all questions connected with the Settlement whith the Deputy Commissioner, Captain Bowie, and the Settlement Officer, Mr. Russell. Major Cumberlege, the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division, was unfortunately obliged by ill-health to proceed on sick leave to Europe before the receipt of your letter already referred to, and Colonel Keatinge had not therefore the - advantage of his presence when making his enquiries in Sambalpur; but Major Cumberlege and Captain Bowie, the Deputy Commissioner, were so thoroughly at one on all points connected with the matter in hand, that it may be held that Mr Major Comberlege would have acceded to what Captain Bowie has accepted as a good compromise between the claims of the Gaontyas, or village managers, and the body of ryots.

There was moreover with Colonel Keatinge, while on tour in the Sambalpur district, Mr. J.W. Chisholm, who had also been mixed up with the Sambalpur Settlement question, and he concurs with the other officers in holding that the rights, which it is now proposed to confer, will meet with the acceptance of the people themselves, and will be considered fair and equitable.

3. Having premised so much, I am to explain that, with one exception, which will be referred to hereafter, the various proposals made in paras, 6,7,8,9, and 10 of your letter of the 28th October have been accepted unreservedly, but, in order that the nature of the Settlement, as now proposed, may be clearly set forth in this letter, I am to describe the rights and privileges which will be conferred on, and secured to the Gaontyas, and on the other hand those which will vest in the ryots.

The Settlement will be made Mauzawar, or for each village, and the Settlement will be made with the Gaontya, who will be responsible for the Government revenue.

At present the cultivated area of the village is divided into Bhogra and ryoti lands, The Bhogra lands are managed solely by Gaontyas as home farms, the ryoti lands are distributed among the cultivators.

In consideration of the responsibility for the revenue accepted by the Gaontya, and of the duties attaching to his office as manager and village head, there will be conferred on the Gaontyas the heritable and transferable right to hold in perpetuity free of assessment the Bhogra land at present held and cultivated by them, up to a maximum of one-fourth of the whole land assessment of the village. All Bhogra land in excess of this will be assessed and have to pay land revenue, but in every other respect it will belong to the Gaontya in the same way as the Bhogra land, held revenue free.

To the Gaontyas will also be conceded the rifht of receiving during the term of Settlement, rent on all uncultivated and unoccupied land that may be brought under cultivation during the currency of the Settlement; but such rents are not to exceed the rate of assessment on the ryoti land of a similar class.

The Gaontya shall have power to locate cultivators on all land thrown up during the term of Settlement - the assessment on such land remaining unaltered.

From cultivators on his Bhogra land the Gaontya shall have the right to demand such rent as he thinks fit. Such cultivators will be more tenants at will.

The Gaontya will be responsible for the collection of the revenue and the keeping and rendering of such accounts as may be required of him. He will have general control of the village servants, and perform such duties as by the custom of the country are assigned to the head of a village.

The persons on whom the Bhogra lands are conferred as Gaontyas, and those who may derive from them hereafter in any way any

portion of such Bhogra lands shall be under the obligation of providing for the due performance of the duties of the office of Gaontya, and will be entitled to hold their land on that condition only. The rights which will be conferred on Gaontyas have thus been enumerated, and it will be noticed that they are exactly in accordance with the suggestions contained in proposals I,II, III, IV, VI and VII of para 6 of your letter of the 28th of October, and with para. 7 of the same letter.

4. Before passing to the rights to be secured to the cultivators or ryots, I am to note one point on which the Officiating Chief Commissioner would request that a little latitude be allowed in making this Settlement.

It has been stated that the Gaontyas are to hold free of assessment their Bhogra lands up to one-fourth of the total assessment on the village lands.

It has been represented tothe Officiating Chief Commissioner that in some village this rule will press very hardly. The vilages referred to are those in which many sharers exist, and in which the Gaontyas are poor people who would feel aggrieved by having to pay revenue for portions of land which they have enjoyed rent free for some generations. In other villages the Bhogra land falls short of an equivalent to one-fourth of the assessment. In dealing with the former class of cases where the Bhogra exceeds an equivalent in land of one-fourth of the assessment, and is divided already amongst many sharers, the Officating Chief Commissioner would suggest, that the circumstances of each case be considered, and that the excess Bhogra land should not be assessed, if the sharers would feel the curtailment of the revenue free land severely. The loss would be made up by other Gaontyas holding less Bhogra land than would give an equivalent of one-fourth of the assessment on the village. The Deputy Commissioner states that the amount of Bhogra land in each village appears to have been determined more by the number of sharers than by any other circumstance.

5. I am next to advert to the position which the ryots are to occupy.

They are located on the royti land, and the Government

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revenue will be assessed on their several holdings. So long as they pay the amount of the assessment, as fixed at the time of Settlement on their holdings, they will not be liable to ouster, and non-payment of the revenue assessed shall be the only ground on which they can be dispossessed.

The rights thus conferred on the ryot will be heritable, but they will not be transferable.

The present system under which the ryoti lands are periodically redistributed among the ryots may be allowed to continue without in any manner affecting the rights of the ryots, which shall continue to each ryot in the new land assigned to him at each of such periodical redistributions. If at such redistribution a ryot received a larger or a smaller share of land, by consent of the village community, he shall pay on such larger or smaller share of land the revenue demandable according to the rate of assessment fixed for such land at the time of Settlement. It will be necessary to stipulate that no man can be forced against his wish to receive a share of land considerably larger or smaller than what he held at the time of Settlement.

In declaring that the ryots shall not have a transferable right in their holdings, the Officiating Chief Commissioner has not accepted proposal No. V. of the 8th para, or para. 8 of your letter, in which it was suggested that the ryots should have a transferable right in their holdings, subject to a payment of Nazaranah to the Gaontya, and I am to explain why Colonel Keatinge thinks it inexpedient to grant a right of transfer.

His personal inquiries in the Sambalpur district have convinced him that the people have in many respects but very faint ideas of the nature of properity in the light in which we regard it. They are rather inclined to look upon the ryots of a village as a commune or a club, in which every new member on admission has the same rights as the oldest. Hence the notion of selling their rights as ryots has not found entrance into their minds, and the right to sell would not be appreciated by them at the value we set upon it.

The Gaontyas are, moreover, exceedingly averse to this

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right of transfer being accorded to the ryots. They make a very strong point of it, attaching more importance to it than to anything else, and earnestly oppose it, while they evidently consider the other proposals made by Government as fair. Colonel Keatinge's own personal opinion is that the ryots are so ignorant, that if the right of transferring their holdings is conferred on them, they will sell their land to the Gaontyas for old irrecoverable debts, and for other considerations of no value, and that they will remain on the land as tenants-at-will, instead of tenants with occupany rights or at fixed rents.

The Settlement will be far more popular with the Gaontyas and far safer for the mass, if the right of transfer is not accorded, and the right may, if now withheld, be granted hereafter when the country is ripe for it. It is not in the interests of the Gaontyas that the Officiating Chief Commissioner recommends this, though he desires their wishes to be consulted, but it is the interest of the great mass of the ryots that he wishes to secure. They do not demand or care for the right of transfer, the Gaontyas are opposed to their getting it, and it is not for their good that they should have it.

6. The necessity of permitting the redistribution of fields is admitted in para. 9 of your letter. A very considerable period must probably elapse before this system comes of itself to an end.

The extent to which the holding of each ryot is made up of a little plot here and a little plot there, scattered all over the village area, can scarcely be imagined. There are no village maps of the Sambalpur district, but in Raipur there prevails a system almost identical and the accompanying maps of 8 villages in the Raipur district will serve to illustrate the extent to which the sub-divisions of lands is carried, for the purpose of assigning to each ryot a portion of each kind of land.

Two villages were selected in each tahsil of the Raipur district, villages containing the average number of occupancy ryots; and in each village the first two and last two occupancy ryots on the list were taken to illustrate the division of land. These maps

therefore illustrate the ordinary state of things, and not anything exceptioned. Looking then at the maps, and bearing in mind that in Sambalpur the division of land is carried on in the same way, it is clear that it would be impossible to make the status of the ryots depend on their retaining their present plots. To do so would be to prohibit all agricultural improvement, for so long as a ryot has to cultivate a great number of very minute plots scattered about at a great distance from each other, he must lose much time and labour in cultivating them. It is unnecessary to say moreon the point, as the Government of India have already expressed their opinion on it.

The ryots then would be secured in the cultivation of their fields or share of the ryoti land at fixed rents for the time of Settlement. Ryots cultivating the Bhogra land of the Gaontya would be his tenants-at-will, but ryots to whom it may be permitted to break up waste land would pay rates not exceeding those imposed on ryoti land. The rights of the ryots will be heritable but not transferable.

In this manner it may be confidently believed that the position of these men will be secured, and the custom obtaining to the present day interfered with as little as possible.

7. Act X of 1859 cannot be allowed to continue is operation in the district, and a Notification will have to be issued exempting the district of Sambalpur from the operation of it. It may not be necessary to trouble the Legislature with this matter, as the Act was introduced into Sambalpur by a Notification of the Governor General in Council only, and the same authority would probably have powers to amend or withdraw such a Notification. Under this view of the case, a Notification is appended for publication in the Gazette of India.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner is of opinion that Act X. of 1859 is equally inapplicable to the other districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, but on that subject a separate communication will be made.

8. The only point which remains to be discussed are the mode and term of Settlement.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner proposes to entrust the

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carrying out of the Settlement to Mr. A.N. Russell, under the general control of the Deputy Commissioner of the district, and the Commissioner of the Division. No large establishment will be required. The manner in which the assessment will be made, will be by the " Poorees ". and inaccurate statements regarding the number of Poorees sown. But this is a matter which requires care and personal supervision, and in Settlement operation everywhere similar difficulties are met with .

No boundary and field survey will be attempted, but a khasra or register of fields will be prepared. This will show for each field the name of and particulars regarding, the cultivator, the amount of land according to seed measure, and the quality of the land, and the nature of crop raised;- remarks being added shewing the amount of irrigation, the number of wells, &c.

This and similar statements showing the area held by each ryot the amount paid by him as rent, the number of ploughs, &c., will enable the Settlement Officer to fix the assessment on the village.

These proposals are generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the 11th paragraph of your letter, but in it you say that the Bhogra land must be accurately measured and defined. This I am to remark could not be done without any expenditure quite incommensurate with the result to be obtained. The Bhogra land is not all in one block, these lands are dotted in minute patches all over the village area, and if they were measured they could not be mapped unless the connecting fields were also surveyed. At present the minute subdivision of holdings renders it impossible to make a map at a moderate cost, and the short period for which the Settlemtnt is to last, marks it less necessary to have such a map, as at the next Settlement there will be plenty of evidence to show how things stood when the present Settlement was being made.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner hopes that His Excellency in Council will approve of this proposal to estimate the extent of the Bhogra lands in the same way as the village lands generally, and to carry out the Settlement in the manner that has been sketched out.

9. The period for which the Settlement is to last might be fixed 12 years. The local officers are very anxious that this longer

period should be allowed.

10. There are one or two points which, as they were not in any way touched on in your despatch of the 28th of October, have been reserved till the end of this letter.

One is regarding the village servants who are to be appointed, and the manner in which they are to be remunerated.

Colonel Keatinge would lay down as a rule that no village servants not now existing should be created, and that such as exist for public purpose should be remunerated by grants of land held on condition of service. This service must be regulated and in many cases curtailed. The Officiating Chief Commissioner's instructions would be to the effect that the existing order of things should not be suddenly upset, and that the remuneration of village servants should not exceed 2 annas in the rupee of the revenue assessable on the village - 4 annas are given to the Gaontya, and a maximum of 2 annas more should provide for all the village servants. I am directed to explain that in suggesting so large a maximum percentage, Colonel Keatinge is influenced by the fact that some of the so-called village servants are in reality far more than the name implies. They are in many cases the descendants of the original owners of the soil, remnants of an old race which will not advance even at the slow pace of the backward district. Their duties are often of a semi-religious character and are prized by the community. The individuals referred to often reside in small detached hamlets situated on their own rent free lands. Their claims to consideration on the grounds of long possession are generally superior to the Gaontyas. Their existence is inconvenient from a financial point of view, but they are men it would be both impolitic and dangerous to disturb rudely.

A second question is that affecting the Zamindaris of the Sambalpur district. There are 32 of them, comprising in all 1,132 villages. These Zamindaris are held on different tenures; some of them, such as Phuljhar and Dorasamber, were formerly Garhjat States, the most of which have been constituted feudatories. On the whole, it seems necessary that the circumstances of each Zamindari should be considered

seperately, and a detailed report submitted, the assessment on each being fixed in consideration of its previous history and present condition.

11. The last point which the Officiating Chief Commissioner desires on this occasion to bring before the Government of India, is that concerning Bhet-Begar, a custom known in various other parts of Orissa, but which has generally become obsolete under our rule. Each cultivator in Sambalpur continues to send his plough with a pair of bullocks and a man for one day in the year to till the Gaontya's Bhogra, and he sends one man for a day during the harvest time to cut the Gaontya's paddy. If the labour is not supplied, then a money payment at the rate of 2 annas for the plough or 1 anna for a man has to be made.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner has satisfied himself that were this custom at once to be discontinued and its enforcement forbidden by Government, a large portion of the Bhogra land would be thrown out of cultivation, and there would be sorrow and discontent in every Gaontya's house throughout the district. Any sudden interference would also, in the end, recoil on Government, as it would have to compensate the Gaontya in one shape or another. The rate above mentioned or any other fair sum of money might be determined as the compensation of the Gaontya for the labour withheld when it is not rendered. This has been fixed in some places, but it might be recorded in all the village papers. If this rate is kept stationary, the decreasing value of money, which must accompany the opening out of the country, will in the end make the Bhet-Begar merely a light tax, which will be considered in the Gaontya's remuneration, and can be remitted in years to come on the occasion of a new Settlement at enhanced rents being made.

From A.O. Hume, Esquire, C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces - No. 425, dated Calcutta 1st May 1872.

Land Revenue and Settlement.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter No. 637 - 40, dated 26th February last, regarding the Settlement of the Sambalpur district, and to state that the

Governor General in Council considers your report very satisfactory. You have been able to carry out successfully the scheme suggested by the Government of India, with only one or two exceptions which do not affect the essentials of the system proposed.

2. With reference to your remark in the first * paragraph on page 2 of your letter, the Government of India assumes that the Bhogra land to be held by the Gaontyas free of assessment is to be limited as a maximum to 1-4th of the whole of the present land assessment of the village, leaving Government free at a future settlement to prescribe what shall be the share on the higher assessment then probably assessable.

* i.e. the 4th Sub-division of numbered para 3.

3. In the 2nd + paragraph, on the same page, you propose that the rents to be realised by the Gaontya on all uncultivated and unoccupied land which may be brought under cultivation during the currency of the present settlement should not exceed the rate of assessment on the ryoti land of the number class. It is presumed that by this is meant ryoti land of the same class in the same village.

+ i.e. the 5th clause of numbered paragraph 3.

4. As you have shown sufficient reasons for holding the transfer of the ~~ex~~ occupancy rights to be inexpedient in the present condition of the ~~district~~ district, the Governor General in Council fully approves of the modification suggested in paragraph 5 of your letter.

5. His Excellency in Council also approves of the modification proposed in para. 4 in regard to the assessment of Bhogra land, in excess of 1-4th. He hopes, however, that with the improvement of the district, the excess will be absorbed in a future settlement and that the total amount of Bhogra land will be brought within the limit now prescribed.

6. In respect to the point raised in paragraph 7, viz. whether the district of Sambalpur can be withdrawn from the operation of Act X. of 1859, by a simple notification published in the Gazette of India, I am directed to say that the Governor General in Council is of opinion that this cannot be done, and that it will

be necessary to have recourse to legislation. I am therefore to request that you will be good enough to submit a draft Act which will meet the case not only of Sambalpur but of other ~~six~~ districts in the Central Provinces which it may be desirable to withdraw from the operation of the Act.

7. Your proposal for fixing the term of the present Settlement at 12 years is approved.

8. The Governor General in Council agrees to defer the measurement of the Bhogra land, provided care be taken to prevent the successful prosecution of under-claims of future settlements. To secure this object it will be necessary to make a sufficiently accurate record at the present moment.

9. The suggestions contained in para. 10 regarding the appointment and remuneration of village servants are approved on the understanding that two annas in the rupee of the revenue assessable on the village will be the maximum rate of remuneration, and that when so much is not requisite or is not in accord with past usage, a smaller grant will be made.

10. The course proposed in the same para, for dealing with the Zamindaris of the Sambalpur district, viz: that the circumstances of each Zamindari should be considered separately and the assessment in each fixed in consideration of its previous history and present condition is approved.

11. As to the custom of Bhat-Begar mentioned in para. 11, by which each cultivator has to provide labour to the Gaontya or to make a money payment in lieu thereof, the Governor General in Council agrees with you that the custom should be gradually abolished. In the present social state of the district your proposal for fixing a rate of compensation for the Gaontya in lieu of the Labour withheld, seems reasonable, I am, however, to suggest that the commutation rate should be entered in the village papers, and that these latter should distinctly set forth that the continuance of this usage is only guaranted for the term of the present Settlement.

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CHAPTER - 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Situation and Boundaries.

1. Sambalpur is the most eastern district of the Central Provinces' Administration.

2. The area to which this description will have special reference, comprises what is commonly styled the khalsa - the portion under direct management - and the non-feudatory Zamindari estates; but not the Feudatory States which are politically attached to this district, namely :-

1. Kalahandi or Karond,	5. Rhenrakhol,
2. Patna,	6. Sarangarh, and
3. Sonpur,	7. Raigarh,
4. Bamra,	

as they have not come under settlement operations in any way.

3. Thus circumscribed, the tract to be described, lies between 20° 45' and 21° 55' north latitude, and 82° 45' and 84° 25' east longitude. It is bounded on the north by the Raigarh State of this district, and the Gangpur Zamindari administered under the Government of Bengal; on the south by the Patna and Sonpur Feudatory States, on the east by the Bamra and Rhenrakhol States and on the west by the Bilaspur district, the Sarangarh State, and the Raipur district. It is thus almost girded, at a distance, by a chain of Feudatory States, with a more immediate surrounding of several non-feudatory Zamindari estates, the khalsa constituting the central portion of this inner circle.

Size and population.

4. From east to west, the district proper is 86 miles in length, and 64 miles from north to south in breath, exclusive of Feudatory States, comprising an estimated area of 5,332 square miles, and containing a population, according to the census taken in 1872, of 523,034 souls, giving an average of 93 persons to the square miles; the house census taken by the Settlement establishment however, in the khalsa portion only, gives a population of 299,917 for an area of about 2,250 square miles

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the average per square mile then rising to 133 persons, which is exclusive of the town and station of Sambalpur.

5. Physical features and topography.

The physical features of the district possess a peculiarity of their own. Although far from being a hilly country, yet hills are visible on every side, in all parts of the district; some near, some far away, but always visible.

The scenery too is beautiful and picturesque, nearly throughout the year, and particularly so immediately after the close of the monsoons, ere the autumn suns have yellowed the standing crops. It is then that the immense expanses of green fields, dotted all over with magnificent dark foliaged groves of mangoe trees, with the blue hills often forming a background standing far away, and the river Mahanadi, winding through the undulating country on its way to the Bay of Bengal, now running at the base of a chain of hills, now receding into the flat rice country, are to be seen to the best advantage. There are certainly few districts in the Central Provinces which can equal the Sambalpur district in the magnificence of its scenery, of which the ordinary traveller however, passing over the main roads, sees but very little, in consequence of a fringe of small jungle being invariably left between the road and the cultivated tracts beyond, which obstructs the view materially.

6. The main portion of the western half of the district may be styled a portion of the " basin of the river Mahanadi, " as from the Phuljher hills on the western boundary, to the river, and again from the Barapahar hills in the north and north - west, to the southern extremity of the district, it is one immense plain of undulating open country, over which the natural drainage passes in its course riverwards. It is a well cultivated and well watered tract by several natural stream and by a great many artificially stored water reserves, formed by arresting the drainage. It is also well populated with a good class of agriculturists. Beyong this basin in the north, there is a hilly tract known as the Barapahars or twelve hills comprised of valleys and hills in alternate succession; very woody, sparsely cultivated, and thinly populated. The north-western portion, however, beyond the open tract already alluded to and shut out from it by a spur of the Barapahars consists of another open level

and fertile tract; but the western and south-western outer margin of the central basin consits of forest country generally, though it has open spaces here and there of very fairly cultivated valleys. The eastern half of the district, on the left bank of the Mahanadi, consists, in the north-west section, of open and well cultivated country; in the extreme north-west section, of open and well cultivated country; in the north of some hilly and woody tracts; the east is all open; and the southern portion is but a narrow strip of country, not rich and fertile in the immediate vicinity of the river, but a few miles beyond, wild and hilly being traversed by a succession of hill ranges which follow the course of the river up to the very point that it emerges out of the district limits in the south.

7. Hills. Among the principal hills of the district may be mentioned the Barapahars, already alluded to, situated in the western half. They occupy a compact block of about 18 by 16 miles, with valleys between the different ranges, of which the highest in Debrighat nearly 2,300 feet high. It is magnificent sight from this point, looking south-wards, over the plains of the Khalsa. Besides occupying this compact block, the Barapahars threw out a long spur south-westwards, for a distance of some 30 miles

8. Next comes the Gandamardan range of hills, in the south-western portion of the district, situates on the boundary with the Feudatory State of Patna, which at several points rises to a height of 3,000 feet.

9. In the west, there are the Phuljher hills, possessing many points of an altitude of 2,250 feet. On the summit of one of these, called Siswal, there is a level plain, of some 3 or 4 miles in length and half that in breadth, with a small stream of clear water.

10. In the eastern half of the district, towards the north there are the Jhirgatti hills, 1,700 feet in height; and in the southern portion, running parallel with the Mahanadi river for several miles, are the Louising hills, the height of the wildest point of which is more than 2,300 feet, called Baipalti.

11. Each of the hills mentioned has some interest attaching

to it. The Barapahars have always been the dreaded haunt of the evil-disposed in disturbed time; and they still remain as difficult of access as they were when twenty years ago the rebels held complete sway over them for many months. At the foot of one the peaks of the Gandamardan hills, called Marsinghnath, there is a sacred pool of water, formed by a stream which descends from the summit of the hill, and is a place very much resorted to by pilgrims. The Phulghar hills are famous on account of their connection with the previous history of the district, many an engagement having taken place among them or in their vicinity. The Jhirghatti hills used to be passed by the postal line to the north, when this district was under Ranchi, and was in consequence generally selected as the best point for cutting off the mail communication with that place; and lastly the Koising hills have always afforded a place of refuge to the peace loving classes in disturbed times.

River and streams - The Mahanadi.

12. The most important river of the district is of course the Mahanadi; which entering the district in its extreme north-western boundary, flows for some 35 miles almost in a straight line from west to due east, and then being checked in its course by the Barapahar hills, has to skirt round them, and then to gradually come down in a south-easterly direction, until it reaches Sambalpur; after that it flows to the south until it reaches the boundary of the district, and then again turning to the east, runs down to the sea, through Orissa. Owing to its numerous tributaries, the Mahanadi is subject to sudden floods during the monsoons, and so sudden are these floods on some occassions, that half the station of Sambalpur gets under water in a short time during some dark night in August. On these occasions the first thing extraordinary to be seen in the morning are boats with fishermen in them, catching fish, on what were the evening before the main road and bridges now all under several feet of water. When in full flood, the Mahanadi is a grand sight, being an expanse of running water more than a mile in breadth, rushing through immense rocks in some places on its downward course to the sea.

The Hab river.

13. After the Mahanadi, the Hab river may be mentioned as the next important stream in the district, and one of the

Principal tributaries of the Mahandi. The Eeb enters the district on its northern boundary, flows direct south for 30 miles and then suddenly turning to the west falls into the Mahanadi at a point 12 miles north-west of Sambalpur. The Eeb river is only navigable during the rainy season.

14. On the north-western boundary, the next important tributary of the Mahanadi is the Borai river, which here enters the district, and very soon afterwards joins the Mahanadi.

The Borai and the Mand rivers.

The river next to be mentioned is the Mand, coming from the north and emptying itself in the Mahanadi below Chandarpur.

15. In the south-west of the district, there is the Ong river, also an important tributary of the Mahnadi, which it joints a little above Sonpur. There are several other streams, all tributaries of the Mahanadi, such as he Lauth and the two Kelors in the north-western, the Jira and the Joak in the western, the Bhedan in the northern, and the Malti in the eastern portions of the district.

The Ong river and minor streams.

16. As so little has yet been published about he geological structure of this district there will be given as an Appendix a *note which has been very kindly prepared by Mr. V. Ball of the Geological Survey of India, who has now been over a good part of this district during two seasons, and it is hoped that it will not be considered out of place in a report of this description.

Geological structure.

17. The spread of sandy alluvium alluded to by Mr. Ball is the same tract which has been described in para, 6, which receive a great quantity of fertilising matter from the surrounding hills. Similarly the tract which lies along the river bank, in the south of Sambalpur, over which passes the drainage of the Loising hills, on its way to the river, which these hills run parallel with for several miles, is the richest portion of the northern half, or Uttartir Tahsili. The same thing is noticed in the vicinity of the the Gandamardan and Phuljher ranges of hills.

Sandy alluvium.

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* Note on the geological structure of the Sambalpur district, by V. Ball, Esq. M.A., Geological Survey of India.

18. ~~Sandy alluvium.~~ Mineral Springs. In connection with the geology of the district may be mentioned the existence of two mineral springs, one the in the eastern portion of the Uttartir Tahsili, in a small stream, in the village of Meghpal, which rises in a small hill close to that village. The water in a pool of this stream is always warm, even in the coldest weather; it is supposed to be a sulphur spring. The other one is in a small tank in the village of Khajhuris, in the Dakhintir Tahsili, situated in one of the bends of the Barapahar hills, in which iron ore is found wherever looked for. This is a spring the water from which is highly impregnated with iron. The water in the small tank never dries in the hottest weather, but it has a disagreeable taste, and looks quite oily and of a dirty brown colour; cattle however are fond of it, and it is said to agree very well with the people, who in large numbers assemble near this locality when they come in the summer months to help themselves to forest produce from the Barapahar hills.

19. At present the district consists of two fiscal sub-divisions or Tahsildaris, the Sadar or Head-quarters, and Bargarh; the former being commonly styled the Uttartir, and the latter the Dakhintir. The Uttartir formerly comprised the khulsa proper, and the two khalsa parganas of Chandarpur and Padampur, and in the Dakhinter were included the khalsa proper, besides the khalsa parganas of Ambabhona and Lakhanpur; and to each sub-division was attached a certain number of non-feudatory Zamindari estates. The present constitution of the sub-divions is as under.

Fiscal sub-divisions.

Uttartir, including the Khalsa and the Zamindaris of :-

1. Chandarpur cum Padampur ..... Converted from parganas.
2. Kolabira alias Jaipur.
3. Rampur.
4. Rajpur.
5. Laira.
6. Loising cum Jujamura.
7. Kodebagga.
8. Mahida.

9. Malkharoda (Jagir or revenue-free.)

Dakhintir including the khalsa, with the khalsa parganas of Ambabhona and Lakhampur merged, and the Zamindaris of :-

1. Phuljher.
2. Burhasambar.
3. Barpalee.
4. Bhedan.
5. Bijeypur or Baisi.
6. Ghess.
7. Kharsal.
8. Paharsirgirda.
9. Mandemohol - Sirgirda.
10. Patkulunda.

How constituted.

20. The principle on which these sub-divisional boundaries were defined, was to constitute the broad stream of the Mahanadi as the line of demarcation; but this gave to the Dakhintira more extensive area, and consequently parts of it were far removed from the seat of the sub-divisional officer. While they were closer to the Sadar tahsil. The Chief Commissioner has for these reasons recently sanctioned the transfer of 40 villages from the former to the latter sub-divion, which are situated along the right bank of the Mahandi and close to it.

Main roads and communication.

21. There is not a single road in the district which deserves the name. The western road or the one towards Raipur, is closed for wheeled carriages for nearly 6 months in the year. To this road there is a branch, from a point 40 miles westwards from Sambalpur to Binka in Sonpur on the Mahanadi, over which a large quantity of country produce passes on its way for the coast; and over the same road is conveyed the imports from Orissa, but it is an unbridged and indifferent fair weather cart track.

The western road and branch.

The northern road.

22. The road next to be mentioned is the northern road towards Ranchi, also an unbridged fair weather cart-road which skirts round the Jhirghatti hills, and after passing through the Kolhirs alias Jaipur

Zamindari and over some hilly country, charges from the district. It is but little used at present, as a cart road, but extensively as a bullock-carriage road.

The south eastern road.

23. The third road is the south-eastern road to Cuttack, of which only a few miles pass through the Khalsa portion of this district, the remainder lies through the Rhenakhol feudatory-ship and the tributary mahals of Orissa. It is also a fair weather road, extensively used by Banjaras, and to a limited extent by carts, there being several unbridged streams on it, which are an impediment to wheeled carriage.

The Calcutta or eastern road.

24. There used to be a fair road direct from Sambalpur to Calcutta vid Madnapur, which may be called the eastern road, in the days when the overland mail passed over it and through Sambalpur to Bombay; but it has been entirely neglected for many years, and nearly all the bridges on it have now fallen in, and it is but little used.

The north-wester road.

25. The north-western road to Bilaspur is every year becoming a road of greater importance; but the present line, even if it be kept up as a fair weather road for wheeled carriages, runs too close along the left bank of the Mahandi river, and therefore passes over the entire drainage of the country, which could be avoided were a more northerly line selected.

The southern road.

26. Lastly, the southern road towards Sonpur is but a short line, as far as the Sambalpur district is concerned, being only about 30 miles in length, as beyond that distance it passes through the Sonpur Feudatory State and other jurisdictions, not connected with the Central Provinces. It is a very important line, however, leading as it does to Gumsur, to Ganjam, and to other parts of the Madras Coast districts. The 20 miles of this road in this district, are only open from December to June, passing over low and swampy ground, where a number of bridges and culverts are most

most necessary.

27. Having now briefly alluded to the main communications by land, leading to places beyond the limits of the district, I may mention the river Mahanadi, which is in reality the highway of the district at present, being as it is the main route by which the sea borne traffic is imported and over which the largest share of the exports for some ten months of the year passes down to the sea coast. The benefits of this highway are also shared in, to a considerable extent, by the other district of the Chhattisgarh division, from whence are sent down wheat, gram, lac, &c, in large quantities as exports, they taking in exchange Manchester goods, cocoanuts, &c. as imports, brought by the same route, boats and boatmen being entirely supplied for this traffic by the Sambalpur district.

Main highway, the Mahanadi.

28. Of made or even properly marked out district roads there are scarcely any in this district. There is a fairly demarcated line from Sambalpur to Talpattia in the northern extremity of the district, and leading on to Gangpur under RAnchi, in the valley of the Eeb river. Talpattia is an important weekly market place where articles of indigenous industry and the imports of the east, are exchanged for raw produce furnished by the northern parts beyond the limits of this district. In the Bargarh sub-division there is another district line, from Bargarh to Ambabhona, an important weekly cattle market place, about 20 miles in length, in a north-westerly direction Here also imports, particularly salt, are exchanged for country produce from the Sarangarh Feudatory State. The road is now in course of being properly demarcated and otherwise improved; but the most important work on the line, the cutting of a road through the Dumri "ghat" or pass over a spur of the Barapahar hills, making it suitable for the passage of carts, has been done by a local benefactor. There are no other district lines which might be mentioned, as the rest of the internal communications are in fact nothing else but, "from village to village," "primitive roads," wholly impassable from July to October.

District roads.

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29. Lakes and tanks. There is not a single naturally formed lake or "Jhil" in the district, nor have the people any idea of what a lake is. Wooden Tanks and water reserves are very numerous, however, especially in the Khalsa portion of the district, as the nature of the crops raised requires a large water-supply. The tanks have all been excavated, but the water reserves or Bantas, as they are called, have generally been formed by damming up small streams or shallows in the surface of a plain, by raising high embankments on one or two sides, according to the nature of the country, and by deepening the bed of the surface to be drained. In this manner large quantities of water are stored, and there are very few villages which do not posses their tanks and Bantas, sometimes a dozen of them. The same tanks and bantas furnish water for domestic purposes as well, the use of well water, in any shape, being contrary to the notions and habits of the people. There are in the Khalsa alone 2,782 tanks and bantas.

30. Fort and antiquities. Although the Chouhan Rajput Rajas, who profess to have established Sambalpur, claim a very ancient decent, they have left nothing behind them to denote the landmarks of time in their history, in the shape of forts and other antiquities. There has been a fort at Sambalpur, but from the fragments of the wall which are now only left in one or two places, it appears to have been only a recent structure. Similar fragments are to be seen at Chandarpur, which used to be the summer residence of some of the earlier Rajas. The only place where there is a fort, the walls of which are still standing, is Phuljhar, built by the Gonds and now overrun with tree jungle inside and out. It has not been occupied since the Pindari period, when it was abandoned by the Phuljhar Rajas for a place which they considered of greater security, and that was the plateau on the Sisumal hill, already alluded to, where a sort of rude fort was built, but it has also now been abandoned for half a century. In Sambalpur itself there are a number of temples, the principal one being the Burhasapura, dedicated to Jagganath, but none of them are of any great age or possess any architectural

excellence of carvings. There are the remains of a temple in the Chandarpur Zamindari, not far from Saleh in Bilaspur, of the time of the Ratanpur Rajas. On most of the carved stones of this temple there are inscriptions, but they are very much mutilated now, and no sense can be made out of the fragments.

Narsinghanath.

31. Among the antiquities may also be mentioned an old temple at the foot of one of the peaks of the Gandhamardan hills, already alluded to, where a pool of water is collected from a sort of water-fall or stream, which issuing from the summit of the hill comes tumbling down through large boulders. The name of the place is Narsinghanath or Narrampapa, which is visited by many pilgrims who come to bathe in this pool of sacred water. The neighbourhood is covered with orange and lime trees, and the ground being damp, offers a cool, secluded and shady spot for weary pilgrims to rest in during the hot weather.

Fairs and markets.

32. There is no district perhaps in the Central Provinces where fewer fairs are held. At present but one fair deserving the name is held annually at Huma on the Mahanadi, some 12 miles south of Sambalpur, which attracts a limited number of people. At this place there is a temple, dedicated to Mahadeo, and there are some sacred fish in the river, so during the Shivaratri festival, which occurs in February, a fair is held, which is principally a religious, gathering, but it is attended by some ten or twelve thousand people, and large quantities of cloth goods, metals &c. are brought for sale here, the fair lasting for 2 or 3 days. Another small fair is held during March and April at the point of junction of the Reb and Bhedan rivers in the Rampur zamindari, in honor of Ramchandi Devi, which barely lasts two days, and attracts a small gathering of devotees and some merchandize. But the weekly markets which are held at a great many points and in every direction, are among the most useful institutions of the district; there is however only one old established weekly cattle market to which any number of cattle are attracted, and that is at Bhagta

in the Ambabhona parganna of the Daldhintir Tahsili. The comparatively newly established Sunday market at Sambalpur is also becoming a place to which horned cattle, &c., are now brought for sale to a limited extent. At the other weekly markets, principally agricultural and forest produce, of the latter such as iron, lac, gums, grasses and fibres, are brought for sale by the village people, who in return purchase cloths and metal goods, salt, &c., supplied principally by traders from the town and those residing in the larger sort of villages in the interior or in parts adjacent to, on the different days of the week :-

it. The following is a list of the places where weekly markets are held

TAHSILI SAMBALPUR.

Name of market village		Khalsa.	day of the week when held.
1. Sambalpur	....		Sunday.
2. Kutripali	....		
3. Manesar	....		Monday.
4. Bhatthia Remda	....		
5. Kherwal	....		Tuesday.
6. Kenapali	....		
7. Laira	....		
8. Sapnai	....		Wednesday.
9. Sasan	....		
10. Urda	....		Thursday.
11. Baghra	....		
12. Puttiapali	....		Friday.
13. Ramolla	....		
14. Lappanga	....		
15. Bhilampur	.....		
16. Kattarbagga	....		Saturday.
17. Talpattia	....		
18. Dhama	....		
19. Jhursugra	....		
20. Charpali	....		
		ZAMINDAR.	
21. Kodabagga	....		Sunday.
22. Luruma (Kolbira)	....		
23. Kodaled (Rampur)	....		
24. Dhulunda (Padampur)			

Name of market village	Day of the week when held
25. Chandarpur.	
26. Rampur	Monday.
27. Kolabira.	
28. Padampur	
29. Bundia (Rampur).	
30. Sapas (in Chandarpur)	Tuesday.
31. Arbhar (do.)	
32. Laikra (Kolabirra)....	Wednesday.
33. Pandrosan (Chandarpur)	
34. Malkhorada	
35. Salebana (Chandarpur)	
36. Koisio @ do.)	Friday.
37. Dhurkote (do.)	
38. Rengali (Pudampur)	
39. Dabhra (in Chandarpur)	Saturday.

TAHSILI BARGARH.

Khalsa.

40. Remunda.	
41. Urdana	Sunday.
42. Lakhanpur.	
43. Atabira.	
44. Bhatli.	Monday.
45. Jharri.	
46. Rusra.	
47. Kantapali.	Tuesday.
48. Kharmunda	
49. Kadobhal.	
50. Chakarkend.	Wednesday.
51. Kumhari.	
52. Lastalla.	
53. Bhugta.	Thursday.
54. Chakli.	Friday.
55. Bargarh	

Name of market village.	Day of the week when held.
56. Turenn.	
57. Sohella.	
58. Laumunda.	Saturday.
59. Byjamunda.	
60. Mulwar.	
ZAMINDARI.	
61. Kootipali (Bijeypur)	
62. Mohda (Phuljher)	
63. Sanidmal (Barhasambar)	Sunday.
64. Lakmara (do.)	
65. Barpali.	
66. Bastipali (Phuljher)	
67. Gontek (do)	Monday.
68. Jamloi (Barhasambar)	
69. Tumgaon (Puljher)	Tuesday.
70. Salpadar (Bijeypur)	
71. Phuljher.	
72. Baloda (Phuljher)	Wednesday.
73. Gyaslat (Barhasambar)	
74. Kansingha (do)	
75. Daita (Durhasambar)	Thursday.
76. Satlama (Barpaili.)	Friday.
77. Noapara (Barhasambar)	
78. Kisindi (Phuljher)	
79. Basan (do.)	
80. Lambar (do.)	Saturday.
81. Bhedan.	
82. Sidhra (Ghes)	
83. Padampur (Barhasambar)	
84. Paharsirgirda	

33. Chief cities and manufactures.

Tassar, cotton cloth and bell-metal.

The chief cities in the district, exclusive of Sambalpur, are in the Dakhintir, Barpali and Remanda and in the Uttartir, Laira, Rampella, Chandarpur and Padampur. In all these places, weavers of

Tassar-silk cloth and of the better descriptions of cotton cloth, suitable for natives, largely reside; and in most of them, manufacturers of bell-metal and brass utensils too. In the town of Sambalpur also, there are a number of the same class of weavers, as also brasiers. All three articles enter largely into the export trade of the district, especially by being taken from market to market. The country-made cloths still maintain their reputation for excellence ~~fam~~ on durability and colour against all foreign importations when the raw material is entierly indigenous. Cotton goods of English manufacture, though resembling the colour and finish of the indigenous article, cannot compare with it in wear, in the permanency and brilliency of the dye or the durability of the fibre.

34. Superior Tassar silk where made.

Tassar-silk cloth, locally known as "koea" and "matha" has not yet been commenced to be fabricated out of something else to resemble the genuine stuff, and as a superior description of it is manufactured in this district, there is an ever increasing demand, so that there are in fact more orders and advances given for Tassar-silk cloth to the manufacturers than they can turn out in a season, the more especially as good Tassar-silk cloth can only be made during the cold weather, from October to March. That which is made during the hot and rainy seasons is of an inferior description, as the silk breaks very often in the weaving and becomes discoloured also.

35. Smaller manufacturing places.

There are several other villages in the district in which weavers of both descriptions of cloth reside and carry on their trade, as Ambabhona, Bargarh and Bhatli in the Dakhintir; and Dhama and Lappanga in the Uttartir. Similarly there are other villages in which large quantities of bell-metal and brass utensils, lamps, &c., are manufactured, as Kultr-tukra, Kadobahal and Kantapali in the Dakhintir.

36. Iron manufactures.

Another article of manufature is iron, which is turned out of a superior description, with a very simple apparatus, and is principally manufactured in the village of Kattarbagga

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and its hamlets, and in the Rampur Zamindari generally in the Uttartir; also in the Barapahar hills of the Dakhintir tahsili, where there are large colonies of migraatory iron manufacturers. Likewise in the Phulijher and Bashasambar zamindaris of this tahsili it is manufactured and worked up into agricultural implements and articles of domestic use. Large quantities of the iron, manufatured form the crude ore, so extensively found in this district and shaped into "pig iron", are exported by land and by water as an article of trade, at considerable profit to the exporters. In the Barapahars alone a large number of furcaces are constantly at work, the smelting fuel being prepared from the finest discreiption of Sargi, also called the Rengal, (Shorea robusta) tree, which the forest produces, and here it abounds. As Mr. Ball of the Geological Survey had seen some of those colonies during his visit to the Baraphar hills, he decribes their furnaces in Record No. 4 of 1875 of the Geological Survey.

> "The furnaces are somewhat smaller than the largest which are used in Bengal; they are furnished with a tray above, in which a quantity of mixed ore and charcoal is kept, which can be raked into the top of the furnace by the person working the bellows without other assistance. This, of course, is a great saving of labour as compared with the usual system which involves the presence of a second person to feed the furnace."

The people who smelt the ore and make the "bloom" also work it into iron for the market, but seldom do more; they are the Lohars. Another class called Ghantras are the people who make iron implements of husbandry, iron pans, spoons, &c.; and there is a third calss of workers in iron, called Khatis, who do the finer descriptions of work, as making locks, hinges, screws, &c.

CHAPTER II.

SETTLEMENT.

Measurement and Appraisement.

37. To quote from a Memorandum recorded under the

No measurements before 1862-63.

orders of the Chief Commissioner, by the late Major H.B. Impey, at that time Deputy Commissioner of this district, on the 30th June 1862 :-

"(1). The district of Sambalpur was first brought under Settlement in the year 1860, not upon any certain knowledge of the value of its component lands, but only on the imperfect and unsatisfactory data contained in the records of the late Raja, Narain Sigha.

"(2). The Settlement was for a term of three years; on expiration it was renewed, at a slight enhancement in some villages for five years, ending in 1858.

"(3). Since then, no fresh arrangements have been made. Tenures and occupancies have simply run on from year to year, on the old unrenewed Pattas, pending a long contemplated general Revenue survey and Settlement."

This was written by the Deputy Commissioner shortly after this district passed from the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, to that of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, where measurement, survey and settlement operations were in active progress in nearly every district; the Chief Commissioner, therefore, lost no time in extending the same to this newly acquired district also.

Commencement of measurement operations; demarcation.

38. With the field season of 1862-63, then the usual measurement operations for a regular Revenue Settlement were commenced, under the immediate supervision of an Extra-Assistant Commissioner, who was allowed the usual subordinate staff of Amins, &c. There were no Patwaris or village accountants to assist in the work, as the institution of Patwaris is quite unknown here. The first operation was the demarcation of village boundaries. This work was not performed in a satisfactory manner, owing to the ignorance of the subordinate agency employed, as a large number of so-called hamlets or pallis were unnecessarily demarcated as separate villages, when in fact they were merely the site sites of a few detached houses of cultivators, who for the

sake of convenience had squatted in some part of the village area so as tobe near their own holdings. In this manner the work of demarcation of boundaries was considerably multiplied. To have rectified this subsequently would have entailed further expense; matters were therefore allowed to stand as they had been originally carried out.

39. Thakbast, i.e demarcation of boundary survey maps.

Village boundaries having been demarcated, the preparations of boundary survey or Thakbast maps was commenced; but as all the boundary disputes which were found to exist, had not previously been disposed of, many of the maps remained with incompleted gaps, which were never filled in afterwards, owing to the sudden cessation of Settlement operations early in 1864.

40. Measurement operations suspended early in 1864.

Up to the end of February 1864, the demarcation of village boundaries had nearly been completed through-out the khalsa, and 503 boundary survey or Thakbast maps, too, had been prepared, when orders were received from the Settlement Commissioner, under instructions from the Chief Commissioner, to the Effect "that Settlement "operations in the Sambalpur district are for the present to be confined to decision of proprietary right cases and demarcation of boundaries." The reason for this is to be found in the correspondence noted in the margin, namely that a field measurement was very distasteful to the people at the time, and as the country was just then settling down after the arrest and banishment of the rebel Surandar Sai, and his adherents, it was considered advisable to suspend detailed Settlement operations.

Secretary to Chief Commissioner, to Commissioner, Chhattisgah Division, No.6176 Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, No.250., with enclosure from Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur No.148, dated 29th January 1864.

The preparation of Thakbast maps, however, went on to the end of May 1864, by which time 543 were completed, but no use was made of these afterwards, owing to a different system of Settlement having later on been introduced here under the orders of the Government of India.

41. Boundary marks only earthen mounds.

With but few exceptions, the boundary marks put up by the Amins in 1862-63 and 1863-64, consist simple of earthen mounds, under which charcoal hey been buried, and the tri-junction platforms are also of earth. Stone boundary marks have been sparingly used, and there are no tri-junction masonry platforms at all. The substitution of earthen mounds and platforms, for stone and masonry respectively, was ordered in the correspondence quoted in the margin, the reason being that stone and mansonry structures were found to be very expensive. Earthen mounds, however, can so easily be removed, as they frequently have been in this district; and as there are no boundary maps to refer to, difficulties often arise.

Secretary to Chief Commissioner, to Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, No.1717, dated 31st December 1862.

Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur, to Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, No. 112, dated 9th March 1863.

Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, to Secretary to Chief Commissioner, No.453, dated 10th March 1863.

Assistant Secretary to Chief Commissioner, to Commissioner, Chattisgarh Division C-243, dated 28th March 1863

42. Resuscitation of Settlement operations on different principles.

Measurement operations then remained in abeyance from May 1864, and nothing further was said or done in the matter until the Settlement Officer submitted his annual report of 1865-66, when he made a suggestion that "it would be more" to the advantage of Government and one agreeable to the people if a ten or twelve years Settlement were made on more simple principles than those involved in the regualr Settlement. A rough survey might be made of each village, showing the area not in fields, but merely the general nature and quantity of each kind of land, a rate being determined for each kind and the whole assessed on a general average.

After this a long correspondence took palce between the Settlement Officer and the Settlement Commissioner, which begining in May 1866 went on to September 1867, and ultimately on its being submitted for the orders of the Chief Commissioner,

elicited the following remarks in November 1867 :-

"The Officiating Chief Commissioner is not altogether satisfied with the measures made by Captain Cumberlege. He thinks it highly desirable that Mr. Chisholm's opinion should be obtained before definite orders are issued." That officer accordingly visited the district and duly submitted his report, with proposals on the description of settlement which he considered most appropriate for this district, which report having been referred to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, and the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur, a further correspondence ensued, which was followed by a personal visit of the Chief Commissioner sent to Sambalpur under orders from the Supreme Government, and then the following plan of operations was proposed by the Chief Commissioner.

"The manner in which the assessment will be made, will be by 'Puris'. The number of 'Puris' sown in each village will enable the Settlement officer to judge roughly of the area under cultivation. The two things to guard against, are the variations in the size of the 'Puris' and inaccurate statements regarding the number of Puris sown. But this is a matter which requires care and personal supervision and in Settlement ope ations every where similar difficulties are met with."

"No boundary and field survey will be attempted, but a khasrah or register of fields will be prepared. This will show for each field the name of and particulars regarding the cultivator, the amount of land according to seed measure, and the quality of the land, and the nature of crop raised; remarks being added showing the amount of irrigation, the number of wells &c."

"This and similar statements showing the area held by each ryot, the amount paid by him as rent, the number of ploughs, &c. will enable the Settlement officer to fix the assessment on the village."

43. The Chief Commissioner's proposals were all sanctioned by the Government of India in

Government sanction the new principle of Settlement,

Secretary's letter, Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, No. 425, dated 1st May 1872. In anticipation of this sanction, however, from the latter end of February 1871, a small establishment had been entertained, and went to work, without opposition on the part of any one, preparing the village khasrahs or registers of fields; cultivated and fallow, comprised within the village area, as well as the common grazing lands, sugarcane plantations, mangoe groves, vegetable gardens, &c., their size or area being entered according to their appraised seed capacity, that is to say, how much seed rice being the standard for every thing, could be sown in the fields concerned, this being the only description of land measure known to the people, a Bigha or acre not being understood. The standard seed measure is a Lakhmi Parsad Tambi, originally prescribed by the late ruler of the country for receiving rent in kind from village granted as temple endowments, and consists of :-

4 Mana = 1 Tambi = 3½ Lbs. or 1⅛ seers of Rs. 80.

~~Rs. 80~~.20 Tambis = 1 Khandi = 76 Lbs. or 35 Seers of Rs. 80.

8 Khandis = 1 Puri = 560 Lbs. or 7 maunds of Rs. 80. But in the villages generally, the "Bhuti Tambi" or the one according to which farm labourers are paid their wages in kind, is in use, which is exactly one quarter less than the standard Tambi, so that in making the appraisement entries in the Khasrahs, this had to be duly adjusted. Again, there are villages, particularly in the Dakhintir tahsili, in which the seed Puri is larger even that the Lakhmi Parsad Tambi Puri, and is generally called a "Bandha" Puri, ~~Lakhmi Parsad Tambi Puri, and is generally called a "Bandha" Puri~~, which is a quarter more than the Lakhmi Parsad, so here also the appraisement had to be adjusted, that is to say, on the one hand the number of Bhuti Tambi Puris appraised had to be lessened by one-quarter, and on the other, the "Bandha" Puris had to be increased in the same proportion, and thus a Puri of equal size, by Lakhmi Parsad Tambi, was adopted for appraisement purposes throughout the district, and the appraisement of the local apprasers was adjusted accordingly.

44. Appraisement of village areas completed in July 1873.

Although the appraisement of fields commenced in February, 1871, it was not until the field season of 1872-73 that the work made any head, for want of an officer freed from other work to supervise the operation, which was then brought to a close in July 1873.

45. Khationi of appraisement, Khasrahs completed in September 1873.

Along with the khasrahs of appaisement, the khationis or their abstmcts were prepared, being completed by the end of September 1873.

46. Mode of conducting appraisement.

The mode of conducting the appraisement was this. Amins were sent out in batches of ten or twelve in each direction, and were told off to different clusters of villages forming convenient circles. The appraisement was made by local "Panches" of experts taken form villages in the neighbourhood, men who are constantly employed on such work, some being Gaontyas, some intelligent ryots, four or five such men forming the appraisement aids, called in by the Amin, the village Gaontya, the Jhaker, and the ryots interested being generally present at the time in the fields, to be appraised, the Amin's duty being to enter in the Khasrah the appraisement arrived at by the majority of the appraisers. The same opportunity was taken by the Amin for filling in the other columns of the Khasrah and for noting in the column of remarks all disputes about occupancy tenure, trees growing on the field, their ownership, or who enjoyed the produce, if ownerless, &c.

47. How appraisements were tested and corrected.

As soon as the Amin completed the khasrah, he made out the khationi, and then sent them on to the Peshkar of his circle, a Peshkar or head Amin being put over 5 or 6 Amins, who then visited the village and tested the accuracy of the entries made by the Amin in the khasrah, particularly those relating to areas of fields, calling in assistance, for that purpose, of a fresh set of appraisers. If the appraisement appeared tobe a fair one, after going over a large percentage of the khasrah entries, the

papers were sent on by him to the Munserim, who was appointed over every three or four Peshkars, who in his turn also visited each village, and tested the khasrah entries again, besides collecting other useful information, to be utilised afterwards such as the number of "nuta" or shares of the ryoti land existing in the village, the rent value of each "nut," the quantity of seed admitted to be sown in each "nut," the proportion of different kinds of soil in each, the average out-turn of each crop in each kind, &c.,and then sent on the papare to the Settlement Superintendent. Should, however, the Peshkars report have been unfavorable, regarding the area, appraisement entries of the khasrah, the Munserim would make a more minute examination; which might might result in the original appraisement being maintained or modified, or a fresh appraisement, by another Amin and other appraisers, being effected.

48. Testing of appraisements by Settlement Superintendent.

During his tour, the Settlement Superintendent went over the khasrah entries of a number of villages, and more minutely tested others where complaints happened tohave been made that the appraisement had not been properly effected. After the office of Superintendent was abolished this duty devolved upon the Settlement Officer.

49. Want of measurements weakest point in the Settlement.

Such then were the measures taken and and checks adopted for arriving at a correct appraisement of the assessable area, to take the place of a regular measurement, for effecting a revenue settlement;summary though it be for a period of twelve years, a period sufficiently long to have perhaps suggested the making of a regular settlement, as the want of a measurement, as a proper basis, has been the weakest point of the system of settlement introduced; but as a measurement was dispensed with, after full consideration of the subject, suffice it to say here that the want of one has affected every stage of the settlement, and will it is feared continue to do so hereafter also, in all matters connected with it, which may come before the District courts;

50. In a district in which no Patwaris exist, a

Difficulty in training Amins and Peshkars.

class of men who so easily fall into the way of entering any thing connected with land in every description of figured statements put into their hands, the difficulties were not quite insignificant in the training of a working staff of Amins for filling in the appraisement kharahs and compiling the khationis, especially as no trained Munserims and Peshkars, so easily procurable in other districts, were to be found here, so that the work of instructing the Settlement staff also, devolved upon the supervising Officer.

Appraisement first finished in the Uttartir, then Dakhintir.

51. From the utter ignorance of the Amins of all Settlement work when first taken on, the villages of the Uttartir tahsili, as being more under the eye of the Settlement Officer, then not able to leave Head-quarters, were first selected for appraisement, and they were completed the earliest; and after the work in that tahsili nearly came to a close, operations were extended to the Dakhintir tahsili. As the Amins finished the work in their respective circles, they went into the station for completing the papers required for assessment purposes, which will be discussed in the next section.

II.— Assessment in Khalsa and Agriculture.

Retrospect of former orders.

52. Although perhaps it will now serve no useful purpose, since the latest orders of Government on the subject of assessment have been made so explicit, yet as a retrospect of what was originally, and subsequently, contemplated to be done, will give an idea of the manner in which people's minds were exercised in this matter from time to time.

Major Impey's plan of assessment.

53. Major Impey, who was going to make the Settlement, submitted the following propositions :-

" It remains for me now to submit my suggestions onthe

process to be adopted inthe revenue survey, and next, the description and extent of malikana that should be allotted to the " Gaontyas, Landholders. "

" On arriving at a village the first thing to be done would be defining and demarcating the bounds of its lands and those of its hamlets. This done, separating the waste grounds; attention whouldbe given to soil, site and local advantages as affecting returns of produce in different villages."

" A survey should then be made of the separate lands comprising the area of cultivation. There are generally there sorts in each village."

" The revenue of the villages is drawn from the rice fields only. These are of three sorts. * * *. Included in the rice lands are the service lands, held revenue free, of the Gaontya (called Bhogra) Negi, Jhakar and Ganda. All the distributions of these should be separately valued, as it will be important to ascertain what portion of the revenue has hitherto been absorbed by the Gaontya and each village servant, in view that the future shares of these shall be adjusted (in a manner hereafter to be shown.)".

" It will be apparent that according as a village is wanting of shounds inthese supplementary, hitherto non-paying lands (sugar-cane and cotton lands), so will the value of the rice land decrease or increase."

" The variation is already a recognized feature in the revenu incidence in the district, but it is one that most probably has not had a just share of consideration."

" I would propose tomeet it by the following expedient."

" I would lump the valuation of all the lands (excluding of course the waste) rice, barchha and sat, and require malguzari on the whole. By this plan villages not enjoying any or having a smaller proportion of supplementry lands would be assessed at a fair rate. The

lump value of a village being calculated, it will remain to make deductions for service individuals, the Gaontya, Negi, Jhakar and Ganda."

" The malikana of the first and chakri of the remainder should be fixed at a certain percentage on the revenue. This percentage I would desire to remain an open question till I shall return to Sambalpur and ascertain the average profits each of the above named has hitherto enjoyed."

* * *

" But I would strongly recommend that the Gontya and Jhakar (village priest) be not deprived of any portion of their plots. The Bhogra system is one of such long establishment that its disturbance would I am sure give universal dissatisfaction."

" Yet it will be necessary to restrict or advance their profits on these service lands to the figure of the percentage which shall be fixed on the revenue for them. This could be easily done by requiring them, where the value exceeds the rates of permentage, to make good the different in coin, and where the value may be less, for the Government to make up similarly the deficit."

" In conclusion, I would venture to suggest that the Settlement should be for a term of nineteen (19) years, that during that period the Gaontyas be at liberty to clear for their own profit all waste and jungle tracts included in the village area, on the understanding that the whole of such clearances shall lapse to the revenue-paying land at the next Settlement, with of course a reservation to them of additional percentage on the value of such resumption."

54. Chief Commissioner orders on Major Impey's suggestions.

The orders of the Chief Commissioner on the foregoing propositions were conveyed in the Secretary's letter No. 385, dated 2nd July 1862, to the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division, and stated that :-

" The principles of the Settlement therin recommended by Major Impey have the Officiating Chief Commisioner's general approval. * * *

" At the field measurement attention should be given to the crops in the different qualties and classes of soils and land."

" The Officiating Chief Commissioner considers that Major Impey has misapplied the terms "survey" and 'valuation' in his paragraph on the named description of lands and rice fields. The work survey must be taken to mean field measurement * * and in the place of 'valuation' it should be enquiry, meansurement and record of all local particulars. 'Valuation' is a final proceeding to be made by the Settlement officer alone. * * Valuation is in fact the assessment based on data furnished by the Survey establishment conducting the field measurement." * * * *

" The malikana and chakri arrangements as recommended by Major Impey without disturbing previous land tenures, is a fair and reasonable one" * * *

" It would be advisable in cases where waste lands should appear very valuable, that some small rate of revenue should be fixed in the event of such being brought into cultivation."

55. Colonel Cumberlege's plan of assessment; first mention of half asset settlement.

Four years later, Major Impey's successor reported that " I also feel certain that there will no longer be that determined opposition on the part of the landholders to a new settlement, as I have taken the greatest trouble to impress upon them that it will be a fair and equitable one, and that they will in most instances derive more advantages under it than they even did under the lose and uncertain system pursued by the Native government."

" To effect a good regular settlement in this district, will I think, however, be a very difficult undertaking, and I am by no means certain that under existing circumstances, the elaborate and expensive system in force would answer. At present the Gountya is remunerated by an assignment of Bhogra service land * * * the extent and value of this land is supposed to be in proportion to the extent and value of the ryoti land, but it is not so really, as the proportion varies in nearly every village; in some villages I believe the bhogra even exceeds the ryoti land, while in others it is only one-third or one-fourth and even less."

* * * *

" When the Bhogra system is abolished, the tenures will be all completely change, for it may be expected that when the whole of the lands have been assessed, the rates fixed on each description, and the jama determined according to the assets, the Gountyas will have to give up a portion of the Bhogra land in favor of the ryots; the high land also which is now cultivated free, will have to be assessed likewise, in short there will be a complete revolution." * *

" Having ascertained the assets of the village after deducting the usual cesses &c., it might be offered to the Gountya at the usual jama of one-half of the assets; it would be for him then, if he accepted the terms, to distribute the surplus Bhogra and hitherto unassessed land to the best advantage, the separate holdings of the ryots being recorded, as they took the land up."

Bhogra system proposed to be broken up, and half asset settlement substituted.

56. " In 1862 Major Impey, it will be remembered, proposed to maintain the Bhogra system, but had not then come to any conclusion as to the percentage it should bear to the revenue of the village, and this was approved by the Chief Commissioner; yet four years later it is said "when the Bhogra system is abolished," the village "might be offered to the Gountya at the usual jama of one-half the assets." There is nothing on

record between the date on which the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the Bhogra system being maintained, and the date on which the Settlement officer wrote that it would be abolished, and the village offered to the Gaontya at the usual jam of one-half the assets. There is not a word about a "jama of one-half the assets" in Major Impey's propositions of 1862 which received the Chief Commissioner's sanction; nor is there anything in his long Memorandum which had already been alluded to and quoted from, to conclude that he contemplated fixing a "jama of one-half the assets" in any village. The only explanation can be this; the Chief Commissioner after he passed orders on Major Impey's Memorandum, visited Sambalpur, and in an open Darbar it is asserted, told the people that they were to have a similar settlement to that being made in other districts, but this had reference no doubt more to the question of rights (to be explained elsewhere) than to the mode of assessment to be effected; but Major Impey having died after the Chief Commissioner's visit to the district, and Colonel (then Captain) Chamberlege, his successor, having come from a district where a settlement on the half assets principle was in progress, and hearing that the Chief Commissioner had promised the people a settlement here also of the same kind as was being made in other districts, came to the conclusion that it of course also included an assessment which gave "the usual jama of one-half the assets". This was mentioned in a communication to the Settlement Commissioner, but appears to have been passed unnoticed, as the Settlement Commissioner merely said in reply to the Settlement officer.—

> "The Chief Commissioner, in his Secretary's No. 385, dated 2nd July 1868, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, approved of Major Impey's proposed 'Malikana" and "chakri" arrangement, * * do you think you will be able to carry out this arrangement, and what percentage on the revenue would you propose ?"

57. The Settlement officer then replied, that he had never seen the documents alluded to, which however it should be stated, did exist

in his office; however, the Settlement Commissioner sent the original documents to the Settlement officer, and again called for the information he had requested, but the Settlement officer's reply show that he saw no difficulty in breaking up the Bhogra system- indeed could not see how it could be maintained- and introducing the jama based on half the assets. The Settlement officer had been nearly three years in the district, when the last letter of his to the Settlement Commissioner was addressed, and during all this period he and every one else in the district would appear to have fully believed that no other than the half asset principle of settlement would be effected whenever it were made.

Colonel Cumberlege had not seen Major Impey's Memo. When he wrote about abolition of Bhogra.

58. Orders of Chief Commissioner Solicited

At this stage the correspondence was submitted by the Settlement Commissioner to the Chief Commissioner for orders, along with certain suggestions which may be abridged thus :-

"The manner in which the Bhogra system hitherto in force shall be treated in future. This is a very difficult question, and after carefully considering it in all its bearings, I incline to Captain Cumberlege's opinion, that this system cannot remain in force, without prejudice to the interests, both of Government and the people generally. * * *
I think some such plan as that suggested by Captain Cumberlege must be adopted."

"The assessment will, I presume, be made on what is generally known as the half asset principle, but the precise mode of fixing the jama will depend on the continuance or otherwise of the Bhogra system."

59. Chief Commissioner inclined to a measurement.

The Chief Commissioner in replying to the Settlement Commissioner, stated :-

"The peculiarity which is the main difficulty, is the Bhogra tenure." * * * *

"There remains then the Bhogra tenure, which appears to consist in this, that the Gaontya who engaged to pay the revenue of a village distributed the jama he had to pay over the whole body of his tenants, while he retained for himself a home farm (Seer of Jot Malgumeri), the extent and value of which varied in every case according to the good fortune or power of the Gaontya. The tenants thus paid the whole of the Government revenue, and the Gaontya had his home farm revenue-free. Captain Cumberlege now puts the questions, whether the assessment of Sambalpur is to be revised on the half asset principle, or whether the Bhogra system is to be retained."

"It seems to the Chief Commissioner that * * * we must have a regular field measurement before the assessment can be revised * * * When a field measurement has been made, both the proprietors and the Settlement department will be able to decide whether a half asset assessment or a Bhogra tenured assessment is best for the country."

60. Colonel Cumberlege adheres to his own views.

A further reference to the Settlement officer only elicited the reply that "there are only two plans to be "followed viz., either to assess the whole of "the lands, Bhogra, Birti, Ryoti &c., and to "offer the village to the Gaontya at half the assets, or to estimate "the value of all the lands, allowing the Gaontya, if he prefers to be "remunerated in land, as much of his Bhogra as may be equivalent "to what he would enjoy on the half asset principle."

61. Settlement Commissioner called on Colonel Cumberlege for practical illustration of his plan.

The Settlement Commissioner then called upon the Settlement officer to give a practical illustration of his proposed plan of assessment, and requested him to submit a general assessment statement of five villages, with specimen of the proposed documents to form the Settlement Misl; but the

Settlement officer failed to satisfy the Settlement Commissioner in both respects, and this was the reason of Mr. Chisholm's deputation to the district, as has already been alluded to in para. 42.

62. Government orders regarding assessment.

With their hopes, buoyed up all these years in the expectation of settlement on the half asset principle, to which their brethren in the khalsa pargana of Bhathia and Sarsuan, transferred from this to the neighbouring district of Bilaspur, had some time before been admitted without any known difficulty, although the same Bhogra system prevailed in those tracts also to the full benefits of the half asset principle assessment; the outcome of the long pending question however was as follows, after a great deal of further correspondence had passed on the subject, carrying on the discussion to the year 1872 :-

> "The Settlement will be made Mauzawar, or for each village, and the Settlement will be made with the Gaontya, who will be responsible for the Government revenue."
>
> * * * * *
>
> "All Bhogra land in excess (of one-fourth of the assessment of the village) of this will be assessed and have to pay land revenue, but in every other respect it will belong to the Gaontya in the same way as the Bhogra land held revenue-free."
>
> * * * "The Government revenue will be assessed on their (ryots) several holdings."

(From Secretary to Chief Commissioner, to Secretary to Government of India, No. 537-40, dated 26th February 1873.)

63. Inspection of villages by Settlement officer.

While the Amins were engaged in preparing lists of fields or khasras, by appraisement, during the months of March, April, May and part of June 1872 the bulk of the villages of Uttartir tahsili were inspected by the Settlement officer, village by village, and remarks regarding each recorded in a

Note-book, showing the nature of the soil, condition of the people, style of agriculture, agricultural resources and appliances, prevailing rates of assessment on soils, nature and quality of crops, &c. The remaining villages of this tahsili were inspected during November and December 1872. During the season of 1872-73 the villages of Dakhintir Tahsili were similarly inspected, the inspection being brought to a close by the middle of June 1873. The same opportunity in both seasons was taken for visiting the Zamindari estates, but in them the inspection was confined to tracts, merely by marching through the Zamindaris, and did not extend to a village by village inspection.

This in two seasons every village and every Zamindari in the District was inspected, except the vilages of the Jhankarpur cum Padampur Zamindari, which were inspected early in 1874, in the same way as the khalsa villages were inspected.

64. Collating data for Assessment.

As soon as the village khasras of the Uttartir tahsili were completed a portion of the Establishment was employed in preparing assessment statistics, collated from the khasras, and the same plan was adopted in dealing with the other or Dakhintir tahsili as soon as the khasras were sent in.

65. Assessments made and sent for sanction.

The Uttartir assessments were originally completed in February 1874 and were submitted for the sanction of the Chief Commissioner; but neither the mode of assessment nor the form of General assessment Statement being approved of, they were returned for revision; were again submitted in August, 1874, and were a second time sent back for revision, being eventually sanctioned in May 1875. The Dakhintir assessments were completed and submitted in June 1875, receiving the sanction of the Chief Commissioner in August of that year. Some of these assessments, however, were considered too high, and there were complaints about them, so with the permission of the Chief Commissioner, after revising the villages concerned, revised assessments were

Commissioner in May following. The relief granted on these villages, however, was nearly compensated for by increase of assessment on excess Bhogra lands, &c., after the attestation of holdings.

66. Uniformity of soil in the district—Names of soils.

In point of fact the soil in this district does not vary much in different parts. It is more the situation of a field than the nature of the soil which makes the difference in its productiveness.' The well recognised main divisions of the soil, form the situation point of view, are four in number, namely :—

1st class, Bahal or irrigated land.
2nd class, Berna or hollow land.
3rd class, Mal or flat surfaced land.
4th class, At or high land.

The Bahal lands are (1) those over which the drainage of the country passes, or (2) which can be irrigated from tanks, the latter description being the more valuable.

The Berna is only of one description, being hollows in wich the rain-water lodges, and in which the moisture continues much longer than it does in flat surface lands.

Mal land is ordinary, even-surfaced land, which cannot be irrigated from tanks, and is therefore entirely rain depending.

The fourth class, At land, also called Goda, includes every thing not falling under the other three descriptions, as mounds, slopes of river banks, hill sides, the outer margin of a dell, and the like. The three first named descriptions are essentially rice producing lands, while inthe fourth the pulses, oilseeds and cotton are generally grown, but very little rice.

67. Superior value of land in villages with many tanks.

In a principally rice-producing country, the lands of a village which possess a large number of tanks are of course much more

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valuable, though the actual quality of the soil may happen to be somewhat inferior, that of its neighbour, in which the means of artificial irrigation are more limited; but the excavation of a numberof tanks means the expenditure of a large capital for the good of the community, which every Gaontya has not at heart, or has not the means if he has the heart; or may be that the situation of the village is unfavourable for artificial irrigation works- Still, the nature of the soil has a good deal to do with the yield of the crops, thus among Bahal lands, the sort called Barmutta, which possesses a good mixture of free black soil and sand, is considered a good rice soil; while Chhuhria or a brackish soil, which becomes very boggy and continues so, is a superior rice-producing soil; whereas Khalia, possessing a mixture of stickly black and sandy soil, which hardens with the leastheat and therefore stunts the rice plants, is an inferior rice soil; and worse than all is " Ghannabali " or very sandy soil, needing a great deal of mositure before it will produce an average crop. Berna land is classed with Bahal in regard to soil. In Mal land there are four varieties, the Rangmatia or reddish coloured soil, a fair one for rice; Balusaria or sandy soil, not very productive Kuguria or pebbly soil, yeilding a thin crop; and Kudha, an unproductive soil even when manured. At land may be anything, as already been remarked, but the best sort is Ruguria, suited for cotton and oilseeds, and the worst is "Panchguria," almost barren soil, having only a thin layer of earth over bed of stone.

68. Village site drainage into rice fields.

Any of the first three descriptions of soil named in the foregoing paragraph might be considerably enriched if it so happened that the village site drainage passed over it, and for this reason the villag site is so chosen that all the house sweepings, & c., which accumulate round the village in the cold and hot weathers may be washed down to the rice fields in the rains, which are then styled "Khari" lands, and are in fact the choice bits in the village.

69. Kachar, &c., lands.

Besides the four ordinary descriptions of land, there is the Kachar or low land lying

along the banks of streams, which are suited for castor-oil plantations; and "Kud" (island) land, on which a thick layer of decayed vegetable matter silt settles during the monsoons, on which tobacco as well as castor-oil are generally grown.

70. Proportion of main divisions of soil.

Following the four main divisions of land mentioned, the statistical data derivable form the village khasras show them to be in the following proportions:-

Uttartir.		Dakhintir.		District (Khalsa)	
Bahal	19 percent	Bahal	25 percent	Bahal	22 percent.
Berna	16 do.	Berna	19 do.	Berna	18 do.
Mal	30 do.	Mal	30 do.	Mal	34 do.
At	35 do.	At	26 do	At	28 do.

The first three sorts, as has already been stated, are essentially rice-producing lands, and it is seldom that anything else is grown in them, unless it be that a Mal field is sometimes converted into a sugar-cane palantation; the fourth kind of land is the one on which the other crops as dal (pulse), cotton, oilseeds and sugar-cane are raised, so that 74 per cent ordinarily of the cultivated area (besides some 8 or 10 per cent more of the 4th sort in which inferior early rice crops are grown) is only suited for and is devoted to the cultivation of rice, which in an ordinary year is almost a drug in the market. The area which produces the most valuable crops as cotton and sugar-cane is only limited to 18 or 20 per cent of the total cultivation, and that which produces rice the cheapest article, but the staple food-grain of the people, occupies the largest area and is looked upon by them as the most valuable portion of their possessions, and is the portion on which the bulk of their capital is expended.

71. Deriving area from seed measure.

The quantity and proportion of the different kinds of soil of course vary in different parts of the district, but the system of appraisement according to the native method, is, on account of a seed measure being adopted for expressing a superficial area, any thing but a close approximation to the truth, as there is no really satisfactory method of deducing one from the other, because for instance, in a rich Bahal field, a

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a Puri of paddy would be sown over a larger space, so as to allow more room for bigger plants, than in a poor Mal field, in which the seed would be sown thicker and would thus occupy less space; but taking an ordinary Puri, it has been found on several experiments to come to about five acres; that is to say a Puri of the Lakhmi Prasad Tambi, which has been alluded to before. To convert Puris then into acres, the result is —

Bahal land in acres	...	...	75,615
Berna do.	do.	...	...	61,231
Mal do.	do.	...	...	1,20,040
At do.	do.	...	...	89,665
Lately abandoned of all sorts	...	28,125
	Total	...	3,74,576

72. Only one crop grown. No rabi.

Correctly speaking ther is but one crop grown during the year in this district, and that is the autumn or kharif crop; nothing to speak of in the shape of rabi crops being raised, as wheat, gram, millet, &c. unless, as a fancy article, in a selected field or two, in a few villages. The only rabi crops are mustard in a few villages and country peas. Very little of the soil in this district, however, is suited for rabi cultivation, nor is the arrangement of the monsoon in ordinary years favorable to the growth of rabi crops, as the ground is not dry enough in October to be ploughed up for rabi sowings, and if rabi crops are sown later on, the hot weather commences and dries them up before they can ripen.

73. Varieties of Kharif crops.

A great many varieties of rice are produced here, above 200 kinds, the best sorts being (1) Sirisamal, (2) Jhillipyragi, (3) Makarkand, and (4) Nonisapan, the first two being very fine and white rice. The ordinary rice is the Chimsamal, the price of which regulates the Natural sepoy's allowance for (Rice money). The most inferior sorts of rice, great favorites with the poorer classes, are Saria, Phaphan and Kolhia, which are fit to be cut in 60 days from the day of sowing. The superior kinds of rice can only be produced in first class soils, as "Jhillipyragi" rice for instance, would be a complete failure in a field of Mal

land; it can only be raised in first class Bahal lands. Among the pulses grown are mung and urad, here called birhi, and some kulthi or "Madras gram". These are all good of their kind. The cotton is poor, yet finds a ready export. Among oilseeds, there are only two sorts produced - "tilli" and castor. The sugar-cane is extensively cultivated, is of a good variety for making gur from, which is largely manufactured and exported, and a very poor, though somewhat brown in colour, sugar is made from it in the Khariar district.

74. Assessment circles. With all this information gained form personal inspection and enquiry all over the district, during two marching seasons, and with the statistics of the village khasras tabulated for assessment, the next step was to divide the country, topographically, into convenient assessment "chaks" or circles, so as to bring together with a ring fence, as far as possible, all villages on one description, and to apply to them the average assessment rates which were adopted after local enquiries and considerations, during village inspections, as will be explained presently.

75. Description of Uttartir circles. The Uttartir tahsili was divided into 9 classes of villages, but because those of one circle closely resembling those of another block, became separated by a cluster of some 30 or 40 villages of a different type lying between them. For this reason nine separate assessment circles became necessary, and a brief description of each may now be given. The first circle, comprising 51 villages, consists of a narrow valley, lying between the Loising hills and the Mahanadi river in the southern portion of the Sambalpur Tahsili, and is commonly called the "Panchhan Des," which is the richest, in every respect, the best cultivated and the best populated tract in the tahsili. The 2nd circle of 70 villages, which adjoins the 1st circle, is also a fine group of villages, but in several places the area is affected by the presence of small hills and some forest, and is inhabited by a somewhat inferior description of cultivators. The 3rd circle of 95 villages comprises the central portion of the tahsili and the valley of the Reb river, with

9 assessment circles; not that there are 9

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hills and jungle here and there; but there are some fine villages in this tract, though the soil is generally drier and more sandy. The 4th circle of 26 villages, is situated on the right bank of the Eeb river, contains some good villages, but this tract has, comparatively speaking, been more recently brought under cultivation, and there is yet a good deal of small jungle in patches. The 5th chak of 41 villages, comprises a sandy tract of country, situated across the Eeb river, and lying parallel with the Mahanadi, which floods the lands of many of its villages and occasionally leaves deposits of sand on cultivated parts, thereby deteriorating the land. The 6th circle of 40 villages consists of a very woody tract, situated in the south-east corner of the tahsili. The 7th circle of only 13 villages is likewise a somewhat jungly block lying between the Jhirghatti range of hills to which allusion has been made before, and the Baura feudatory State on the north-eastern boundary of the district. The 8th circle of 13 villages is situated in a fork of the Mahanadi and Eeb rivers, and is in consequence very subject to floods from both; and the 9th chak of 8 villages consists of that portion of the tahsili area which, as a narrow strip, runs between the Kolabira and Laira Zamindaris, having a sandy soil and small jungle all over the area.*

78. Description = Dakhintir circles.

The villages in the Dakhintir tahsili were grouped in ten circles. Their classification not having in the first instance been a success, was mainly the cause of the somewhat heavy assessments originally fixed in some of the villages which were complained about and which necessitated a revision. In the first circle of this tahsili 78 villages were grouped, which lie in a radius of from 8 to 10 miles of the tahsili head quarters, Bargarh, in which was included Remla, the largest village in the district. Nearly all the villages of this circle may be classed as first class villages, with good soils, suited for paddy and sugar-cane, and cotton, and having a well to do tenantry. In the second circle were included 90 thoroughly cultivated villages, lying along the right bank of the Mahanadi,

* There is a tenth chak miscellaneous villages

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to the south of the tahsili, and generally, called the "Dargaon Das," held principally by Brahmin Gaontyas. In the 3rd circle were included 66 vilages, comprising what were formely two small Zamindari estates, called Lamdhar Kharmunda and Kurkutta Beniachal, situated on the boundary with the Fendatory State of Patna, which were confiscated during the disturbances of 1857-59 and then assessed at exceptionally high rates,. In the 4th circle are 67 villages, situated in the western limit of the tahsili, which having in the two former settlements been settled on the Mahalwar system, had escaped being properly assessed. In the 5th chak of 35 villages, is a strip of country, running along the right of the road towards Raipur and between it and the Barapahar hills, in wich a considerable imporvement has taken place since the disturbances of 1857-59. In Circle No. VI of 61 villages, is included the tract formerly constituting the Ambabhona pargana, a flat and open tract lying within a ring fence, caused by the Barapahar hills, on one side, a low range on another; the Feudatory State Sarangarh on a third, and the river Mahanadi on the fourth, being entered by two hill paths only, and is thus cut off from the rest of the villages of this tahsili, consitituting an isolated block, in which the language and habits of the mass of the people even are different from those of the Uriyas. It is and has always been a well populated and cultivated, quiet corner of the district. The 7th circle comprises 61 villages lying along the eastern base of the Barapahar hills and the right bank of the river Mahanadi, in which unavoidably some superior and some inferior villages have become grouped. The 8th circle consists of a small khalsa estate of only 12 villages, situated between the Zamindaris of Barpali, Ghes and Phuljher, the value of which, owing to its isolated position, had hitherto not been known. It is a good little group of villages. The 9th circle of 57 villages comprises the hilly region known as the Barapahars, which constituted formerly the Lakhanpur pargana. The whole tract, with the exception of a central open space, is nothing but a series of hills an d valleys, dense forests and open glades, the abode of wild animals, of sorts most detructive to crops of every description. with a sparse population of a mixed description

and nomadic habits. The 10th and last circle comprising 20 villages, which lying at the entrance into the Barapahar hills, were formerly held as service grants by guardians of the passes, and are more or less of a wild nature, having no similarity to any other tract in the district.

77. Average assessment rates on soils.

Having classified and grouped the villages in the manner detailed above, the next step was to fix upon average assessment rates, for the different circles, for each description of soil of the four main divisions which have already been described. As no separate rate on soils existed here, the fixing upon, of an average one, for each, to apply to the majority of villages in each circle, was a proceeding surrounded with some difficulty. It would have been easy enough to have adopted a rate per puri on mixed soils, but his rate would necessarily have pressed very unevenly, owing to the preponderance or absence of superior soils in some villages, or if interior soils bore a larger proportion to superior soils. The system in vogue among the people, of assessing their lands, is by "Kuts", or shares. The whole of the village ryoti lands are thrown together and made into a certain number of shares, taking anything for a unit to go upon, as a rupee, a puri, or something else; and the Government assessment apportioned on each share, in which a due proportion of every description of soil is included; or if this be not possible in every share then by an equivalent in value of the soils allotted by allowing an extra bit of some soil. On this account the perplexing part of the business to a stranger seeking for an average rent rate on soils is this, that the rate per "Kut" or share in a cluster of villages of perhaps the same description differs considerably: in one village it may be Rs. 2 per Kut, in the next Rs. 5 per Kut, and in the next Rs. 10. The way then which was adopted for ascertaining what was required, was this; first the quantity of seed sown per Kut of land in different villages was carefully ascertained. The unit of the Kut mattered little. The quantity sown thus ascertained, all other things being about equal, was found to correspond generally with the money value

of each Kut, with moderate variations of course, for which tangible reasons existed. Now as in the apportioning of the village areas into Kuts, the greatest nicety and fairness has been and is still observed, so as to give each Kut holder a proper proportion of each kind of soil, although it gives rise to the necessity for the lands of a Kut to be made up from the four points of the compass, a bit here and a bit there. The examination of a few Kuts in a village soon shows the proportion of each kind of soil composing them, and the amount paid (after going over a number of villages) enables the assessing officer to assume a suitable money value for each description of soil, to do which, however, it is necessary also, at the same time, to ascertain the proportion the gross produce of each description of crop raised bears to the seed sown, per puri, in different fields, in a variety of localities, and to note the nature of the soils themselves as well as the quality of the produce, the means and facilites for irrigation, or the drawbacks to it, and the causes thereof. With all these matters duly ascertained and considered, the average assessment rates per puri of land given in the table below, were adopted for each circle of village in the two tahsilis, a " puri " as already stated, being equal to about 5 acres. The average rates adopted were approved by the Chief Commissioner previously to their being applied.

Tahsili Sambalpur.

No. of Chak.	Bahal.			Berna			Mal			At			Lately Abandoned.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
I	3	0	0	2	8	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0
II	2	12	0	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0
III	2	8	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	0	8	0	0	4	0
IV	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	0	8	0	0	4	0
V	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	8	0	0	12	0	0	4	0
VI	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	1	4	0	0	8	0
VII	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	1	4	0	0	8	0
VIII	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	0	12	0	0	4	0
IX	2	4	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	1	4	0	0	8	0

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Tahsili Bargarh.

No. of Chak.	Bahal.			Berna			Mal			At			Lately abandoned.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
I.	5	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
II.	4	0	0	3	8	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
III.	3	8	0	3	0	0	2	8	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
IV.	3	8	0	3	0	0	2	8	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
V.	3	8	0	3	4	0	2	12	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
VI.	3	0	0	2	8	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	0
VII.	3	0	0	2	8	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
VIII.	3	0	0	2	8	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	0
IX.	2	8	0	2	0	0	1	8	0	4	0	0	2	0	0
X.	2	8	0	2	0	0	1	12	0	6	0	0	4	0	0

As in the "lately abandoned," the prevailing soil is At, - one always medding fallows,- and occasionally a few exhausted Mal fields, a comparatively low average assessment rate was adopted, especeally as it was found that culturable, but not cultivated and abondoned land, was frequently entered as "lately abandoned." And there being no separate rates for sugar lands and vegetable cultivation, and as the production of such crops as potatoes, tumaric, ganja, safflower, poppy and al, is not understood here as yet, no separate rate for lands under valuable crops was adopted, but where large quantities of vegetable and sugar-cane are grwon, the fact was taken ~~it~~ into consideration in assessing a village, and is, therefore an innovation although for ordinary At land which has for the first time been taken into consideration in assessing a village, a low average assessment rate has been adopted, but as the value of At lands is yearly increasing, at a future Settlement they will probably sustain a much higher rates of assessment. Even now in certain selected villages of each circle, a higher rate might have been charged as an exceptional one, only that it would have been contrary to the general principle of assessing by average rates.

78. Produce estimates how derived.

The other guide for arriging at an appropriate assessment for a village, was an estimate of the value of the crops produced. The village khasras gave the quantity of land under each crop, but no estimate of the produce or yield, which had tobe ascertained and fixed by the assessing officer; and this had to be done for each group of villages separately. From the gross produce thus estimated, it had also to be determined what proportion should be deducted for

value, of seed and stock &c., the balance being valued at average selling price spread over a number of years, gave the estimated assessment of the village according to the money-value of its produce. As the staple produce of the district, it has been shown, it is rice, and as the cultivation of that crop is here carried on at considerable expense of labour and capital, as will be more fully described in a few paragraphs at the end of this section, so a larger proportion of the gross produce had to be left for the producer, than is generally done. Thus ordinarily two-sixths of the gross produce are allowed for seed and stock, two-sixths for wages of labour i.e. the cultivator's profits, and two-sixths are payable as rent; but here it was found to be necessary to divide the gross produce thus.

One-fourth for seed and stock.

Two-fourths for labour and expenses.

One-fourth being the Government share.

As regards the average yield, out-turn or produce of each puri of land, i.e. land in which a puri of rice seed has been sown, is so well known to the people from the fact of all their daily transactions of life being based upon the average produce of different kinds of land, that very little difficulty was experienced in arriving at a correct estimate for each locality, and for each description of soil sown with a puri of seed-rice. To explain how the subject of the average produce of a puri of rice comes into the daily transactions of the people, it may be mentioned, that when, say a Gaontya and his co-sharers separte and divide the bhogra lands among themselves, it is always done according to the yield or "upjan;" if a cultivator and his brother separte and divide their ryoti holding, the division is made with reference to the "upjan;" when a Gaontya in difficulties mortgages a portion of his bhogra land, or a maafidar his rent-free holding, the mortgagee who advances the money, knows down to a "khandi" (the one-eight of a puri,) whether the "upjan" of the land he receive in mortgage converted into money, will cover the instalments and interest agreed upon, so that there were various means of arriving at a fair average out-turn of produce per puri of seed

sown; the only thing to determine, however, was what average would apply to particular circles, and for this purpose, the local enquiries made by the assessing officer and the senior subordinate staff were utilised, and a standard produce estimate adopted for each circle. The same plan was adopted for arriving at the average produce of other crops as pulse, sugar-cane cotton, &c.

79. Average yield of each crop.

The prevailing opinion of the best informed people, is that in first class soil, 10-fold is a safe estimate, taking one year with another, though some fields enjoying particular advantages, may and do, give a return of 16-fold in the Uttartir tahsili, even 20-fold in highly manured fields, as a kharibhal one; but taking good and bat soils together, an average yield of 8-fold of rice was adopted for the best circle of villages; for the next circle 7-fold, and in all others 6-fold, which by a wholesale selling rate of a ~~cadie~~ series of years, gave a money-value of the Government share of the produce per puri at Rs. 4, 3½ and 3, respectively although in some parts of the tahsili no one would admit a larger yield than 8-fold. As in adopting average assessment rates for At lands, in which alone almost exclusively, pulse, oil-seeds, cotton and sugar-cane are produced a low rate was fixed, so the produce estimates also were cast low, bringing out a produce jama of annas 6,8 and 10 per puri for pulse, &c.; but sugar-cane was valued at Rs. 2 per one thousand canes sown, and cotton at Rs. 2½ per puri. In the Dakhintir tahsili, in some parts the soil is better than that of the Uttartir best circle, consequently for the best circle here, an average yield of 10-fold was adopted; for the second circle 8-fold; and for the last two circles, where the crops are very much exposed to the ravages of wild animals, 6-fold giving respectively a produce jama per puri of Rs.5, 4, 3½, and 2½. Form At land crops, however, the same estimates were adopted as for the Uttartir tahsili.

for the third, fourth and fifth, 7-fold; sixth, seventh and eighth 6-fold

80. Fixing the assessment in each village.

With a personal knowledge of each village derived from inspections, with the calculated data compiled from the village Khasra the average assessment rates carefully

worked out, and with the produce estimates as a support to those rates the assessment of each village was fixed; but the fact that the area which formed the basis ~~xkkxy~~ of all calculations, was the result of appraisement, not measurement, and also that this was only a single crop yielding country, was always borne in mind in doing so.

81. Result of the assessment.

Notwithstanding the existence of difficulties in the way of assessing with that confidence, which data derived from a measurement gives to a Settlement officer, the result has been, that the average assumed assessment rates have been pretty fairly approached, as from the Abstract General Assessment Statement given in the Appendix, it will be seen, that the value of the ryoti lands, column 29, at assumed average assessment rates, amounted to Rs. 1,10,414, and that the proposed assessment, as finally sanctioned for these lands, now amounts to Rs. 1,09,535, the difference being only at the rate of Rs. 7 percent below assumed rates.

82. Value of bhogra exempted and assessed.

As a free bhogra has been only allowed up to a maximum of one-fourth of the ryoti assessment of the village where it existed, and where it exceeded the maximum allowed free, the excess was assessed by a reference to column 26 of the statement, it will be seen that at the highest average assumed assessment rate, the lands so held free, are only valued at Rs. 23,248 or nearly 21½ per cent, the reason being that in number of villages, the bhogra lands in value, by assumed rates, fall below one-fourth of the ryoti assessment of the village, and also because in several inam villages, there is no bhogra at all, all the lands being let out to ryots; whereas if a full one-fourth or 25 percent of the ryoti assessment had been allowed all round as a free bhogra, by assumed average assessment rates, its value would have amounted to Rs. 27,384, so that there has been again in favour of Government of Rs. 4,136 at assumed average rates. In addition to this gain, there has been a more substantial gain from the fact of bhogra lands valued at Rs. 7,874 (leaving out inam villages

from the calculation) at assumed average assessment rates, having become liable to assessment by reason of their exceeding the authorised maximum allowance of free bhogra, and which lands for various reasons, have now been actually assessed at Rs. 4,007 some of the reasons being, (1) that in villages with many co-sharers under the operations of the orders of Government, which authorise exemption of the excess bhogra over some-fourth of the ryoti assessment of the village, the excess has not been assessed, (2) in others the ryoti lands being assessed below assumed average assessment rates, the amount demandable from the excess bhogra, has been calculated at the same rate, and (3) in some villages, for particular reasons, the excess bhogra has been left unassessed, all of which will be found detailed in the General Assessment Statements.

Village service lands exempted and assessed.

83. The average value of village service lands at average assumed assessment rates amounted to only Rs. 11,251½ whereas one-eight of the ryoti assessment comes to Rs. 13,802. Still as in many instances the aggregate value of service lands fell short of one-eighth of the Government assessment on the ryoti lands of the village, and in some they exceeded the maximum authorised limit, it so happens, that from such villages the aggregate gain to Government from resumed excess village service lands has amounted to Rs. 1,191.

Rate of assessment on cultivation.

84. The rate of the new assessment on "cultivation," in which is included the bhogra and service lands, is shown to be Rs. 1.9.6 per puri, which as explained before, has been taken to represent 5 acres; but as the amount of assessment, as entered in column 32, Rs. 1,10,414 is on ryoti lands only, (columns 15 and 17) which give an aggregate of 58,314 puris, the rate of assessment by the latter figures, rises to Rs. 1-14-4 per puri to Rs. 1-14 per puri, giving an average rate of 6 annas per acre on the ryoti cultivated land brought under assessment.

85. By the present assessment, the

Increase of the Assessment.

Government demand has been increased from Rs. 89,313 (without rent free holdings) to Rs. 1,10,414 including assessment on muafi and quit rent holdings, the two latter amounting to Rs. 23,398, which sum being deducted, as it is not to be collected, leave the new ryoti assessment at Rs. 87,716, giving an increase on the old Settlement of Rs. 21,403, or at the rate of nearly 32 per cent; but adding the sums to be received from the excess bhogra assessed at Rs. 4,007, and that from resumed village service lands assessed at Rs. 1,191, the substantial increase, (muafis being left out of the calculation) by the new assessment, as compared with the old one, amounts to Rs. 26,601, or at the rate of 40 per cent.

83. What the ryots were paying

Although the present assessment on ryot lands, has increased 32 per cent in comparision with the old jama, what the ryots had heretofore before paid, including those of muafi villages, has amounted to Rs. 89,797 (column 23), so that by the new assessment, under which they will have to pay Rs. 1,10,414, their payments will only be increased by Rs. 20,617, or at the rate of nearly 23 per cent only.

87. Gaontyas collecting more than assessment.

In the present amount of ryoti payments aggregating Rs. 89,797, the amount paid by the ryots of muafi villages in included, which amount may, without going into minute calculations, be taken to be about equal to the new assessment on muafi villages, or Rs. 23,698, so that deducting this latter sum from that paid by ryots of both muafi and ryoti villages, which is Rs. 89,797, we have left Rs. 67,099 to represent the amount which the Gaontyas were collecting from ryots in Gaontyahi villages, while the revenue paid by them into the Treasury only amounted to Rs. 66,313; but in the latter sum is included the quit-rent paid by privileged holders, the ryoti payments received by whom are included in the 23,698 rupees, so the amount of quit-rent, Rs. 2,385, should likewise be deducted from the old jama, to arrive at a proper result. thus reducing it to Rs. 63,928

which was what the Gaontyas were paying to Government and enjoying the difference Rs. 2,385 as a money profit in excess of their bhogra lands or at the rate of 3¼ per cent which will now all go into the treasury, being merged, as it is, in the new assessment on the ryoti lands in Gaontyahi villages of Rs. 37,716.

(although they were not supposed to be collecting anything more from the ryots than the assessed Government jama viz. 3¼ per cent)

88. Produce jama

From column 20 of the General Assessment Statement it will be seen that the produce jama comes to Rs. 1,63,280, while the value of ryoti lands at assumed average assessment rates comes only to Rs. 1,17,580, there being a difference of Rs. 45,700 between them; but in the aggregate produce jama of Rs. 1,63,280 the value of the produce of bhogra lands is also included, while their assumed average assessment rate value is excluded from the Rs. 1,17,580, so that by deducting the produce value of bhogra lands (Rs. 35,501) from the gross produce jama we have left a gross produce jama on ryoti lands of Rs. 1,27,779 against Rs.1,17,580 being their value according to assumed average assessment rates, on which an assessment of Rs. 1,10,414 has supervened; but it is known to all Settlement officers, that even with the most carefully worked out calculation, the produce jama, as a rule, always does exceed the jama derived by assumed average assessment rates on soils, and here the difference has amounted to 8 per cent, although the value of the produce in reality does form the basis of all calculations. The result then has been, that the new assessment is 7 per cent short of assumend average assessment rates jama and 15 per cent below the produce jama, owing to the preponderance of valuabel crops, such as sugar-cane and cotton, in some vilages, which though produced to comparatively limited area of inferior soil, carrying a low assumed average assessment rate value, swell the produce jama considerably by their superior value and thus assist in causing the disparity which occurs between the produce jama and the jama derived from assumed rates on soils.

89. Short account of agriculture.

A short account of the system of agriculture followed here has been promised, to illustrate the

trouble, difficultion and expense attendant on the production of such staples as the nature of the soil, the climate of the country and the arrangement of the monsoons admit of being raised, matters which have had due consideration in framing the estimates of the value of the land to be taxed.

90. Irrigation tanks made by Gontyas.

Major Impey has stated that the Gaontyas-when though he did not regard as having any "prescritive rights" to their villages- "have felt themselves "so bound up inthe welfare of their vilages "that they have at their own expense promoted cultivation and ergo "the prosperity of their ryots, by digging and embanking tanks ." A glance at the General Assessment Statement, column 22, will show that there are no less than 2,705 tanks in the district, principally excavated by Gaontyas, and for agricultural purposes, for the irrigation of rice fields, sugar-cane plantations and vegetable gardens. No other description of cultivation needs irrigation in this district.

91. Description of tanks.

Tanks are of three descriptions, viz. (1) the "Kanta" or a three-sided tank formed by embanking a stream; (2) the "Band" or an excavated and four-sided tank; and (3) the "Munda," which is in fact a small "Kanta." The Kanta is intended always for irrigation, as the water from it can be carried to a great distance and irrigates a very large area of rice lands if it has been judiciously made. The Band is more for domestic purposes than for irrigating rice fields; still in any year in which there is a scanty rain-fall, and as the saving of the rice crop is the first consideration with every one they are often cut to irrigate the drooping and withering rice paints, but are more often used for sugar-cane plantations which are made close to the tanks, and for vegetable gardens which are always near the village sites. The Kanta or Band the water of which flows

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through the village main streets on its way to the fields, is held in the highest estimation, as the water passes in front of everybody's door which is looked upon as a great convenience, and is used for all purposes, regardless of course of sanitary considerations. A munda is essentially a small embankment for arresting the water; the moisture from which percolates through the dam to the rice fields lying below its immediate vicinity, and it generally dries up in the hot weather. The Munda, however, is very often the commencement of the Kanta. Although the statement represents, 2,700 tanks, the Mundas can scarcely come under the category of tanks. But it has not been possible to get a correct account of what are really Mundas as distinguished from Kantas; still there are a great many tanks and Kantas in this district, so that even after deducting the Mundas, they may be set down at 2,250, and they have principally been made by the Gaontyas.

92. When the tanks were excavated and how kept.

These numerous tanks were partly excavated in olden times and partly during the period between 1864- the year of dawning hopes and prosperity- and 1874, as the annual reports sent in by the district officer will illustrate; but after the last named year, as the Chief Commissioner laid down that "at the next Settlement the Government will benefit by the whole of the increased assessment it can put "on theryotti lands (which will include now land brought under cultivation during the currency of Settlement) and assessed bhogra lands, "while the Gaontyas will benefit by the increased value of their free "bhogra only", the ardour for tank making on the part of Gaontyas has considerably abated; and without tanks what increase in the cultivation can be looked for ?.

93. Wells.

Wells are of very little use in this district. Irrigation from wells is more laborious than from Kantas, and the supply of water derived from them insignificant in comparison For drinking purposes they are never used, as the people have an idea that well water tastes sweet, and is heavy, thereby being

likely to promote indigestion. A kacha well is made and used for Pawn gardens, and small plots of sugar-cane plantations, and small patches of vegetable cultivation, and called "Chhas," A "Chha" is a pacca well, of which there are a few useless ones in the district, for which the Government in its generosity and on sanitary principles, is paying the reputed owners, Rs. 15 a year to keep them up; but ask anyone in a village where one of these wells happens to be, if the water is used by any one, and the answers invariably is a question, who will drink well water? The police sometimes use the water from wells excavated near station houses, and other people will use it in times of scarcity only, when no other water can be had.

94. Mode of the cultivation. The principal crop grown being rice, the greatest attention is of course paid towards its cultivation. The three principally rice producing lands (1) Bahal, (2) Sorwa, (3) Kal are all divided into ridged, or embanked fields of various sizes and shapes, the primary objects always being to retain the rain water and that supplied by artificial irrigation, and the moisture therefore, as much as possible, by channels called "Tals" being made towards the lands to be watered; in short nemmas by which water can be stored and conveyed to the rice fields from the surface drainage or that which comes down from hills are omitted to be taken advantage of.

95. Expense of ridging fields. The size of the ridges which have to be made for rice fields, depends very much upon the nature of the country and of the soil, some requiring to be high and therefore expensive; others low and less so, and some from the nature of the soil needing to be repaired oftener than where a stiffer clay exists.

96. Plough cattle have no rest.

Nearly all the year round the land is being prepared for rice cultivation, the plough bullocks in consequence get but little rest from their labours, and so also the farm labourer or "Guti," though he is paid well and is an expensive help for an agriculturist to keep, as he has to be fed, clothed and provided for in every day.

97. Beginning of the agricultural year.

The agricultural year in this district commence from "Pus-Purnami" or from the full moon which occurs about Christmas time. The agricultural year of other districts, calculated to commence in June-July, is quite unsuited for this district as half a year's agricultural opertions have been gone through by the time the south-west monsoon comes round in June-July.

98. Ploughing and sowing seasons.

By the end of December or the very commencement of January (Pus-Purnami) sugar-cane excepted, every crop is off the ground. Every rain-fall after that-and there are several falls ordinarily before June and sometimes unusally heavy rain in January February and March-is taken advantage of for ploughing the ground, with the objection in the first instance of ploughing in every sort of vegetable substance there may be on the surface, such as rice stalks, often burnt and then ploughed, weeds, grass &c., which in some measure is a substitute for manuring the ground, a process which is styled "Bara Kurabatar," or first shower ploughings for driving in rice stalks. In this way ploughing goes on from January to April, and May; as often as an opportunity offers itself, which is when the ground becomes at all moist with a light shower of rain, and thus each field is sometimes turned over two and three times before the regular monsoon rains set in, which to be seasonable, should be in the first or second week of June. All this time as far as means will admit, the Mal or flat lands and sometimes inferior Berna and Bahal lands are being manured with the collected house sweeping and cattle- droppings which have been accumulating from the close of the rains in October, not being used

for fuel, as is generally done in other parts of the country. On the day of the " Akhia-tirtia " then, which falls in April, the first ceremeony of sowing rice which is called "Muthi-Chhua", meaning, though not literally, a " fist-full ", is gone through by the head of the family sowing a fist-full of rice in a small field. In the following month, when the aspect of the sky indicates that the advent of the rains may be looked for at no distant period, the first regular and no unimportant sowing of rice seed takes place, which is called the " Khardi " or dry sowing, the seed being thrown over the ploughed fields broadcast, after which the land is again ploughed up lightly, to cover the seed. The rice thus sown, germinates two or three days after the first monsoon rain falls.

99. Sowing during south-west monsoons.

After the commencement of the monsoon, each " batar " (opportunity) is taken advantage of for ploughing a field or two, as only a portion of the land is devoted to " Khardi " sowings, because the risk is too great and the loss of seed grain would be not inconsiderable were the first monsoon rain to stop for a long time after two or three showers, as the " Khardi " sowings would then come to nothing most likely.

100. Later sowings.

When the ground, however, has become throughly saturated with rain-water, the field is ploughed up, seed thrown on it broad-cast, a plank is then passed over the surface to cover up the seed. This is called the " Muka " sowing. Lastly when the ground becoems too wet for ploughing, the field is first planked, and then sown with " Gajja " germinated by wetting rice-seed, and this is called the " Uchhra " or late sowing, and is the last.

101. Transplanted rice

The above processes may be understood to apply to about half the area available for rice sowings; in the other and selected moiety, transplanted rice is raised, which is called " Ropadhan," the young plants to be vigorous, having been sown in well manured

patches of the best plots of ground available. The fields in ~~which transplanted rice is grown, having preavailable~~. The fields in which transplanted rice is grown, having previously been ploughed, are at the time of sowing merely planked, to level the surface, and the young rice is then put down with the hand in bunches of three stalks, 4 or 5 inches apart. The process is an expensive and laborious one, but there is little trouble afterwards in weeding &c., while the yield is much greater and the rice-straw, where grass is scarce, more valuable than it is by the broad-cast sowing.

102. Second ploughing of rice plants or Beorha.

When the rain has been plentiful the rice fields are full, and the plants are 6 or 8 inches high, the plough is again passed through the fields, with the double object of loosening the soil, and so giving strength to the rice plants, which never die under the process, and killing all weeds. This is called the " Beorha " process, and is a critical time in the existence of the rice, for if there has not been sufficient rain, there can be no " Beorha," so while weeds thrive, the rice plants languish. The " Beorha " process, however, does not do away with weeding altogether; but this is done later on when the grain is about to make its appearance. Nothing further has to be done to the rice until it ripens and is cut during October and November, some of the wet land fields remaining to be cut until the middle of December.

103. A long break in the rains in September serious for rice crops.

A break in the rains in September is a serious matter, but if there is rain in October it repairs damages to some extent; but when the tail of the north east monsoon passes over the district, as it often does, in the latter end of October, and is often accompanied by continuous high wind for three of four days, damage is done to the ripening crops, as the newly formed grain withers in the husk, which then becomes " pols," empty.

104. Cotton sowings.

Cotton is sown early in June with the first burst of the south-west monsoon

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the fields for its sowing having previously been ploughed and prepared with as large a supply of manure as the cultivator can command. The seed is sown in rows, a foot apart, with a similar space between each cluster of plants, two, three or four seeds being put down together in a hole made with a stick. The field in which cotton seed has been sown has to be ploughed between the rows; after the cotton plants are six inches high; this has to be done two or three times, in fact the same " Beorha " has to be done as is done for rice once. Afterwards there is one regular weeding. The fields in which cotton is sown are always without ridges, as the retention of water and too great a moisture in them would kill the plants.

105. Tili sowings. The sowing of " Til " takes place at the same time as cotton, but it is a crop which gives no further trouble. It is sown in ploughed " At " fields and gathered when ripe in November and December. Tili oil is largely consumed by the people for (1) burning, (2) eating, and (3) for rubbing it on their bodies before taking a bath and also when retiring to rest, there being no explanation for this outward application of oil to their bodies. Tili therefore, is an important crop.

106. Pulse sowings. Two varieties only of "Dal", pulse, are raised " Birhi " or Urd in the rains and Mung after its close. Here and there "Arhar" Dal is grown and some Kulthi in the rains, but no Masur, which needs a very rich soil, and therefore does not grow here. But in some rich soils very good peas are raised in rice fields after the rice is cut in October and Novemember.

107. Sugar-cane cultivation. Sugar-cane is sown in March, the ground being well ploughed and manured, and dressed, is divided into small beds, leaving water channels between, the beds themselves being in rows. The seed-cane is cut up into small pieces, leaving three " eyes " in each, which pieces are sown three or four together in rows or drills, the soil being previously moistened by irrigation the day before.

A few days afterwards the field is again watered, and the watering goes on subsequently every two or three days all through the hot weather, and until the rains have fairly set in. In December the cane ripens, is cut in January, and the juice extracted at once in presses set up on the spot, and there converted into gurh. The gurh is superior quality, being the product of a well irrigated crop, the canes themselves having been carefully protected against the scorching sun of October by being carefully wrapped up with the lower leaves. The people are adepts at making it of various consistencies, as required for different purposes, so it is largely exported, besides being made into sugar in the district and sweets. There are always two plots set apart for sugar-cane. It is an exhaustive crop for the soil it sown in the same plot two years running; but if another crop, as pulse or cotton or rice is sown in the plot from which sugar-cane has just been cut, it will thrive wonderfully and in its turn will fertilize the same plot for another sugar-cane crop in the year following.

108. Rotation of crops. The advantages of having a rotation of crops are fully known to and practised by the people here, as Tili, Birhi, cotton and such like crops which are raised in At lands, are seldom sown two years running in the same fields, unless an unlimited supply of manure happens tobe available from the circumstance of a herd having established himself during the rains in some part of the village for grazing a number of cows and buffaloes belonging to villages in the neighbourhood which may happen to have no proper grazing ground.

109. Fallows. The systm of making fields lie fallow for a season or two is also observed with regard to Mal and At lands, which are in the meantime only ploughed lightly once a year, and after being manured at the end of their resting period, are again sown. Berna and Bahal fields, however, are never left unsown any year, unless there is nearly a total absence of rain-fall when the irrigating power of the anks and Kantas is not equal

to the requirements of the village lands.

110. Sugar-cane not sown year following drought.

In any year in which the rain-fall is deficient, though there had been an average supply in the year before, so that the tanks and Kantas have nowhere failed in their supply of water, the Bahal and Berma rice and in some places the Mal rice too, can be saved by irrigation only, but this is done, at the sacrifice of the next years' sugar-cane crop of which there will be none for want of water, and as sugar-cane is a very paying crop, the cultivator becomes a double loser, by having reaped a scanty rice crop in one year and no profits from sugar-cane in the next.

111. Agricultural stock.

The agricultural stock is good. Bullocks, though of a small breed, are good and strong and quite well up tothe work required of them with a light plough in not particularly hard soil anywhere. The buffaloes are of a good sort; though somewhat wild. Neither buffaloes nor bullocks are us d as beasts of burden or for drawing water. They are only yoked in ploughs and carts, the latter being almost exclusively used for bringing home the produce of the fields, or wood and grass from the jungle, being rudely made, and costing but little. The only good thing the people possess are the sugar-cane presses or screws (Ghanas) which are certainly a great improvement on those used in the Nagpur country and the Nerbudda Valley districts.

III. - ASSESSMENT IN ZAMINDARIS.

NON-FEUDATORY ZAMINDARIS.

112. Detailed settlement operations abstained from.

Soon after the commencement of Settlement operations in the Central Provinces generally, on a systematic plan, it was in April 1864 intimated to all Settlement Officers that the Chief Commissioner was " of opinion that it was desirable that all Land Revenue, "Survey and Settlement operations should be abstained from within " Zamindaris and other petty chief-taincies," consequently nothing was done in such estates from

that time; previous to the receipt of these orders, however, the demarcation of village boundaries, and the erection of boundary pillars and the tri-junction chabutras had been effected in all the Zamindaris of this district, with the exception of those of Phulijhar and Burhasambar, which at that time were classed as Garhjat States.

113. Status of Zamindars.

All that is known to be on record regarding the Zamindari estates of this district in quoted below :-

" There are in all 14 Zamindars and Garhotias who held their lands under a kind of but ill-defined military tenure, in perpetuity, at least by prescription and consent though not by any express stipulation. They pay a comparatively light revenue, the several rates of which have no reference to the actual value of their divisions, but appear to have been determined by the circumstances under which the grant was originally made to each, and which by prescription appears, as far as I am yet informed, not liable to be increased, as they have no Pattas requiring renewal and they do not pay any Nazar " (Dr. Cadenhead's first Settlement Report submitted in 1850).

The Government of Bengal in reviewing this report stated that —

" You express your opinion that the Zamindars and Garhotias of certain villages, paying in all Rs. 4,328, should be allowed to retain their tenures at the same rent as hitherto, performing Police duties henceforth instead of Military service as hitherto. This is approved."

114. Mr. Ricketts's description of zamindari tenures.

" I have said there are 16 Zamindars who hold considerable possessions, paying a very light revenue to the State. They are for the most part connected with the family of the late Raja or obtained the grants for service rendered to the family of their forefathers." (Mr. H. Ricketts,

Member Board of Revenue Bengal on deputation, Selections from records of Bengal Government No. XX. published in 1855).

115. How each to be assessed.

For the present Settlement the Government of India laid down " that the circumstances of each Zamindari should be considered separately, and the assessment in each fixed in consideration of its previous history and present condition." These detailed reports were accordingly drawn up and sent in separately for each Zamindar, which the orders of Government contemplated, for the consideration and orders of the Chief Commissioner, and the assessment in each has been revised and sanctioned for the term of Settlement, 12 years, on the expiration of which period these assessments will again be open for adjustment. No pattas (leases) have been granted to the Zamindars such as have been granted to ordinary landholders in the khalsa portions of the district, because the Chief Commissioner ruled that as no enquiries have been made into rights in Zamindaris, it would be impossible in the absence of careful enquiry, which it is undesirable to make at present, to define the rights and interests of the Zamindars as against cultivators, village Gaontyas and others, and to grant them a Sanad setting these forth." A Kabuliat only has therefore been taken from the Zamindars in the following form :-

" Whereas at the present Settlement the Government demand on the Zamindari of _____ has been fixed at _____ per annum, I, who have been recognised as Zamindar according to the custom of the country, agree to pay the above sum during the currency of the present Settlement, that is to say up to the year _____." This is the course which was followed with regard to Zamindari tenures in the two previous Settlements of 1850 and 1863.

116. An abridged account of each as follows.

An abridged account, taken from the detailed reports of each Zamindari will now be given.

KOSABIRA alias JAIPUR.

117.

KOLABIRA alias JAIPUR.

117. Situation, size, population, &c.

This Zamindari of the Uttartir is situated almost due north of Sambalpur, at a distance of 30 miles. It is a compact tract of country, some 16 miles in average length and the same in breadth, covering an area of 231 square miles, which on its northern boundary abuts on the Gangpur Zamindari, under the Government of Bengal. For the most part it is open and well cultivated, with a population of 103 souls to the square mile; traversed from south to north by the highroad to Ranchi (Chutia Nagpur), is watered by the Bhadan river and several other minor streams, besides possessing 66 tanks for irrigation purposes. Kolabiri, where the Zamindar resides, is an ordinary village possessing no fort or "garh" of any sort, although the Zamindar is commonly styled a "Garhotia" or Fort holder.

118. Antiquity of tenure.

An antiquity of 150 years is claimed for this Zamindari, but it was only created by Raja Jait Sing in A.D. 1784 in favour one Sausaro Naik for Military service, and has since descended in hereditary succession. The present Garhotia is Ghansiam Sing, by caste a Gond, a quiet well conducted man, aged 35 years.

119. Past assessments and present tributes.

When first constituted a Zamindar, Kolabira paid an assessment of R. 700 (sulki = equal to six annas of a Government rupee); which was doubled by the Marathas when they ruled in these parts, which sum again was further raised on the restoration of the indigenous Native rule to R. 2,200 (sulki). The first Settlement after British rule was made at R. 749 and in 1853 at the next Settlement 100 R. were added to that assessment, which has since been paid. This estate now consists of 76 Asli and 125 Dakhli villages, the cultivated area in which is estimated to be 1,469 Puris, which at average assessment rates for the adjoining Khalsa villages gives an assessment of R. 2,897, the Zamindar admitting a collection of R. 2,651. Taking all other kinds of income into consideration, the Zamindars'

receipts were found to be as under :-

Sources of income.	Admitted by the Zamindar	Estimated by the Settlement officer.	Proposed assessment by the Settlement officer.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	2,651	2,697	889	
Pandhri tax	98	98	49	Pandhri revisable periodically.
Nazarana	260	260	131	
Bazar dues	34	34	17	
Total	3,043	3,089	1,096	

The proposed assessment was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

RAMPUR.

120. Situation, size population &c.

This Zamindari of the Uttartir is also situated nearly due north of Sambalpur, at a distance of 24 miles; covers an area of from 190 to 100 square miles; is of irregular shape, and there is one portion detached from the mainbody and intermixed with khalsa villages, so that the correct area cannot well be ascertained. On the northern boundary this estate also touches on the Gangpur Zamindari, under the Government of Bengal. In this estate there is a good deal of hill and jungle and stony unproductive land, interspersed, however, with rich strips of valley land. It is watered by the Ieb and Bhedan rivers; is rich in iron ore and coal, but is sparsely populated, the average per square mile being so low as 38 souls, distributed over 56 Aali and 9 Dakhli villages; but a good deal of the cultivation here is carried on by non-resident tenants, who live in the adjoining khalsa villages, so cultivation is increasing every year, taking the place of the forest, which is disappearing very fast, except when it is dense and far removed from inhabited parts.

121. There is no such place now as Rampur, which has been deserted for many years. Its situation was on

Residence of the Zamindar.

a hill nearly surrounded by the rivers Eeb and Bhedan, and was difficult of access, so was looked upon as a suitable residence for the Zamindar in unsettled time. He now lives at Rameswar, a village at the foot of the Rampur hill.

122. Antiquity of tenure.

The Rampur Zamindari is a very ancient one, having been created by Raja Chhattur Sai, the 6th Chowhan Rajput Raja of Sambalpur, between A.D.1623 and 1659 in favor of one Prannath Rajput, a soldier of fortune, who found his way here from the Benares district and having assisted the Raja in putting down a rising of his subjects was suitably rewarded. The estate has descended inhereditary succession ever since. The present " Garhotia " is Bakhtawar Sing, a minor, aged 15 years, and a promissing lad.

123. Former assessments and present tribute.

The first assessment in the time of the Sambalpur Rajas was fixed at R. 300 (Mulki), and that sum continued to be paid until the district passed under British rule in 1850, when one of R. 256 was fixed, but in 1862 it was raised to R. 700 as the late Zamindar joined in the rebellion of 1857-59, but it was intended by the officer who made this Settlement to lower it, which his subsequent death left unrevised. The estimated area under cultivation was found to be 78½ Puris, which at the rate falling upon the khalsa villages which adjoin this estate, gives an assessment of R. 1,372, the Zamindar admitting a collection of R. 1,406. And there are besides other source of income, which having been estimated after making full allowance for a long term Settlement of 12 years, show the Zamindar's receipts to consist of :-

Source of income.	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement Officer	Proposed assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	1,406	1,406	251	Pandhri revisable periodically.
Forest dues	208	150	75	
Iron mines	136	68	34	
Pandhri tam	16	16	8	
Nazarana	...	150	75	
Total.	1,766	1,790	543	

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Taking into consideration, however, the present prosperous condition of the estate, the Chief Commissioner did not sanction the proposed reduction in the assessment, which still continues at Rs. 700 per annum as fixed in 1802.

RAJPUR.

124. Situation, size, population &c.

This Zamindari of the Uttartir is situated on the furthest northern boundary of the district, distant 30 miles from Sambalpur, and its northern boundary likewise touches that of the Gangpur Zamindari, under the Government of Bengal. It comprises an area of 38½ square miles, contains 17 Asli and 3 Dakhli villages, with a population of 93 to the square mile. Rajpur is a well cultivated open tract of country intersected by several minor streams which fall into the Eeb river, which runs along its eastern boundary and are largely utilized for irrigation purposes.

125. Age of the tenure.

The tenure is of considerable antiquity. The present Zamindar is Babu Jugraj Sing, aged 40 years, by caste a Chouhan Rajput, and an off-shoot of the long line of Sambalpur Chouhan Rajas, who has always been loyal and bears an excellent character.

126. Former assessments.

During the rule of the Marathas a quit-rent of Rs. 512 (malki) was imposed for the first time, and it continued to be the demand on the estate until the district came under Government management, when an assessment of Rs. 155 was imposed, and has since contined unchanged.

127. Present resource and tribute.

The extent of cultivation was found to be 348 Puris, giving an assessment at average rates applied to the adjoining khalsa villages of Rs. 609, the Zamindar admitting a collection on account of land revenue to the extent of Rs. 539. There is but one more source of income to the Zamindari, the Pandhri tax —

Source of income	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer	Proposed Assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	539	609	187	Pandhri tax revissible
Pandhri Tax.	85	85	43	periodically.
Total				

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Having taken into consideration the nature of the tenure of the estate and the connection of the present holder with the former rulers of Sambalpur, the Chief Commissioner sanctioned the proposed light assessment.

L A I R A.

128. Situation, area and population.

This Zamindari of the Uttartir is situated at a distance of 20 miles north-east of Sambalpur, and covers an area of 44 square miles; contains 14 Asli and 14 Dakhli villages, the population in which averages 108 per square mile. The country is partly open and partly covered with forest and brushwood. The open portions are fairly cultivated, and the others are rapidly being reclaimed and brought under cultivation. The high road to Chutia Nagpur passess through a portion of the estate, over a low but rugged range of hills. Water is scarce, as there are no streams of any importance and there are but seven tanks in the whole estate.

129. Age of tenure and former assessments.

From the records of the late Native Government, it is ascertained that the Laira Zamindari was created in A.D.1776 in favour of Jai Sing, Gond, who had rendered Military service to the State during the reign of Raja Abhai Sing, and has since been held in hereditary succession by his descendants. Before the country lapsed to the British Government, various amounts of quit-rent were paid by the estate. In A.D. 1850, however, it was fixed at Rs.234, and in 1858 it was raised to Rs. 240, which has since been paid, exclusive of Pandhri tax.

130. Loyalty of the Zamindar in 1857-58.

Shibunath Sing, the late Zamindar, was the only man among the petty Chiefs of the aboriginal castes who remained loyal during the disturbances of 1857, standing aloof from all his relations, who were deeply implicated, and assisting the Govt authorities. He died in 1873, and has been succeeded by his son, the present Garhotia, Brindaban Sing, who is only seven years old, the estate being managed by his mother and uncle.

131. The cultivated area here, was estimated at 210

Present resources and tributo.

Puris, and by applying the average rates adopted in the adjacent Zamindari of Kolabira, an assessment of Rs. 366 was derived, the Zamindari admitting a land revenue collection of Rs. 333, and there is a small income from other sources, viz :-

Sources of income.	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer.	Proposed assessment	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land revenue	333	366	220	Pandhri revisable periodically.
Nazarana	40	40	20	
Pandhri tax	21	21	10½	
Total.	394	427	260½	

The proposed assessment corresponded with what the estate was already paying (exclusive of Pandhri tax), which was at a rate exceeding 50 percent of its income; but the Chief Commissioner raised the amount with Pandhri tax to Rs. 285½, as a slight increase over the present demand was considered necessary to show that the Government had a right to enhance it.

KODABAGGA.

122. Situation, size, population &c.

This Zamindari of the Uttartir is situated at a distance of 30 miles north-west of Sambalpur, it covers an area of 26 square miles, and possesses 22 Asli and 4 Dakhli villages. In its northern boundary it touches that of the Gangpur Zamindari, under the Government of Bengal. Kodabagga is principally an open tract of country, bordered by a small hill range along its entire length from south-east to north-west, from which range rises a stream, which traverses the whole breadth of the estate, and its waters are largely utilised for irrigation purposes, even in its part beyond Kodabagga. The tract is well cultivated, except in some parts where it is a woody and thinly populated, but still the population is on a scale of 119 souls to the square mile for the whole estate.

123. From the records of the late Native ruler, it can only be ascertained that Kodabagga is the ancient and hereditary estate of the occupant family, and the Zamindar can himself give no

Antiquity of tenure and former assessments.

no history of his family. Traditionally, however, the Kodtagga man is admitted to have been the head robber chief of the locality, who lived on what he levied as black-mail from the peaceful inhabitants of the country, [illegible] around his estate for many years, and occasionally made plundering raids besides. During the early part of the present century, however, the Native Government managed to impose a quit-rent of Rs. 64 on the Zamindar, commonly styled "Dau," by caste a Gond, which on the district coming under Government management in 1850, was raised to Rs. 74, and again in 1853 to Rs. 82, which was still being paid.

Present resources and tribute.

134. Ratan Sing, the late Zamindar, died in October 1876, and has been succeeded for the present by his widow in default of male issue, but there is a minor nephew of Ratan Sing's, who may eventually succeed to the estate, though he is illegitimate. The cultivated area is estimated at 325 Puris, able to bear the highest of average rates of the neighbourhood, which gives an assessment of Rs. 394, whereas the Zamindar admits a collection of Rs. 447, and there are besides other sources of income as under :-

Sources of income	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer.	Proposed assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land revenue	447	447	111	Pandhri tax revisable periodically.
Nazaranna	150	150	75	
Forest dues	12	12	6	
Pandhri tax	16	16	8	
Total	625	625	200	

The proposed assessment was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

MAHIDA.

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Situation, size and population &c.

135. This, the smallest Zamindari in the district, of the Uttartir, is situated at a distance of 38 miles north-west of Sambalpur, contains

only 4 villages, with two others, which have but recently been established in new clearances. The estate covers an area of 10 square miles, and possesses a population giving 91 souls to the square mile. As is the case with all the Zamindaris in this direction Machida also borders on the Gangpur Zamindari of the Chutia Nagpur Commissionership. Two or three streams rise from the same hill range which has been alluded to under the Kodâmgga Zamindari, and run through this Zamindari, affording excellent irrigation for sugar-cane crops, &c. Machida is for the most part a cleared tract of country with scrub jungle in patches here and there.

136. Age of the tenure and past assessments. The Zamindar, Harihar Sing, by caste, a Gond, and commonly styled "Dam," is a well conducted young man, of about 30 years of age, who claims to have held the Zamindari for six generation which was granted to a distant ancestor of his for Military service against one of the Cuttack Tributary Mahals (Boad), and is generally supposed to be a century old. In the Raja's time the assessment on this estate was Rs. 35, which sum continued to be paid until 1853, when it was raised to Rs. 44, which has since been paid.

137. Present resources and tribute. By an approximate estimate, the lands of this estate under cultivation are found to be 80 Puris, which at average rate of the neighbourhood brings out an assessment of Rs. 140. The Zamindari admits that his receipts amount to Rs. 125, and there are a few other small items of income.

Sources of income.	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer	Proposed Assessment	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	125	140		Pandari tax
Nazarana	8	8		revisable
Forest dues	7	7	60	periodically.
Pandari Tax.	4	4		
Total	144	159	60	

The proposed assessment was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

LOISING.

138. Situation, size and population &c.

The Loising cum Jujumura Zamindari of the Uttarair, is situated in the south eastern extremity of the district, east of the Mahanadi river, and is 20 miles from Sambalpur. It covers an area of about 60 square miles, and contains 19 villages; the population being sparse is found to be only 28 souls to the square mile. In fact, the whole estate may be styled a mountainous region, with hill ridges, some of them over 2,000 feet in height, standing out in all directions; heavy jangle of valuable timber trees in some parts, open glades and valleys in others, and excellent pasturage grounds for cattle extending over miles of well watered country. Fertile valleys, rich with natural manure, but very unhealthy at one season of the year and unbearably hot at another, in which the crops-destroying wild animals abound. The highroad to Cuttack vid Angul passes through Jujumura.

139. Antiquity of the tenure, resources and tribute.

Very little can be found on record regarding this Zamindari, but it is reputed to be a very ancient one, and to have been created during the reign of one of the early Rajas of Sambalpur.

During the late Raja Narain Sing's time, this Zamindari paid an assessment of Rs. 129 (Gulki rupees) and in 1850 after British rule it was fixed at 119 Government rupees, and in 1853 raised to Rs. 129, which amount was still being paid. The present Zamindar, named Jagannath by caste a Gond, is a young man, 25 years old, of uncouth appearance and wanting in intelligence. The estimated area under cultivation in his Zamindari is found to be 160 Puris, to which area the average rates of the Khalsa villages in the neighbourhood being applied, an assess of Rs. 260 is arrived at, the Zamindar admitting a collection of Rs. 245, and there some other items of income as under :-

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Sources of Income.	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement Officers.	Proposed Assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	245	250		Pandhri tax revisable periodically
Nazarana	20	20	180	
Forest Revenue	15	15		
Pandhri Tax.	8	8		
	288	308	180	

The proposed assessment of 180 rupees was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

PHULJHAR.

288. Situation, size, population &c.

This Zamindari of the Dakhintir is situated at a distance of 15 miles south-west of Sambalpur In length east and west it is 36 miles, in breadth 26 miles, and it abuts on the boundaries of the Bilaspur and Raipur districts in the north and west respectively, covering an area of 787 square miles, and has a population of 32 souls to the square mile. It contains 419 villages, of which no less than 58 have become entirely waste, and have been so for a number of years. About two-thirds of the total area is under cultivation, and one third is waste, hill and forest. In the north-western portion, where the 58 villages now deserted existed, the country is hilly, the eastern portion and the western are very woody, where wild buffaloes abound. The southern centre is open and well cultivated country, as is also the northern centre. The rest is partly woody and hilly and partly open and valley land; the soil is light and sandy throughout, except in valleys, where it is rich and fertile.

The highroad to Raipur passes through the whole lenght of the estate, from east to east to west, and trade routes intersect it in all directions. The old town of Phuljher, with a fort said to have been built 250 years ago, and still in existence though much overgrown with jungle, has now been abandoned for upwards of a century, on account of its unhealthiness, the Zamindari

at present living at a village called Bastipale, situated at the foot of the Sigwal hill, 2,280 feet high with a table-land space of 4 miles by 2, where the family resided in the days of the Pindaras.

141. Antiquity of the tenure. Phuljher claim an earlier

Phuljher constituted one of the 18 Garjhat States "of the Alitharagarh," and is not a tenure created by the Rajas of Sambalpur, as the Rajas of Phuljher claim an earlier existence than the Sambalpur Rajas. The family is by caste Raj

Lachman Sai, illegitimate son of Raja Pirthi Sing by a kept woman of another caste.

Gonds, of the Garah-Mandla stock, and has now become completely extinct. The only representative now is Lachman Sai, a lad of 16 or 18 years of age, but he is doubly illegitimate, besides being born of a mother who is not of the Gond caste.

Lachman Sai, illegitimate son of Rohma Sing by a kept mistress of another caste.

142. Former tribute.

When the political power of the British Government extended to these parts, Phuljher was charged with a tribute of Rs. 450 per annum, which continued to be paid down to 1857, when on the occasion of the succession of the last Raja, Jay Sai, an illegitimate son of a former Raja, but from a Gond mother, it was raised to Rs. 800, the Settlement being for 10 years only, but that sum has continued to be the tribute up to the present time. With the death of Jay Sai in 1862-63, the title of Raja became extinct; but the estate is at present under the management of Rani Lagumkumari, the aged widow, verging on a hundred years, of one of the former Rajas, of Phuljher, for the benefit of Lachman Sai, who is to succeed if he can be admitted into caste, for which strenuous but abortive efforts have hitherto been made by the family for 8 years, though there has been a lavish expenditure of money, which has plunged the estate, already heavily weighted, still deeper into debt, and the process is still in progress under the influence of a worthless set of agents who surround the old lady, who is too weak physically and mentally to look at anything herself.

143. Present resources and tribute.

The Zamindar's receipts of present amount to about Rs. 13,824, made up of land revenue, grazing dues, excise, forest dues, tax on iron mines, market dues, tax on trades &c., and this revenue, under better

management, is capable of great expansion, whereas the present tribute taken from the Zamindar only amounts to Rs. 500 or less than ℞ 1-27th of the income; an assessment therefore of Rs. 1,000 per annum was proposed as the future sum to be paid by the estate so long as it continued on its present footing, which looking to the income and now that the status of a Raja has no longer to be maintained cannot be considered too much. The Chief Commissioner sactioned the proposed assessment, "but only for the lifetime of the present Zamindarin, after which it will be reconsidered, and the question of what should be done with the State will be decided," it being considered unadvisable at the present moment to raise the question.

B U R H A S A M B A R.

143. Situation, size, population &c.

This Zamindari of the Dakhintir is situated at a distance of 64 miles from Sambalpur, in a south-westerly direction. In length it is 44 miles east and west, and in breath 21 miles, covering an area of 840 square miles. There are 258 Asli and 102 Dakhli villages in it, with an average population of only 32 to the square mile. The country is very hilly and woody throughout, with heavy forests of timber trees and extensive pasturage grounds which induce large colonies of Banjaras, engaged in the salt trade with the Madras sea cost, to settle here. No road passes through this state, but there are several trade routes. The Ong river runs through the Zamindari. Wild animals of all descriptions are numerous, and iron ore is found all over the Zamindari, and worked up into excellent pig iron and implements of husbandry.

144. Former tribute.

The Burhasambar Zamindari was formerly classed as a Garhjat State, and only paid a tribute of Rs. 160. It is a very ancient tenure. The present Zamindar is Bhagtow Barbia, by caste a Binjwal, aged 32 years, somewhat addicted to drink.

145.

It was ascertained that the Zamindar was enjoying an income of Rs. 14,736 made up

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Present resources and tribute.

of land revenue, Nazarana from village lessees, forest and grazing dues, excise, tax on trades &c., and the estate is improving every year, so that Rs. 18,000 may be set down as the Zamindar's receipt, from which he only paid to Government the small almost nominal tribute of Rs. 130, having been one of the Garhjats. Taking this fact into consideration a tribute of Rs. 200, or an increase of one-fourth, on the present one, was proposed; but the Chief Commissioner said that he did "not consider any very large increase to the tribute advisable, but that it may fairly be raised to Rs. 300," and accordingly sanctioned that sum as the future tribute payable by the Zamindar.

BARPALI.

146. Situation, size and population &c.

This Zamindari of the Dakhintir is situated at a distance of 30 miles south-west of Sambalpur, surrounded by and intermixed with Khalsa villages. The country is flat and open, entirely devoid of forest, and consequently is the first to suffer any year in which the rain-fall is below the average. The estate covers an area of 130 square miles, contains 83 Asli and 9 Daidli villages with an average population of 141 to the square mile. It is thoroughly cultivated. Two small streams traverse the Zamindari and a fair-weather road passes through it from south-west to south-east. The town of Barpali is next in importance to Sambalpur as respects trade, manufactures and population.

147. History of the tenure.

This Zamindari was created by Raja Bahar Sing about the close of the fifteenth century, in favour of a younger son named Bikram, as a provision, and was granted free of any tribute. Since that time the estate has descended in regular succession. A tribute of 900 Kulki rupees was first imposed by the Marathas, which was subsequently raised to Rs. 1,800 and then reduced to Rs. 1,275. After British occupation of the district in 1080 a tribute of Rs. 460 was fixed which was still being paid.

148.

Present resources and tribute.

The present Zamindar is Babu Narupraj Sing, aged 24 years, by caste a Chowhan Rajput. He is a particularly well conducted and well educated young man. He exercise magisterial authority in his Zamindari. The cultivated area of his estate was found to be 2,[illegible] Puris, which at average rates applied to the neighbouring Khalsa villages gave an assessment of Rs. 7,475 (besides miscellaneous Land revenue) a good deal more than the Zamindar was collecting simply as land revenue, but during his minority the estate had been mismanaged. Including other items the Zamindar's income was found to be as under :-

Sources of income.	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer.	Proposed assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue.	6,861	7,475	600	Pandhri revisable periodicall
Nazarana.	257	257		
Pandhri [illegible]	611	611	305½	
Total	7,749	8,343	905½	

The proposed assessment only raised the amount payable by the Zamindar by Rs. 140 in consideration of the Zamindar's connection with the former rulers of Sambalpur; the Chief Commissioner however, further raised the assessment by 200 rupees, but the Zamindar having urged the loyalty of his family during the disturbances of 1857-58 and represented that the capabilities of the estate had been over-estimated, the originally proposed assessment of Rs. 905½ was then sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

B H E D A N alias B A S S Y K E L L A.

149.

Size, situation, population &c.

This old zamindari of the Collistir is situated at a distance of [illegible] miles nearly south of Sambalpur. It covers an area of [illegible] 30 square miles, possesses a population of 151 souls to the square mile, scattered over 30 villages. The country is all open and well cultivated, with here and there only brushwood jungle in stony ground. The soil is good and productive and the streams

Danta and Jeera by passing through the estate contribute towards its fertility.

150. Antiquity of the tenure and past assessments.

There are no records to show the antiquity of the tenure, but the fact of the present Zamindar Baijnath Sing, coming from the Garha Mandla Raj Gonds, is sufficient to stamp its antiquity. Baijnath Sing, commonly styled 'Dewan," is 30 years of age, is a spendthrift and has becoem heavily involved in debt. During his father's lifetime the assessment paid by the estate amounted to Rs. 553, but as he joined in the disturbances of 1857-58, the assessment was raised to Rs. 800 as a punitive measure.

151. Present resources and tribute.

Estimating the cultivated area at 1,060 Puris and applying the average assessment rates of the neighbouring Khalsa villages, an assessment of Rs. 2,650 was arrived at, the Zamindar admitting a collection of Rs. 2,582 on account of land revenue, besides which there are only two other sources of income as under :-

Sources of income	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer.	Proposed assessment	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue	2,582	2,650		Pandhri tax revisable annually.
Nazarana.	389	389	900	
Pandhri Tax.	364	364	182	
	3,335	3,403	1,082	

The increase of Rs. 100 only to the Land Revenue assessment beyond the amount at present paid by the Zamindar was proposed in consideration of the assessment baging already once been considerably raised after the disturbances, the proposed Settlement was accordingly sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner without any comments.

BIJEYPUR.

152. This Zamindari, called also Uttal and Baisi, in the Dakhintir, is situated at

Situation, size and population, &c.

a distance of 38 miles south-west of Sambalpur; is very much intermixed with Khalsa villages and villages of other Zamindaris. Generally an open tract of country, undulating only in some parts, with a little brushwood jungle here and there. No forest or hills exist here and no rivers or roads deserving the name traverse the tract; but there is a very large sheet of artificially stored water at Bijeypur which irrigates the land for several miles. After carefully picking out the area of the villages of which the Bijeypur Zamindari is made up, it is found to aggregate 50 square miles, comprising 54 villages which contain a population giving an average of 141 souls to the square mile.

133.
Age of tenure, former assessments and present tribute.

Bijeypur is by no means on old Zamindari, as it was only created in A.D. 1821 or thereabouts, by Raja Maharaj Sai, in favour of Gopi Kulta, grand-father of the present Zamindar Nurtanjai Garhotia, who had made himself useful to Major Boughsage, the Political officer who visited the parts about that time. A tribute of 782 Malki rupees was first imposed on the Zamindari, which in 1850 on the district coming under Government management was commuted to 322 Company's rupees, and in 1853 raised to Rs. 373. The Garhotia is by caste a Kulta, aged 32 years, and exercises the powers of an Honorary Magistrate within his estate. For his services during the disturbances of 1857-58 the Government of India sanctioned the Settlement of the Zamindari with him in proprietary right on an assessment of Rs. 360 per annum for 40 years, which will extend up to A.D. 1908 so that it cannot be interfered with during the term of this Settlement.

G H E S.

134.
Situated, size, population &c.

Another of the Dakhintir Zamindaris, is situated at a distance of 48 miles south-west of Sambalpur. It covers an area of about 40 square miles, comprises 10 Asli and 5 Dakhli villages and has a population of 120 souls to the square mile.

It is a semi-jungly tract, has no road passing through it, and but a small stream, called the Ghynsali, which, however, runs dry in the hot weather.

155. Age of tenure and former assessments.

There is nothing on record to show when this Zamindari was created, but an antiquity of two centuries is claimed for it. The present Zamindar, commonly styled "Barkta," named Ujal Sing, aged 24 years, by caste a Ujjwal, the same as the Burhasambar Zamindar is a quiet and well conducted young man. The estate paid a tribute of 111 rupees Mulki in the late Raja's time, was assessed in 1850 at Rs. 343; but the present Zamindar's father having joined in the disturbances of 1857-58, though allowed under the amnesty to regain possession of his estate, as a punitive measure the assessment was raised to Rs. 353.

156. Resources and present tribute.

The cultivated area of the Ghes Zamindari is estimated at 334 Puris, which at the average rates applied to the khalsa villages in the neighbourhood, gives an assessment of Rs. 768, the Zamindar admitting a collection of Rs. 791 and he receives also half the Pandhri tax collections (Rs.54.8.0) in his estate. There are no other sources of income. As the present assessment was a full one, a slight increase only was proposed, namely an assessment of Rs. 460 plus Rs. 548 on account of Pandhri tax, or a total of Rs. 514-8-0, which was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, the Pandhri tax being open to revision periodically by the District officer

KHARSAL.

157. Situation and description of tract.

The Zamindari of the Dakhintir, is situated at a distance of 20 miles due west of Sambalpur. It is partly open country, well cultivated, partly not, as the portions lying below the Barapahar hills are more or less covered with forest. The Girsal stream passes through this estate, in which the factilities for storing of water by artificial means are great.

158.

The area of the Zamindari is about 30 square miles, It has 17 Asli and 5 Dakhili

villages and a population of 153 souls per square mile. It is an old Zamindari, said to have been created more than two centuries ago. The present Zamindar Maha Singh, commonly styled "Sirdar," by caste a Gond, of the Garha Mandia stock, aged 29 years, is a respectable man, though not very intelligent.

Size and population.

159. In 1850-53 the assessment was Rs. 278, which in 1862 was raised to Rs. 300 on account of the late Zamindar's complicity in the disturbances of 1857-58. The cultivated area was estimated at 390 Puris, which at average rates applied to khalsa villages in the vicinity of Kharsal, brought out an assessment of Rs. 975, but according to a revision of leases recently effected, the Zamindar had raised his land revenue to Rs. 1,075. The following table shows the total income of the Zamindar :-

Assets and present assessment.

Sources of income	Admitted by Zamindar.	Estimated by Settlement officer.	Proposed Assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land Revenue.	1,075	975	425	Pandhri tax revisable periodically.
Nazarana.	200	200		
Pandhri tax.	61	61	30	
	1,336	1,236	455	

By the proposed assessment one-third of the admitted land revenue and Nazarana and half of the Pandhri tax was taken, and two-thirds and one-half respectively left for the Zamindar, which assessment was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

PAHARSIRGIRDA.

160. This Zamindari of the Dakhintir is only 13 miles due west of Sambalpur, situated in the midst of the khalsa, faced by the lofty Baraphar hills on its northern boundary, below which the bulk of the estate lies. The southern portion consists of open and well cultivated country, the northern of hilly, more or less covered with forest trees.

Situation, size, and population &c.

It covers an area of about 20 square miles and has a population of 71 souls to the square mile scattered over 10 Asli and 2 Dakhli villages. The Jhanj river rising in the Barapahar hill passes over a good portion of the Zamindari.

161. Antiquity of tenure and former assessments.

The Paharsirgirda family is a branch of the Bhedan Zamindar's family; who, however, acquired this Zamindari at a much later period. In 1850 an assessment of Rs. 75 was imposed on the estate, which in 1853 was raised to Rs. 80, which again in 1862-63 was raised to Rs. 95, as a punitive measure for the complicity of the family in the disturbances of 1857-58. Byjnath Singh, the present Garhotia, aged 34 years, is a quiet and simple-minded man.

162. Present resources and tribute.

By estimation, the cultivated area is found to be 136 Puris, giving at average assessment rates of the khalsa neighbourhood an assessment of Rs. 206. The Zamindar admits a collection of Rs. 211 as land revenue, and there are other items of income as under:-

Sources of income.	Admitted by Zamindar	Estimated by Settlement Officer.	Proposed assessment.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Land revenue.	211	206	86	
Forest dues.	...	30	10	
Bazar dues.	50	50	25	Pandhri tax revisable periodically.
Nazarana.	21	21	10½	
Pandhri tax.	17	17	8½	
	299	374	140	

The proposed assessment was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, by which a little more than two-thirds of the land revenue and half of the either sources of income were left to the Zamindar.

PATKULUNDA.

163. This Zamindari of the Dakhintir is situated

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Situation, size, population, past and present tribute.

30 miles south-west of Sambalpur. There are only 6 villages in it, which are intermixed with those of the Bhedan Zamindari They are computed to cover an area of 10 square miles, and to have a population of 127 souls to the square mile. It is a thoroughly cultivated estate at present held by Musst, Rukni, the aged widow of Pitambar Sing "Dewan," the last Zamindar, who died in 1867. He belonged to the Bhedan family, and before his death adopted Pirthi Sing, the younger brother of the Bhedan Zamindar as his heir, who who will succeed to the estate on the death of the widow, now in possession. This is a Zamindari only in name. In 1850-53 it was assessed at Rs. 218, but as Pitambar Sing joined in the rebellion of 1857-58 as a punitive measure the assessment was raised to Rs. 300 at the time when he was allowed to settle down under the amnesty. The cultivated area comes to 121 Puris, giving an assessment of Rs. 302 at average assessment rates of the khalsa, or nearly the same as the amount at present paid to Government. The only profit to the Zamindarin from the estate, is the Bhogra lands of village Patkulunda, which she cultivates herself, and they yield her a profit of Rs. 80 per annum. Under these circumstances it was proposed that the present assessment of Rs. 300, plus Rs. 36 on account of Pandhri tax, the latter revisable periodically be maintained, which proposition was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner.

MANDOMOKULSIRGIRDA.

164.

Situation, size, former and present tributes

This Zamindari of the Dakhintir is 42 miles from Sambalpur in a south-westerly direction. There are only 4 scattered villages belonging to it, whose aggregate area is small, and they contain a population of 1,164 souls. The villages are fairly cultivated. The origin of the estate dates only from A.D.1830. The second Garhotia, Anant Sing, Gond, aged 42 years, is at present in possession. He joined in the disturbances of 1857-58, so the assessment of his estate, which until then had only been Rs. 35, was raised to Rs. 100, as a punitive measure after he settled down under the amnesty. The Zamindar

collects a land revenue of Rs. 138, and receives an annual average of Nazrana, to the extent of Rs. 40 and half the Pandhri tax Rs. 6.8.0: an assessment therefore of Rs. 106 on account of land revenue and Nazarana, plus Rs. 6.8.0 for Pandhri tax, was proposed, and received the sanction of the Chief Commissioner.

RESULT OF ZAMINDARI SETTLEMENT.

165. Financial result of new Settlement.

The following table gives the result of the Zamindari settlements in the two tahsilis, from which the Pandhri tax has been omitted; it is assessable by the district officer periodically, and generally the amount differs.

Zamindaris.	Paid before present Settlement.	Will pay under present Settlement.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Kolabira ...	849	1,047	198
2. Rampur. ...	700	700	...
3. Rajpur ...	155	151	2
4. Lairi ...	240	245	5
5. Kodabagga ...	82	192	110
6. Machida ...	44	58	14
7. Loising ...	129	146	17
DAKHINTIR.			
8. Pinljhar ...	800	1,000	200
9. Durbasambar ...	160	300	140
10. Barpali ...	460	600	140
11. Bhedan alias Bassi Killa	800	900	100
12. Bijaipur ...	350	350	...
13. Ghos ...	456	460	4
14. Kharsal ...	300	425	125
15. Paharsirgirda ...	95	131½	36½
16. Patnalunda ...	300	300	...
17. Mandomohul Sirgirda ..	100	105	5
Total.	5,720	7,116½	1,396½

166.

186. Acceptance generally of new tribute.

It may be added that the new assessments were cheerfully accepted by all the Zamindars except (1) the Barpali man, who appealed to the Chief Commissioner, and (2) the Rajpur man, who had been labouring under the delusion that his tribute in this Settlement would be reduced rather than increased, although the enhancement is only nominal, only Rs. 2.

187. Desired revision of the village assessments.

With their tributes enhanced, most of the Zamindars will of course wish, and some have already attempted, to make fresh arrangements with their Gaontyas as soon as they can, and this will cause litigation hereafter, which will require special rules to be laid down for the guidance of the district Courts for its disposal. At present none such exist, and different officers have different view on the subject. Many of the Zamindars wished for a village settlement, through the Settlement department, but this being contrary to the orders of the Chief Commissioner, was therefore not undertaken.

188. Position of ryots and Gaontyas.

The ryots in these Zamindari estates have hitherto occupied the same status as ryots in the khalsa, and the Courts have acted under Act X of 1859 in dealing with cases of ouster, &c., which came before them from the Zamindaris, and now they will probably act under the rules laid down by Government, in respect to the status of ryots holding ryoti lands in the khalsa; but something definite needs to be laid down about the status of Gaontyas holding villages under the Zamindars. Heretofore those of 12 years standing, have been maintained in their positions on litigation arising. A list of Gaontyas in Zamindari estates has been prepared for each estate, showing the tenure and length of possession of every Gaontya, and is on record with the Settlement papers of each estate.

CHANDARPUR cum PADAMPUR.

189. Formerly two khalsa parganas.

These were formerly two khalsa parganas of the Uttartir tahsili, they have now been constituted as Zamindari, but as the

tenure entirely differs from the other non-feudatory Zamindaris of this district, they are reported upon apparately from the latter.

170. The late loyal Zamindar. His reward.

Rup Sing was Munsiff of the Sambalpur district in 1857-58; he, for his services rendered to the British Government before that time, when in the employ of the late Raja of Sambalpur, had received the title "Rai Bahadur," confered upon him under a Sanad bearing the seal and signature of Lord Dalhousie, Governor General of India, having in his capacity of Munsiff rendered further good services to Government. The Under Secretary to the Government of India, in the Home Department, Judicial, in letter No. 2149, dated 25th September 1858, intimated to the Government of Bengal "that the Honourable the President in Council has much pleasure in sanctioning the transfer to Munsiff Rai Rup Singh Bahadur, as a substantial acknowledgement of his loyal services to the British Government, of the six villages in the Sambalpur district, (1) Kolabira, (2) Rampur, (3) Bassi Killa, (4) Patkulunda, (5) Kharsal and (6) Kurkutta, which have been attached, on account of the Gaontyas having joined the rebels. The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor will be so good as to cause the boundaries of the villages to be demarcated, and the assessment thereon of Rs. 2,345 per annum, declared fixed for 40 years." The orders of the Government of India were accordingly carried out, and Rup Singh was put in possession of the so-called 6 "villages," which, however, were all Zamindari estates with the exception of the last named, which had been a Zamindari, but was looked upon as khalsa mahal, when it was transferred to the "Rai Bahadur."

171. Amnestied ex-rebels.

After the Queen's amnesty was proclaimed, the proprietors of the six attached estates, wished to come back to settle down in their respective homes, but a stranger was in possession under the authority of Government. The situtation was awkward, and there was in consequence an inclination to have undone what had already been completed, but the Government of Bengal would not listen to such a proposition as —

"The Lieutenant-Governor observes, that although it is

to be regretted that * * * *
in recommending the grant to this deserving man, designated as six villages, what are really six estates, each containing a large number of villages, and a considerable tract of country; nevertheless, as there cannot be the least doubt, from the specification of jamas as to what he intended to recommend, the grant is absolute and final, and no question as to what was granted, ought ever to be raised. In any arrangement, in the shape of exchange with Rupp Sing; which may be negotiated, he must not even be asked to agree to anything which would leave him in any respect a loser."

This was written in August 1861

172. Pacification of district of primary importance

The pacification of the district being at that time of primary importance, some speedy arrangement with RuppSing, with a view to restitution, became imperative. He himself it would appear took the initative, and reaped all the advantages of a first move. He scored one more for loyalty by this step, but if the truth were known, his conduct would be found to have been dictated more from fear of his life, if he retained the estates of some of the noted rebels of the district, on whose return to it he never calculated, than from any real desire to help the Government out of the awkward dilemma it had placed itself in, as the returning out-laws were becoming clamorous to get back to their homes.

173. Exchange of certain Zamindaris for these pargana.

This then is the substance of the communication which was in January 1862 addressed to the Government of Bengal, proposing the exchange of the six estates for Chandarpur cum Padampur.

"I have the satisfaction to report that I have effected an arrangement with Rai Rug Sing, by which, subject to Government approval, he is willing to take in

exchange for the 6 estates formerly conferred on him, two contiguous parganas of Chandarpur and Padampur, the aggregate value of which appears to be about the same as that of the lands which he resigns. The following are the details of the exchange :- Rup Sing himself estimates the present rent-roll of the 6 estates at only Rs. 9,397, from which the public jama of Rs. 2,345 has to be deducted. This leaves a profit of Rs. 7,052. The aggregate revenue now collected from Chandarpur and Padampur, together with certain cesses, is Rs. 7,848. The jamma formerly paid by these parganas was Rs. 4,130. This jamma Rup Sing is willing to pay now. He thus apparently gets a profit of only Rs. 3,418, against the Rs. 7,852 which he admits to having made out of the 6 mahals, but the calculates that he will fully make up the difference by abuabs and other means by which a Zamindar can always realize more than the Government. The jama is to continue for 40 years, like that of the 6 estates, after which a fresh settlement will be made, and malikana allowed to Rup Sing or his successors on the terms given to ~~other~~ other Zamindars. The estate will of course be his absolutely, to transmit to his descendants, to sell or to dispose of in any manner he pleases, subject of course to the chance of an enhancement of jama on the settlement after 40 years

I am happy to state that Rup Sing is thoroughly satisfied with the exchange. He has throughout shown a much better spirit than I expected, and readily assented.

* * *

He is relieved of the obloquy of enjoying the heritage of men whom he had, however, unintentionally, betrayed to death, and instead of a number of estates and villages scattered over the whole district, he gets a single compact property in one corner of it, remote from the disturbed parts, and with no former proprietors ~~sympathizers~~ to disturb him with their intrigues. On the other hand I think Government has ~~no intrigues. On the other hand I think Government has~~ no reason to be dissatisfied with the arrangement;

6

putting aside the contemplated or completed restitution to the former owners, which is a separate consideration altogether, we are at the first sight gainers. We resign an actual revenue of Rs. 3,418 for an estimated one of Rs. 7,052. It is possible that we might not be able to realize the whole of this sum, but we should certainly collect much more than we have given away. It must, however, be remembered that we have resigned all right to an enhancement of the revenue of the two ceded parganas for 40 years. We have on the other hand, acquired the right to enhance those of the 6 mahals for their equivalents given to Rup Sing in former negotiations, but I think it probable that the Settle-ment Officer will not make full amends for what we lose, and it must further be remembered, that when we decide on restoring the mahals to their former owners, the gain on a resettlement will undoubtedly be less than would have accrued, if the component villages had remained in Gzontya management ".

After further detailing the advantages of the proposed arrangement it was said 'by resuming the 6 estates from Rup Sing, we get rid of a festering sore, * * * we facilitate * * * their restoration to their former owners * * and restore the credit of the Government.'

174. The Government of Bengal accordingly, on the 23rd January 1862, intimated that " in conveying the approval of Government to the Settlement effected by you with Rai Rup Sing, by which he exchanges the six estates conferred on him, for " the two, contiguous parganas of Chandarpur and Padampur, to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor considers that you have made a very satisfactory arrangement! This said arrangement taking effect in the opinion of the then district officer, from the date on which the 6 estates originally granted were made over, and extending from September 1858 to September 1898, according to the Sanad or Patta granted to Rup Sing by the

Government sanction to the exchange and period of Settlement.

district officer on the 8th February 1862, but the wording of the proposition submitted to the Government of Bengal and sanctioned by it in January 1862 says, as already quoted, that, "the jama is to continue for 40 years like that of the 6 estates," which literally construed would extend the 40 years settlement of the two parganas on their present jama not from September 1858, but from January 1862 to January 1902 A.D. The difference of nearly four years between the two periods is of importance both to the Government and to the Zamindar, and needs to be clearly settled by the supreme authority, which period shall hold good. There is no authority at present on record for joining the period for which the 6 estates originally granted were held to the period for which Chandarpur and Padampur are to be held on the present jama, to make up the aggregate of 40 years.

No mention in the arrangement about subordinate holders.

178. Nothing is mentioned it will be noticed in the correspondence, regarding the position which the village Gaontyas of the two khalsa parganas subordinated to Rai Rup Sing in Zamindari tenure for the first time in 1862 were to occupy thereafter. He was allowed to levy "abwabs" and to adopt "other means" for raising the revenue; but whether he could make fresh settlements with the Gaontyas every three or five years as other Zamindars do or not, was left unsaid, and as Rup Sing died in less than two years after entering upon possession of his newly acquired estate, and was succeeded by a mere child in the Zamindari, the question never came up during the long minority which supervened between that period and the time when in common with other parts of the district the revised (present) Settlement question came up for decision. A reference was consequently made for the decision of the Chief Commissioner, enquiring (1) as to who was to make the new Settlement of the estate as affecting the interests of the village Gaontyas, the Zamindar or the Settlement officer ? and (2) what rights were secured to the said Gaontyas?.

178. The question of rights will be discussed in another part of this report. At present the Settlement question only will be gone into.

Terms of new Settlement and rules regarding it.

Regarding the latter, the Chief Commissioner laid down the following rules after reviewing the correspondence which has already been quoted :-

"Up to the year 1862 Chandarpur and Padampur were two khalsa parganas, the malguzars in which held the leases of their villages direct from Government. They were exactly in the same postion as other khalsa malguzars in the Sambalpur district. * * In 1862 however these two khalsa paraganas were conferred on Rup Sing under the orders of the Government of Bengal, * * in lieu of 6 Zamindaris granted to him by the Supreme Government * * The parganas have since remained as a single estate in the possession of Rup Sing and his son Harihar Sing the present holder, and the malguzars have made their annual payments first to Rup Sing and then to Harrihar Sing instead of direct into the Government Treasury. The sanad obtained by Rup Sing stated that the parganas were granted in Zamindari at a quit-rent of Rs. 4,130 for a period of 36 years commencing from 1862 and up to 1898. * * * * It is to be understood that the payment of Harrihar Sing remains unchanged, and whatever increase of assessment on individual villages may result from the revision of Settlement now in progress, this increase will be solely for the benefit of the superior proprietor. * * * * Although the Government has, as stated, no direct interest in the result of the assessment, it is still essential that complete data as regards each village be collected and tabulated in a Form somewhat similar to that prescribed for Khasa villages so that the jama fixed in each case based on existing ascertained assets, and be in all respects fair and moderate. There has been no revision of jama in the villages comprising the estate since it was first granted to the present family in 1862, and the Chief Commissioner understands that the superior proprietor has been prevented by the local authorities

from interfering with the old jamas. The samad he holds makes no restriction in this respect, and when Rup Sing obtained the estate * * he then held for a surplus of Rs 3,410, on the distinct understanding that he was to make up the difference by " khalsa and other means" incidental to a Zamindari tenure, one of these means obviously being a revision from time to time of village jamas, - and expedient commonly resorted to in all Zamindaris, a resource which was open to Rup Sing in the Zamindaris he consented to give up when pressed to assist in the pacification of the country. The whole position however was an anomalous one.

The means by which Rup Sing could have increased the assets of his estate were not such as could fairly by applied to men who had been recently khalsa malguzars, and it is well that his claim, whatever it amounts to, has not hitherto been pressed against them. Virtually the question has remained pending the present revision of settlement. The malguzars on the estate are in every way liable to revision at the same time that the jamas of the khalsa malguzars are being reconsidered, neither and as any increase resulting from this revision will be received by Harrihar Sing, his claim, according to the original arrangement made with his father, is fully satisfied. It is of course necessary that Government officials should make the revision with more minuteness than in ordinary Zamindari estates, because the rights which have grown up antecedent to the connection of the superior proprietor with the estate are of a kind that require to be duly protected. The Settlement made with the malguzars will be for 12 years, the same as in khalsa villages, as the Government in the interest of the people withdraws from the superior proprietor the power of revision. "

177. Commencement of Settlement operations. Agreeably to these instructions, amins were employed with a supervising staff, to prepare village khasras, by field appraisement. to measure

showing besides the estimated seed area, a classification of soils, description of crops raised &c., in short to prepare similar Khasras for these two parganas as were prepared for other parts of the District, a process which has already been fully described and need not be repeated here.

178. Both the parganas were visited by the assessing officer village by village, preparatory to assessment from the village Khasras, as well as from the inspection notes, data were collated for the General Assessment Statements,

Inspection of villages, assessment and report thereon.

and grounds for fixing the assessment in individual villages were recorded to enable the Chief Revenue Officer to judge of their appropriateness, taken in conjunction with the figures in the statements which were besides, accompanied by a detailed report, a few abridged passages from which will now be imported into this report to furnish a description of the two parganas from a Settlement point of view.

179. The Chandarpur pargana is situated in the north-western portion of the district, distant about 50 miles from Sambalpur, and adjoins the Bilaspur district. It is separated from the Padampur pargana by a strip of the Raigarh Feudatory State running in between them. The Padampur pargana is more north of Sambalpur, distant 30 miles from it. The compact portion of the Chandarpur pargana is about 13 miles in length and the same in breadth, and it has several detached blocks of villages intermixed with the Sakti (in Bilaspur), Saraigarh and Raigarh States. The Padampur pargana is about 12 miles in length north and south, with an average breadth of 6 miles. The two parganas together cover an area of some 300 square miles.

Situation and size of the parganas.

180. Chandarpur is mainly a flat plain of somewhat sandy soil, almost bare of trees and forest; and there is scarcely a hill to be seen, to break the monotony of the view, over an open surface. There is hardly any waste land

Description of pargana of Chandarpur.

or even scrub jungle. What little there is, the people of this tract cannot be induced to preserve; but measures have been taken, as will be explained hereafter, to introduce some sort of conservancy for the future.

Description of pargana Padampur.

181. Padampur is a compact pargana, and is in every respect similar to the Uttartir khalsa, dotted over with splendid mango groves, some hill and jungle, several streams, and nearly every village has its tank and " kunta " for irrigation purposes.

Roads.

182. The whole length of both parganas, from east to west, is traversed by the fair-weather, but unbridged main road from Sambalpur, to Bilaspur, which follows the course of the Mahanadi river, keeping close to its left bank all the way, to the limits of the Zamindari in the west. There are no other roads.

Streams.

183. In Chandarpur there is the Borai river, a tributary of the Mahandi, which entering this district from Bilaspur, joins it a little above the town of Chandarpur. The next stream of importance is the Hand, which passes over a smallportion of the western limits of the pargana, and then ~~xxxxx~~ falls in the Mahanadi. There are likewise two smaller streams, the Pugan and the Baghar. In Padampur there are only two streams, the major and the minor Silo, ~~xx~~ which pass over the breadth of the pargana.

Principal towns and manufactures.

184. Chandarpur and Padampur are the two principal towns in the Zamindari. In both places large quantities of Tasar silk is manufactured and exported to the south and east, Sarhampur (Ganjam), and Cuttack (Orissa), respectively.

Population, castes and languages.

185. As regards population, both parganas are well off, as the average is 166 souls to the square mile. The castes and language in Chandarpur are similar to those of Chhattisgarh or Bilaspur, while those of Padampur are essentially Uriya.

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186. Nomenclature of main descriptions of soil.

The nomenclature of the four main recognised descriptions of land, with reference to situation, is different in Chandarpur as compared with the Khalsa, already described. In Padampur the same nomenclature is used as in the Khalsa. The Chandarpur names are :-

1. Behra, corresponding with Bahal in the Khalsa.

2. Dhori	do.	do.	Berna	do.
3. Khar	do	do.	Mal	do.
4. Tikra	do.	do.	At	do.

The descriptions of soil are (1) "Kanhar," limited to a small portion of Chandarpur, or what in some parts of India is called "black cotton soil," suitable for producing wheat and gram, which will not grow in other soils of those two parganas; (2) "Mattasi," having a larger proportion of sand in it than Kanhar, and (3) "Darra," or Bard, inferior soil. In Padampur the soils are the same as in the Uttartir Khalsa. Adopting the Uriya nomenclature, the proportion in each pargana is found to be in the-

Chandarpur,	Bahal	10	per cent
Do.	Berna	8	do.
Do.	Mal	66	do.
Do.	At	15	do.
Padampur,	Bahal	20	per cent.
Do.	Berna	9	do.
Do.	Mal	54	do.
Do.	At	17	do.

187. Staple produce and percentage of different crops.

In both parganas the staple produce is rice. In Chandarpur sugar-cane is only limitedly grown, being confined to a few villages. In Padampur it is produced in nearly all good villages. The following crops are raised in the proportions shown :-

In Chandarpur,	rice	88	per cent.
Do.	pulse	5	do.
Do.	oilseeds	4	do.
Do.	cotton	4	do.
Do.	gram and wheat	1	do.

In Padampur,	rice	85	per cent.
Do.	pulse	5	do.
Do	oilseeds	5	do.
Do.	cotton	4	do.
Do.	gram and wheat	0	do.
Do.	sugar cane	1	do.

188. The style of cultivation in Chandarpur is very slovenly, as the people are naturally of lazy habits, and every thing connected with their agricultural operations is therefore managed in a careless manner. Weeding is never thought of; manuring is not often possible, as cattle droppings are largely used for fuel; when a field is over-grown with deep-rooted grass, it is abandoned and another plot is taken up, without any means being resorted to, to restore the fertility of the exhausted field. Transplanting rice is unknown, or is not practised, because it involves more labour than the way in which rice is ordinarily sown broadcast. In Padampur, however, matters are managed differently; in fact in the same way as in the khalsa, which has already been mentioned. Such is the contrast between the habits of the Chhattisgarhi people of the Chandarpur pargana and the Urya people of Padampur, that while the area lying unsown and fallow in the former is $\frac{1}{6}$th of the total assessable area, it is only $\frac{1}{45}$th in the latter.

Style of cultivation

189. It has already been stated, there is hardly any excess waste and jungle in this Zamindari. There is a small hill in Padampur, named Chelia Dongri, which the Zamindar has been trying to reserve as much for sport as for the timber trees growing on it, and there are besides one or two small hills in Chandarpur, which are quite bald at present; the consequence is that the people of both these parganas are almost entirely dependent on the forests of the Feudatory States of Sarangarh and Raigarh for their wood and grass, &c.

Waste and jungle.

190. As in Chhattisgarh, so in the Chandarpur pargana, the most numerous caste among, the agricultural classes is the ganda, or "[illegible]"

Prevailing castes.

Southern India, many of whom call themselves Panikas and are "Kabirpanthis," eschewing liquor, flesh of all kinds and tobacco; but the Hindi Urya draws no distinction between this sect of Ganda and the ordinary Ganda, to touch either being defilement, necessitating a bath and change of clothes. Next come the Chamars, who muster very strong here, as in Chhattisgarh, and many of these too are "Kabirpanthis", this fact, however, does not make the least difference in their social status in the eyes of the Urya, who looks upon him quite as much a helot as his carrion-eating brother, who does not become a "Kabirpanthi." After Gandas and Chamars come Gyhras or Rawats, of the cowherd caste, then Gonda and Saoras. The best agriculturists in the Chandarpur pargana however are Agharias, already described, who also have partly become "Kabirpanthis," the rest remaining "Deotahas," or idol-worshippers. The adoption by a few of the "Kabirpanthi" religion, however, has made no difference between them and the Deotahas socially. There are some Kurmis also, Chandrohas and Gahiels, but Brahmins and Rajputs are very much in the minority, being less than five per cent of the population. In Padampur there are the same Urya castes as have been described in the Khalsa portion of this report.

191. Tenures. The tenure in both the pargana of this Zamindari are principally of the simplest form of "Zamindar." The family lives together and enjoys the profits of the village unitedly, the eldest member or the representative of the eldest branch of the family becoming the manager and the party who engages with the Government for the payment of the assessed revenue. There is not a single instance of a village being split up into 3 or 4 pattis and again into ten times as many shares, instances of which are so common in the Khalsa tahsilis as have been elsewhere described. There are a few instances among the Agharias, where the members of the family having become somewhat numerous, it was found more conducive to domestic harmony to allot a hamlet or two to collaterals, who have now become Gaontyas in their person of such. Others again have been provided with plots of land from the bhogra which have been secured to them.

* See account of the section in Settlement Report of Bilaspur.

192. Owing to the paucity of the priesthood classes in these parganas, there is a remarkable absence of rent-free tenures, as there are in all only three petty rent free villages granted as endowments for temples.

Paucity of muafi holdings.

193. During the Maratha occupation of the district, the people in these two parganas suffered a good deal at the hand of the sipahis and sowars of the Marathas, subhas, as the Rattanpure (in Bilaspure) and Nagpur passed through Padampur and road to Chandarpur, so that when Raja Jeth Sing and his son and successor Maharaj Sai returned from their long exile in Chanda, they found all the villages along the route deserted, which were a long time in being repeopled and brought under cultivation. The Kurmis left for Chhattisgarh, the Agharias for Raigarh, and the Gonds &c., became scattered in all parts. Some years later, during the time of Raja Maharaj Sai's widow, owing to the constant raids made by the different pretenders to the gaddi, these parganas again became waste; so that when the late Raja Narain Sing came to the gaddi in 1834, he found them in the same condition as his predecessor Maharaj Sai found them; but during his reign, which extended down to 1849, some improvement in their condition took place, as the Raja had very wisely leased out the villages on moderate jamas; and as the Settlements of 1850 and 1853, made after British occupation of the district, merely on each occassion raised the Raja's jama by 25 per cent. the aggregate demand remained low, and these measures therefore account for the present flourishing conditon of both the parganas.

State of the parganas under Marathas.

194. With a light assessment and their villages thoroughly cultivated and well populated, the Gaontyas have had easy times of it; in most cases collecting much more than the assessed revenue, despite the theory started by some officers, that the Gaontyas in this district could only collect the assessed Government revenue from the ryots and nothing more.

Present condition of the Gaontyas.

195. The jama of Chandarpur under the last Settlement

Amount of past and present assessment.

amounted to Rs. 5,370½, and of Padampur to Rs. 2,245. Having divided the parganas into convenient assessment circles, as was done in the khalsa, and having after due enquiry adopted such of the khalsa average assessment rates and produce rates in the different circles for which they were found suitable, the assessments were duly worked out, resulting in an assessment in Chandarpur on ryoti lands of Rs. 7,369, plus Rs. 1,665 payable by the Gountyas for excess bhogra lands assessed, total Rs. 9,034. And in Padampur, on ryoti lands Rs. 3,280 plus Rs. 132 for excess bhogra, total Rs. 3,412 giving an aggregate for the two parganas of Rs. 12,446 as per details in the General Assessment Statements accompanying, of which an abstract will be found in Appendix No. III. As the assessment under the past Settlement it will be seen amounted to Rs. 7,615½, for both parganas, the increase by the present Settlement will be Rs. 1,830½ or at the rate of Rs. 67½ per cent; but the increase on the present ryoti payments by the new assessment will only be Rs. 2,028, falling at the rate of Rs. 23½ per cent, which is but a moderate enhancement. Out of the Rs. 12,446 which ~~the~~ the Zamindar will now collect, he will have to pay the Government Rs. 4,130, retaining the balance as his profits from the Zamindari.

Present Zamindar.

190. Babu Harrihar Singh, the present Zamindar, is 25 years of age, by caste a Rajput, and he has three younger brothers. All the brothers have been educated in the Government school at Sambalpur, the eldest having acquired a fair knowledge of English, besides being a good Uriya scholar. He exercises the powers of an Honorary Magistrate within the limits of his estate, and is daily gaining experience in the management of his important estate and the conduct of his Magisterial duties.

C H A P T E R III.

NATURE AND REGISTRATION OF RIGHTS.

Section I.- Rights and Tenures.

197.

197. A great deal has been written on the subject of rights and tenures of this district by different officers holding widely different views, so that for several years the people were kept as much in suspense about the rights which were going to be conferred on them at the time of Settlement, as they were in the matter of assessment. A few extracts from the different opinions held and recorded by different officers from time to time will illustrate how the matters stood before 1872.

Diversity of views on the subject.

198. The first officer who wrote upon the subject of Gaontyas, rights, was Dr. Cadenhead, the first District officer who was appointed to Sambalpur in 1850, after the Native rule became extinct. He made the first summary Settlement for 3 years within a few months of his taking charge, and in submitting the report of that Settlement to the Agent Governor General at Ranchi, he wrote as follows :-

Dr. Cadenhead's opinion.

> " It appears to have been the unceasing object of the Gaontyas to obtain an authoritative recognition of their invariably asserted claim to the right of hereditary succession; * * * but that claim has not, I conceive, any just foundation either in respect to the theory of the Gaontya tenure or to the practical treatment of individual claims from time immemorial."

199. A few years, later (1853) came Mr. H.Ricketts, a Member of the Bengal Revenue Board, on a tour, and passing through this district, he expressed an opinion that the position of the Gaontyas mainly depended on the efficient performance of their duties, and that they enjoyed as their remuneration a portion, rent free, of the best land of the village; and that Mr. Ricketts could distinguish little, if any, difference between the Gaontyas and the Padhans* and Sarbarakas of Khurdah and Cuttack, whose position is this, that the settlement of villages is made with them, but under them the old ryots also have a settlement at fixed rates

Mr. H. Rickett's opinion.

* Mr. Hunter, in his book on Orissa, says these men all received proprietary rights.

which cannot be altered during the term of Settlement.

Major Impey's opinion.

200. Nine years later another District Officer, Major Impey, who had been here for about two years then, mentioned in a Note which he drew up at the Chief Commissioner's request on the 30th June 1862, that —

" With respect to tenures of Gaontyas it was ruled on the Revenue Settlement, that Gaontyas have no prescriptive first rights; on the other hand, however, it was decided that hereditary succession and long incumbency gave priority of claims, or say right of occupancy.

* * * Thus these, and all Gaontyas who have since under authority been appointed, should, I conceive, be accepted as farmers or proprietors of villages.

* * * *

" A Gaontya possesses to permanent transferable interest in any portion of village lands, and has no right to appropriate for his own use any part of the revenue-paying, i.e. ryoti lands." * * *

Sir R.Temple's opinion.

201. On the above note, the Chief Commissioner's remarks were, that —

" On the new Settlement, the Officiating Chief Commissioner inclines to think that the Gaontyas of khalsa villages should be proclaimed as proprietors (Malik) with rights of transfer, &c. * * * It appears that the position of * * * Gaontyas is generally hereditary (Mourusi)."

Subsequently, on the 13th October 1862, "a proclamation * was issued in which it was notified that a new Settlement would be effected, and that whereas all former Settlements having been made for short terms, without enquiry as to the rights of the Gaontyas, their minds were unsettled, and they had not been in a position to do justice to their villages; the coming Settlement would hold good for 20 or 30 years, and proprietary rights (Milkiyat) would be conferred on all Gaontyas who might be found on

* C.Grant, Esq., Commissioner, Raipur, to Secretary to Chief Commissioner's No.4792, dated 27th December 1870.

enquiry to be entitled thereto. Further all Gaontyas on whom such proprietary rights might be conferred, would be proprietors (Malik) of their villages, and would have an heritable and transferable right thereto. The terms held out by this proclamation were repeated and confirmed by the Chief Commissioner (Mr. Teggle) in public Darbar held at Sambalpur on the 9th March 1863. In his address to the Gaontyas on that occasion, he fully explained to them the nature of the privileges which had been conferred upon them by the grant of proprietary right in their villages. Shortly after this Darbar, the formal investigation of the rights of claimants to proprietorship in the various villages commenced * * * In making the awards occasion was taken afresh to explain to the grantees the nature and extent of the privileges which had been conferred upon them. It will be seen therefore that the Administration lost no opportunity of impressing on the Gaontyas that they were to obtain a right of proprietorship with all its incidents and privileges in contradistinction to a mere right of farm or management. That this pledge was thoroughly understood and accepted by the people themselves is abundantly clear from the course of after-events. The district, which had for many years back been in a chronically troubled state, has for the last few years been peaceful and prosperous; there has been a great extension of cultivation, and from 200 to 300 new tanks have been constructed. The first signs of these practical good effects of the proprietary grants were noticed in the Administration Report of 1864-65, and since then repeated testimony has been borne to the hearty and loyal spirit with which the Gaontyas have met * * * efforts for the introduction of education, vaccination and other measures. * * *

Government orders regarding Gaontyas' rights.

202. The ultimate orders of Government, however, regarding the rights to be conferred on and privileges to be enjoyed by the Gaontyas only announced that :-

(1)- In consideration of the responsibility for the revenue accepted by the Gaontya, and of the duties attaching to his office, as manager and village head, there will be conferred on the Gaontya, the heritable and transferable right to hold in perpetuity free of assessment the

bhogra land at present held and cultivated by them, up to a maximum of one-fourth of the whole* of the present land assessment of the village, leaving Government free at a future Settlement to prescribe what shall be the share.

(2)- The right to receive during the term of Settlement rent on all uncultivated and unoccupied land that may be brought under cultivation during the currency of the Settlement, but such rents are not to exceed the rate of assessment on the ryoti land of a similar class in the same village.

(3)- The Gaontya shall have power to locate cultivators on all land thrown up during the term of Settlement, the assessment on such land remaining unaltered.

(4)- From cultivators on his bhogra land, the Gaontya shall have the right to demand such rent as he thinks fit. Such cultivators will be mere tenants at will.

(5)- The Gaontya will have general control of the Village servants.

(6)- Villages in which many sharers exist, and in which the Gaontyas are poor people, who would feel aggrieved by having to pay revenue for portions of land which they have enjoyed rent-free for some generations, in which cases, when the bhogra exceeds an equivalent in land of one-fourth of the assessment, and is already divided among many shares, the excess may be exempted, from assessment.

To the above list of rights and privileges conferred, certain conditions are attached, viz :-

(a).-The Gaontya will be responsible for the collection of the revenue.

& &

*The Secretary to Chief Commissioner in No. 4086.178, dated 11th December 1874, said it was to be a quarter of the whole ryoti assessment.

(b).-For keeping and rendering of such accounts as may be required of him, and performing such duties as by the custom of the country are assigned to the head of a village.

(c).-Persons on whom the bhogra lands are conferred as Gaontyas, and those who may derive from them here-after in any way any portion of such bhogra lands, shall be under the obligation of providing for the due performance of the duties of the office of Gaontya, and will be entitled to hold their land on that condition only.

Subsidiary orders regarding the above.

203. As the orders of Government do not lay down the mode by which a defaulting ryot can be ejected, nor that no more than the Government revenue assessed at Settlement can be collected by Gaontyas from ryots holding ryoti lands; nor yet about the non-effectiveness of written agreements exacted by Gaontyas from new ryots taking up lands subsequent to the Settlement, it has been necessary to lay down the follwing subsidiary rules, and to incorporate them in the village Administration paper :-

(3).-A Gaontya or a Shikmi Gaontya has no authority to summarily eject a ryot, but should a ryot be in arrears and his ejectment be considered necessary, then the Gaontya or Shikmi Gaontya must apply on plain paper to the Revenue Court, which, if the arrears be proved, will order the ejectment desired.

(4).-Any agreement, binding a ryot on ryoti land to relinquish his holding in any manner inconsistent with the principles of the Settlement will be ipso facto void and of none effect.

(5).-No Gaontya or Shikmi Gaontya shall have the right to collect or exact anything from any ryot which was not assessed at the time of Settlement or distinctly set forth in this, the village Administration paper.

204. The Gaontyas are remmerated with bhogra lands allowed to be held free of assessment up to a certain

limit, but it was found that in many cases, owing to the number of co-sharers in the villages, the managing Gaontya's share was very often insufficient. The Chief Commissioner accordingly laid down the following rules, which have also been incorporated in the village Administration paper :-

Subsidiary orders regarding the above.

In non-partitioned villages, when division of bhogra is applied for, one-tenth of the whole bhogra shall be set aside for the remuneration of the lambardar, unless by the unanimous consent of the shares, confirmed by the District officer, a cash payment is fixed in lieu. The remaining nine-tenths of the bhogra shall be divided amongst the sharers, including the lambardar, according to their respective rights.

In partitioned villages where the Gaontya has not already received one-tenth of the bhogra, it can be claimed for him by the District officer either in land or its equivalent in cash. In case of cash being taken, the amount will hold good for the term of Settlement, and will be liable to revision at its close.

Rendition of village papers.

205. The Gaontyas have been made responsible for keeping and rendering such accounts as may be required of them "but no village servants not now existing should be created." As in some villages the ryoti area and assessment are large while the Gaontya's bhogra is small, the expense of having these accounts prepared and submitted if the Gaontya alone had to defray it would have pressed heavily, the following rule has therefore been sanctioned and constitutes one of the clauses of the village Administration paper, viz :-

The managing Gaontya or Shikmi Gaontya, according as the village is a Gaontya or a Shikmi Gaontya estate, is the person responsible for the punctual submission of the village papers. The cost of preparing these papers will be borne by the whole village community in shares proportionate to the Government jama assessed or assessable on the holding of each person, be he Gaontya, co-sharer, muafidar or ryot.

206. Enquiries into proprietary rights. The enquiry into claims to and the conferring of proprietary rights were commenced by Major Impey and his Settlement Extra-Assitant Commissioner, Sapnaisur Das, in July 1863. During Major Impey's time and up tothe end of that year, 110 cases were decided. In the Memo, which Major Impey recorded on the 30th June 1863, which has already been alluded to, he stated that "every proved hereditary Gaontya and old incumbent, together with all other than existing incumbents, against whom claims of precedence were not substantiated (such claims having retrospective limits) who consented tothe Government terms of revenue were continued in their charges.

* * "From the above it will be seen that the claims of old Gaontyas to their shares of village occupancy have already been decided and registered, and that therefore it will not be necessary or expedient to invite by a second proclamation a resuscitation of the same. Thus these and all Gaontyas who have since under authority been appointed, should, I conceive be accepted as farmers or proprietors of villages, provided always that they shall consent to pay the determined revenue. There may be certainly a few instances of conflicting claims still to come forward, but these might be taken up on presentation, and not be sought for." Such being the views which Major Impey held on the subject, he commenced his proprietary right investigations in accordance with them.

207. Procedure followed in deciding claims of Gaontyas and co-sharers. The procedure adopted was this. A Gaontya was sent for, and his statement taken down as to how the village came into his possession; in corroboration of which statement he called two or three witnesses, and after that it was declared that the proprietary rights of the village were conferred upon him. Hardly any of the Gaontya's relatives, co-sharers, under-holders &c., knew that proprietary right enquiries were being made; but a short while after-wards, the co-sharers came to know what had been done, and representations were then made tothe Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division, and these were followed by references tothe Chief Commissioner, who eventually ruled that :-

(1) When a single Gaontya had without removal this village

without accounting to his relatives for profits or losses, proprietary tenure now conferred will rest in him only; but that where other members of the family have hitherto shared the profits and losses of the Gaontyas, they will now share the proprietary tenure, unless by mutual arrangement they are provided for as malik Makhuzas.

(2) - That declaration of rights of malguzars does not interfere with subsequent determination of rights of shar holders and "Malik Makbuzas" at the time of making khewat, &c.

Bulk of the claims decided by Colonel Cumberlege.

308. The bulk of the proprietary right cases, however, were decided by Colonel Cumberlege (Major Impey's successor in 1864) by the end of April 1866, and of the remainder 61, some 40 cases afterwards. As Colonel Cumberlege had not seen Major Impey's Memorandum quoted above, before he had nearly completed the enquiries into proprietary rights, he conferred them on Gaontyas and their co-sharers after notice being given to all who wished to claim, because he came to this district from the Nerbudda valley districts where all co-sharers found entitled to shares in the proprietary rights of a village had the same duly conferred on them; but although the Chief Commissioner's orders about awarding shares to the Gaontyas co-sharers under the conditions stated, were received in Colonel Cumberlege's time; he did not take any steps for allowing the co-sharers in villages of which Major Impey had conferred the proprietary rights on Gaontyas alone to bring forward their claims. This was done afterwards, by all who wished to claim being invited to do so by proclamations issued to each village; their claims being duly enquired into and disposed of according to their merits. Even among the cases decided by Colonel Cumberlege, there were some in which the co-sharers had omitted to put forth their claims in the first instance, from various causes, as ignorance, apathy, deceived by Gaontyas with false assurances that their names had been duly recorded in the proprietary right misl, and so forth. Generally

speaking, the claims to proprietary rights decided both by Major Impey and Colonel Cumberlege were of a simple nature, there being very few conflicting claims requiring serious consideration, owing to the paucity of changes among Gaontyas for default of revenue, &c.

False impression about rule of primogeniture among Kultas.

209. An impression was entertained by some officers that among Kulta families the rule of primogeniture was generally observed, and that the eldest son became Gaontya, while the others were merely provided with ryoti lands or a small provision from the bhogra; but this impression was found to have been entertained by a few of the leading Gaontyas of the Kulta caste, who had succeeded in monopolizing all the bhogra lands of their villages and were strong enough to retain them, for there is really no general custom among the Kultas in favour of the rule of primogeniture, which over rides the Hindu law of inheritance, for there are more Kulta families in the district in which the younger sons have received equal shares with the eldest according to private distributions, than there are in which the rule of primogeniture has prevailed. It is a fact also that the very men who put forward this rule as one that had become the general custom among Kulta families are now in difficulties themselves about providing for their younger sons, especially those born after a second marriage. Besides, if the rule of primogeniture was of universal custom among Kultas, why should it have been confined to Gaontyas' families alone, why not have extended to ryots as well; but such is not the case, and as a great many of the Kulta Gaontyas are but ryots developed, in some instances only a generation or so ago, why should the custom become applicable in the later stage which did not apply in the former. Then there are the same caste of Kultas in the Zamindaris where no such custom as the rule of primogeniture is claimed to prevail. For all these reasons then, the general rules laid down by the Chief Commissioner for awarding shares to the members of a Gaontya's family were followed among Kultas as among other castes instead of being guided by the doubtful custom of the rule of primogeniture.

210. Shikmi Gaontyas. After Gaontyas and their co-sharers, come the Shikmi Gaontyas, or subordinate Gaontyas, a class of tenure which is somewhat numerous in this district, owing to (1) tribal or settlements having hitherto been the rule, and (2) the prevalence of Mundi tenures held by non-resident grantees. The rights of these Shikmi Gaontyas had never been defined, but it had been the practice of the Revenue Courts not to allow old Shikmi Gaontyas who had held for twelve years and upwards to be ejected at the will of the Gaontyas by whom they had been introduced.

211. Major Impey and Colonel Cumberlege's action regarding them. Major Impey did not confer subordinate rights on Shikmi Gaontyas, but in a few cases he conferred Gaontyas, or "full" proprietary rights on Shikmi Gaontyas holding under Mundaris, in cases when such Gaontyas were themselves de facto proprietors of their villages. Colonel Cumberlege on the other hand, only in a few villages conferred the rights of an "under-proprietor" on the Shikmi Gaontyas, as he left the claims of the bulk of them to be considered at a later stage of Settlement operations than they had reached during his time.

212. Earliest mention of Shikmi Gaontyas. The earliest mention of these Shikmi Gaontyas is found in a letter from the Agent and Commissioner of Chutia Nagpur, when submitting the first Settlement report of the district in 1860 to Government, in which letter when writing about the Gaontya's profits he says "any conclusions on these points must be still immature, especially with the fact on record that the sub-letting system is in extensive operation in the tenures of all land-holders from the first class Zamindar down to the petty Gaontya who has a hamlet or so to dispose of."

213. Settlement Commissioner asks how their claims will be dealt with, with suggestions. When Colonel Cumberlege in 1869 proposed his plan of Settlement, the Settlement Commissioner enquired to be informed how he would ascertain and record the rights of "under-proprie-

and whether there were no " Theakadars ", and such like, who will be entitled to rights, and how their claims would be met. The Settlement officer's reply was to the effect that "Shikmi Gaontyas would of course be confirmed as sub-proprietors." When sending up the Settlement officer's report to the Chief Commissioner for orders, the Settlement Commissioner remarked that "the manner in which Captain Cumberlege proposes to define the rights of Shikmi Gaontyas (Thekadars) is in my opinion proper and appropriate, nor do I anticipate, much difficulty in dealing with this class of cases, for I think the instructions, contained in the Settlement Code, and the Chief Commissioner's Memo on Theka ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ tenures, will be found generally applicable to them also." The Chief Commissioner's orders on this reference were to the effect that " most of the other tenures, though they bear names unknown in other districts under your supervision, yet seem analogous to tenures and rights which you have successfully investigated and recorded elsewhere. For instance, the Shikmi tenure appears to be the name given by the late Major Impey, both to the rights of co-sharers and to the of sub-lessees of villages. * *

* For the treatment of all these tenures your department has rules and guides."

Shikmi rights conferred accordingly, but Commissioner objects to explanation given.

214. With these orders on record, and in the absence of any allusion to subordinate Gaontyai rights in the system of Settlement, which was sanctioned to be effected under the orders of the Government of India, dated 1st May 1872, proclamations were issued throughout the district, inviting claims on the part of Shikmi Gaontyas for under-proprietary or Shikmi Gaontya rights, which notices were largely responded to in 1872-73 (and subsequent years). At this time Colonel Lucie Smith was in charge of the Commissioner's office, and held an opinion that sub-proprietors (Shikmi Gaontyas) in villages held on Gaontya tenure should not be recognized at all. It was then explained to the Commissioner, that as during the time of the late Raja of Sambalpur, and in the previous Settlements, the mahalwar system of Settlements had prevailed, that is to say, to one village several hamlets, here

called palis, were attached, in many of which palis Shikmi Gaontyas existed, who in some instances had been in possession before the Gaontya's family to whom proprietary rights had now been given, acquired the estate; but that as a general rule, the Shikmi Gaontyas were men, who on their ancestors were introduced to the village by the Gaontya's family, ten, fifteen, twenty and thirty years ago, that the Shikmi Gaontyas during their occupancy had expended capital on permanent improvements, in excavating tanks, had reclaimed land from forest, had located ryots, planted groves, and had during a period of undisturbed possession, efficiently managed their palis, besides having done well by them; their tenure, however, was generally subject to the payment of a certain profit to the superior Gaontya above what the Shikmi Gaontyas engaged to pay as the ryoti assessment of the hamlet. The question the to be decided, was whether those Shikmi Gaontyas were now to be recognised by the conferment upon them of subordinate Gaontya ryots or not. During the existencoof the double-tenure, both parties it will be understood had enjoyed a certain amount of profit from the village. To ignore the existence of the Shikmi Gaontya, would leave him at the caprice of the Gaontya, to be ejected at leisure; to confer on the Shikmi Gaontia the full proprietary rights of the hamlet, would amount to confiscating the profits which the Gaontya had hitherto enjoyed. It was therefore recommended that the Shikmi Gaontya's position be made secure for him by the Settlement officer's conferring on him the rights of an inferior proprietor, or Shikmi Gaontya, subject to the payment of a fair maliana to the Gaontya, the same to be fixed by the Settlement officer, and to be over and above the Government assessment on the hamlet. And as regards the circumstances which should be deemed to have qualified a Shikmi Gaontya for confering of the proposed rights on him, the broad principles laid down by the Chief Commissioner in 1864, which, have been quoted above from the Settlement Commissioner's letter, were proposed to be taken as a general guide.

215. Commissioner approves and sanctions propos sals.

This explanation satisfied the Commissioner, and he then quite agreed in the necessity of recognizing the position of Shikmi Gaontyas as, said he,

that their recognition had already received the accord of the Chief Commissioner in several decisions of his Court. The Commissioner also concurred on the principle on which malikana was to be allowed to the Gaontya. The Shikmi Gaontyas claims were accordingly enquired into and decided on the principles approved and sanctioned on all hands, but the malikana question was left to be settled after the assessments had been sanctioned and announced, and this stage of the work had just been entered upon when other orders were passed on the subject by the Chief Commissioner.

Revised orders by the Chief Commissioner.

216. In July 1875 the Commissioner having referred for the Chief Commissioner's orders the question whether malikana shall be paid in Sambalpur by Shikmi Gaontyas to Gaontyas, and if so, how the amount of malikana should be fixed elicited the following orders :-

" The Settlement Officer of Sambalpur has generally made the Gaontya or superior proprietor, as he regards him, responsible for the Gove rnment revenue, and has directed the Shikmi Gaontya to pay him malikana, varying up to a maximum of half the profits of the revenue from bhogra. You have referred the matter for the decision of the Chief Commissioner, evidently thinking that the practice of the Settlement officer is inconsistent with the nature of the Settlement which has been made in Sambalpur. * * *

Orders already issued. The Chief Commissioner's guide endorses your opinion. The practice followed by the Settlement Officers is inconsistent with

Now in the first place, the Chief Commissioner must altogether demur to the statement that the posiion of the bulk of Shikmi Gaontyas in Sambalpur is similar to that of sub or inferior proprietors in other parts of the Central Provinces, if by similar is meant equivalent or analogous; and secondly, sub or inferior proprietors were created or recognized for a variety of reasons, and the malikana allowed varied very considerably, so that it is not very useful to treat of them as a class; thirdly, the principles of the Settlement Code and the Chief

Commissioner's Memo. circulated to Settlement officers could hardly be taken to apply to Sambalpur, where a totally different kind of Settlement was introduced, and introduced at a date posterior to the instructions quoted. * * * In Sambalpur there is in many villages a Gaontya and a Shikmi Gaontya; * * wherever there is a Shikmi Gaontya he holds the bhogra, paying the Gaontya something in the shape of a light rent on it beyond the Government jama on the ryoti land. According to the principle of the Settlement, the reward or remuneration for managing the village, consists in holding bhogra land revenue-free; with whom then should the Settlement be effected, except with the person whose right to enjoy the bhogra is recognized. If this person be the Shikmi Gaontya, the Settlement must be made withhim, and there can be no question of malikana. To call the bhogra-less Gaontya, the [illegible] superior proprietor, and the bhogra holding Shikmi Gaontya the inferior proprietor, may be of some use in distinguishing the one from the other; but the names certainly do not indicate their respective positions. What then should the Gaontya enjoy if all the bhogra has been absorbed by the Shikmi ? Clearly the rent or payment, whatever we may be pleased to call it, which he has hitherto enjoyed and which is a rent charge on the bhogra, whether the rent of payment is to remain the same as during the past Settlement, must depend on the circumstances under which the parties acquired their respective positions. In some cases, an equitable increase might be proper, in others no addition might be claimable, the payment remaining fixed. This is the only plan which the Chief Commissioner can recognise as applicable to the Sambalpur Settlement. * * * Unless a Gaontya has a share in the bhogra, he cannot calim to share in the profits derived from breaking up the waste land. He has only a rent charge on bhogra, nothing more; he has nothing to do with the management of the village. * * * The rent charge on the Shikmi-held bhogra enjoyed by a Gaontya, will fall always on the bhogra as a whole, and each shareholder in it must contribute his share, the payment being made by the managing (Shikmi) Gaontya, who will collect it from all the others."

Agreeably to these instructions then all the cases in which orders had already been passed, fixing a certain rent charge on the bhogra, were revised, and the remaining cases were decided in accordance with them.

217. Position of Shikmi Gaontyas.

As a class of tenure locally known as Shikmi Gaontya or an inferior or subordinate Gaontya holding under a Gaontya is somewhat numerous in this district, and the tenure has been secured to the incumbents when they were found to be men of long standing, in some instances who had had a hereditary connection with their villages in that capacity, and had invested large sums in the material improvement of their holdings, they were secured in their positions by the conferment on them of the rights of a Shikmi Gaontya, it therefore became necessary to define what these rights are, and the following has been laid down to that end.

A Shikmi Gaontya holds the same position in a Shikmi Gaontyahi village as a Gaontya holds in a Gaontyai village, save that a Shikmi Gaontya pays the Government demand to the Gaontya instead of into the treasury direct, and thus maintains the Gaontya as the person primarily responsible to Government for payment of the demand. In addition to the Government demand, the Shikmi Gaontya pays to the Gaontya a rent charge on the bhogra. A failure to comply with these conditions renders the villages liable to be attached, and in extreme cases may cause the Settlement with the Shikmi Gaontya to be cancelled. But the Gaontya has no authority to interfere except by complaint to the Deputy Commissioner who will then proceed exactly in the manner he would adopt were the village a Gaontyai estate.

218. Plot holders in bhogra.

The claims of co-shares in the Gaontya's bhogra, having been decided on the principles laid down by the Chief Commissioner, and the claims of Shikmi Gaontyas disposed of separately, as described in the foregoing paragraphs, there yet remained another class called Birtias or plot holders in the bhogra, corresponding, so to speak, with " proprietors of holdings," who were of course not recognized at all by Major Impey, in such of t

the cases of proprietary right claims to villages decided by him, but Colonel Cumberlege did recognise them, and they were likewise admitted in all subsequent cases when they preferred claims or were otherwise found to be holding bhogra lands, the extent of which was ascertained, and they were by a recorded proceeding declared as maintained in possession zamindaree of their holdings on the same terms on which they had hitherto held them.

Ryots and about their status.

219. Next come the ryots; about their rights also a great deal has been written by different officers, short extracts from whose writings will now be given.

Major Impeys defination.

220. Major Impey recorded that " the long standing ryot on the one hand, claims right of occupancy equally with the Gaontya. The land he ploughs has descended to him from his forefathers or dating during his own lifetime, has he held it through a sucession of years. Yet still he is the Gaontya's tenant, for on the other hand, the Gaontya has the right to eject him if he fails to pay his malguzari,. The ryot of short occupancy is generally a term-server, enjoying an allotment at the will of the Gaontya. Again * * the ryot feels himself at liberty to vacate his land and have it on the hands of his Gaontyas. * * * Gaontyas may be fairly regarded as landholders and the ryots as their tenants. This is the position I would place them in at the time of Settlement. "

Sir R. Temple's views.

221. Sir Richard Temple on the above statement of the ryots status remarked that " the ryots should be regarded as tenants and cultivators (kashtkars), with right of occupancy as defined in Act X of 1859. It appears that the position of ryots * * * is generally hereditary (maurusi.)".

Colonel Cumberleges opinion.

222. Colonel Cumberlege said that there is no doubt that the ryots of long standing claim rights of occupancy; but under the peculiar system that has prevailed here it will be difficult to determine rights of

occupancy in any particular plot."

Sir George Campbell's opinion.

223. Sir George Campbell was of opinion that there was " a substantial agreement that the old ryots are to hold at rates fixed by the Settlement officer, * * * and that they should be in the position of ryots holding at fixed rates of rent or occupancy ryots with a defined liability. "

Mr. Chisholm's opinion.

224. Mr. Chisholm was of opinion that " tenant rights in Sambalpur are so strong, as in most cases to constitute the tenant a proprietor."

Colonel Keatinge's opinion.

225. Colonel Keatinge placed it on record that " as a separate person each Sambalpur cultivator had undoubtedly no tenant right or individual right in the soil of any description. But as a member of a community which had it always in its power to make a noisy demonstration and to ultimately ruin the Gaontya by deserting en masse and leaving him without the means of meeting the Chief's demand, the cultivator enjoyed the most undoubted power of resisting undue taxation."

Orders of Government regarding ryots' status.

226. The Chief Commissioner, however, proposed to Government, and the Government sanctioned his proposals to the following effect viz - * * * the position which the ryots are to occupy. They are located on the ryoti land, and the Government revenue will be assessed on their several holdings. So long as they pay the amount of the assessment as fixed at the time of Settlement on their holdings, they will not be liable to ouster, and non-payment of the revenue assessed shall be the only ground on which they can be dispossessed. The rights thus conferred on the ryot, will be heritable, but they will not be transferable."

Subsidiary orders regarding ryots.

227. Some relaxation of the rule under which the right of transfer was entirely withheld from ryots having been found to be necessary, the following subsidiary orders have been passed

in the interests of the ryots in exceptional cases, and they have been inserted as one of the clauses of the village Administration paper, viz :- This rule in regard to ryots, however, will not prevent them from placing their holdings under the temporary management of some other cultivator, to be administered bonafide on his account; but when ryots sublet their holdings without the consent of the Gaontya, their right in their ryoti holdings will pass away in the event of their failing to resume actual possession before the commencement of the next agricultural year.

228. About bhogra land-holding ryots, allusion has already been made when writing about the rights conferred on Gaontyas.

Bhogra ryots, and redistribution of ryoti lands.

There is another clause about ryots retaining the same rights on redistribution of the village lands as they possessed on their old holdings; but the custom of redistributing ryoti lands, having now completely died out, the clause in question has become obsolete and has therefore not been quoted here.

229. Connected with the subject of sub-letting of their holdings by ryots is that of Shikmi ryots, sometimes two and three, holding under a ryot, portions of his holding at rates of payment in excess of these which would rateably fall on their fractional holdings; this enables the actual ryot sometimes to cultivate the portion of his holding which he reserved for himself free of assessment, which the actual ryot then styles his bhogra; in the Settlement papers, however, as finally prepared, all record of Shikmi ryots has been omitted, because they were generally men of no standing; sub-letting was not allowed, Gaontyas objected to them, and Government only recognizes ryots.

Shikmi ryots.

230. Next after the ryots come the village servants, some of whom are quasi Government servants. The Government has sanctioned 2 annas in the rupee of the revenue assessable on the village for them, as the maximum, on the understanding that when so much is not

Village servants and their holdings.

required or is not in accord with past usage, a smaller grant will be made. Acting strictly under these orders, therefor , the result was that lands of the value of Rs. 10,064* as compared with, the total ryoti assessment of the khalsa villages Rs. 1,09,835, or percentage of 9 was released, and lands yielding a revenue of Rs. 1,107, being the aggregate of all those instances in which the prescribed limit of 2 annas was exceeded, were assessed. In alloting the allowance of two annas (where it exceeded that amount, the excess being resumed and assessed) one anna and a half were allowed tothe village Jhakar, who is an important personage in village communities, combining as he does in his own person the triple functions of priest of the village deity,- so frequently propitiated to keep off cholera, to ward off cattle disease, to close the tiger's mouth and so prevent his destroying the village cattle, to bless the harvest, and a host of other things,-the living record of all matters connected with the boundaries, lands, and forests of the village, and the conveyer of all news and reports tothe Police of epidmics, of unnatural deaths, of offences &c.; and in the remaining half anna, all others were provided for, as the Ganda or village watchman, the herd, &c. The office of the first two is generally hereditary, and as they perform as much village as public service it has been arranged in ~~the~~ the village Administration paper that they will not be removable from their offices without the orders of the district officer, to whom all lapses from death will be reported, who will sanction the successions when approved. There is a Jhakar and a Ganda in almost every village or cluster of villages, and so there are Herds, but Negis or Gaontya's deputies are very few, and it is an unimportant office.

231. Antiquity of Jhakri service tenants.

Some of the Jhakri tenures are no doubt of great entiquity, dating very often from before the Gaontya's tenure, and have been held in hereditary succession for generations, as the Jhakars are mostly men of the Aboriginal tribes, such as Khonds, Bhils, Bhainas, Gonds, Binjwals and Bhumias,

* Village service lands in rent-free villages not interfered with under orders of Civil Commissioner.

who originally settled in their villages as pioneers. In the northern parts of the district, however, the office of Jhakar, here styled Kalo, has to some extent lost its hereditary character.

232. As a class, the Jhakars are an unthrifty lot, and although in some instances they were possessed of extensive areas of service land, which however they looked upon more as their jagirs than service lands, they were in actual enjoyment of very little, as most of their holdings were mortgaged in plots and plots, some for a few bakets of rice, others for money borrowed and spent lavishly at caste gatherings &c. and so forth.

Mortgaging of service tenures for debt.

233. Where the excess Jhakri service land has been assessed, the Jhakar has been allowed to select such fields or plots as he wished to retain as his future service holding up to a maximum of one anna and a half of the village assessment. The holders of the remainder of the land now assessed, were than subordinated to the village Gaontya, through whom it has been ruled by the Chief Commissioner, that this item of revenue is also to be collected. The Jhakars could not be trusted to make the collections direct form the ryots and then pay them over to the Gaontya and he into the treasury, by reason of their general indebtedness. For the present the assessed village service lands have been shown separately, but at the next Settlement there is no reason why they should not be merged with the ordinary ryoti lands of the village.

Treatment of resumed excess service lands.

234. The resumption of Jhakri service lands has of course given the Jhakars affected by the measure cause to be dissatisfied with the arrangement, one which Major Impey strongly deprecated in his Memo of 1862 which has before been referred to, and in a few instances they have gone so far as to throw up their office altogether, not considering it worth while to perform the duties -- the customary allowance of service land, but no inconvenience

Discontent owing to resumption of Jhakri land.

has, or is likely to arise from these few instances of discontent, as substitutes can easily be found.

Postion of ryots of resumed service lands.

235. The holders of resumed and assessed Jhukri and other service lands on the other hand have cheerfully accepted their new postion as Government ryots for the future, although many of them have now had to pay assessment on their lands which hitherto they held in mortgage free of rent in lieu of interest on money lent, but then the Jhakar used to be constantly changing his tenants and mortgages as soon as he secured better terms from a fresh man; now however the ryots acquire a fixity of tenure so long as they pay the amount assessed on their respective holdings to the Gaontya. The gain to the latter will be in the increased bhetti biggari service which he will now receive from these ryots and the Jhakars lose. This however is a sequence of the arrangement which constitutes the Gaontya the collector of this item of revenue, and imposes upon him the responsibility of paying the same into the Government Treasury.

Check on future mortgage of service lands.

236. The frequency with which Jhakars and sometimes other village servants have hitherto mortgaged their service holdings, and thereby rendered themselves less efficient for the proper discharge of their duties, has for sometime been complained about. To guard against this irregularity being indulged in for the future, opportunity has been taken to insert a clause in the village Administration paper making it prohibitory for Jhakars and Gandas to alienate service holdings without the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner. If a Jhakar or Ganda, however, will satisfy the District officer that a temporary allienation of his service holding will be no detriment to the due performance of his duties, the proposed arrangement will be sanctioned, otherwise it will not. As regards other village service landholders it has been arranged that they must get the consent of the Gaontya and ryots before mortgaging other lands.

Rent-free tenures.

237. The rent-free tenures of this district are not so numerous, as they are out of proportion to the revenue collected, but though the amount of alienation is large by comparison, yet when it is [illegible]

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importance is this, that those who are in the enjoyment of it are among the most influential of its inhabitants, a circumstance which was not taken sufficiently into consideration when our administration of the district commenced in 1880. The short and simple rule laid down at that time was, that all holders of rent-free lands and villages were to pay a half jama assessment for their lives, and after their death the tenures were to become subject to full assessment. No discrimination was exercised as regards the purposes for which the grants were made, the persons in whose favour they had been made, or the antiquity of the tenures. As might be expected, great was the consternation which this order caused and the general dissatisfaction which it created among those who had cause for it, and therefore they w were not slow in lending themselves towards fomenting discontent throughout the district, each to the extent of his ability, which contributed not a little towards keeping the district in a "chronically troubled state " for many years afterwards."

238. Grants of whole villages having been on the records of the late Government no difficulty was found in assessing them at half jama rates on such estimates as could then be formed of their rental value. With regard to rent-free plots, however, there was a difficulty, as no record of these existed any where, so a proclamation was issued calling upon the holders to appear and register their plots; but as soon as they did so, a half jama assessment was fixed on their holdings; many plot holders on this account held back and escaped being assessed altogether, nor were they discovered until the present Settlement, as such enquiries as were held with regard to rent-free holdings of whole villages and of plots were only made at the time of the first Settlement in 1880, nothing further being done in the matter when the second Settlement was made in 1888.

Grants of whole villages and plots.

239. From what Major Impey wrote in his Memo of June 1882, he does not appear to have entertained the intention of proposing any change in the terms on which the grants had been held since 1880, for he stated that —

Major Impey's proposed measures.

stated that —

The Nazi revenue estates are comprised under four heads :

1. Those held by Babus, generally adopted sons of former Rajas.

2. Those originally set apart for the endowment of temples.

3. Those granted by the late Rajas to Brahmins.

4. Those bestowed by the Rajas as service grants.

The titles under which all these were claimed underwent regular scrutiny at the first general settlement, and many have since been examined by me. Still it is obvious that on this occasion they should be again carefully investigated, and determined, as possibly in some instances lawful proprietorship may have lapsed. I presume that with regard to the terms of assessment the precedents of the two last settlements will be accepted as the rule on this occasion, or in other words, that the tenures of these estates will, in so far as proprietorship shall be proved, be continued on half jama.

Chief Commissioner's order thereon.

240. On Major Impey's proposition the Chief Commissioner's orders were " that in investigating titles under class (Nisfidare) no question already decided should be reopened.

* * * *

In all cases it will be proper to record the terms of grant, i.e. whether such were for life perpetuity or what."

Enquiries made and registers prepared by Major Impey.

241. All the rent free temple grants, or endowments which are in fact grants, enjoyed by the priesthood, a class which possess a great deal of influence in a country like this, and all the religious grants in favour of Brahmins learned in the Puranas &c., and grants for other object were fully enquired into by Major Impey in 1833, who also prepared complete registers of all of them.

242. Here the registers could be submitted for the orders of higher authority, however, the policy of Government, changed in respect of these grants.

The correspondence which led up to this point need not be referred to suffice it to say, however, that Major Impey's successor was directed to verify the enquiries previously made, and to submit the cases for fresh orders, agreeably to the rules laid down for the disposal of such cases in other districts, which was accordingly done, and the Chief Commissioner in sending up the registers stated that the sanction of Government to his proposals for reopening the cases concerned, having already been given, as also to the applying to them the same rules which applied to rent-free holdings in other parts of the Central Provinces, they were sent for sanction under those rules.

Policy of Government changed.

243. The terms under which temple grants were proposed to be released free of all demand were that "so long as the tenure under which the grants were originally made, may be fulfilled." For the personal grants in favour of Brahmins and other, it was proposed where more than 60 years continuous possession was proved, that they be " released hereditarily," in perpetuity, some for lives of incumbents only, and for the next generation at half jama, and so forth, the hereditary condition, however, being attached in all cases, and on these terms the Government accordingly sanctioned all the proposals of the Chief Commissioner in September 1864.

Terms of temple and personal grants.

244. All the above mentioned tenures have now again been gone over, and all changes which have since taken place been recorded. In doing so it was found that in some instances the terms of the grant with regard to the due performance of customary religious services &c., in temples, were not conformed to, and that with regard to personal grants, though only sanctioned to be held hereditarily, alienations by sale to strangers had actually taken place and mutation of names duly effected in the Revenue office. Although nothing could be done to enforce fulfilment of the terms of the grant in the case of temple grants, in the matter of personal grants the alienations

Tenures again gone over.

and mutations have not been recognized, the names of the original grantees alone being entered and maintained in the Settlement records.

Remaining inafi tenures revised in 1863,63-67.

245. The remaining classes of inafi tenures of whole villages, being grants for the subsistence of relatives adopted and illegitimate sons of the former Rajas, and of Jagirs for services rendered or continuing to be rendered, were all in their turn reconsidered in subsequent years, 1863,63-67, and only received the revised sanction of Government under the more liberal rules than applied to them.

Registered and unregistered inafi plots.

246. There then remained the rent-free plots already brought upon the registers and those which had hitherto escaped investigation. All these cases have now been duly enquired into during the course of Settlement operations, and the records with registers submitted for and received the orders of Superior Authority, which have been duly carried out.

Inafi service holdings.

247. In addition to the above a large number of village service holdings all held revenue-free, has been enquired into and a separate record prepared for each case, which being entered in registers have been submitted for the orders of the Divisional Commissioner.

Inafi groves.

248. As mangoe groves are very numerous and valuable in this district and as the lands on which they exist are held revenue-free, those cases of groves of of clusters of five trees and upwards have likewise been enquired into separately and a record prepared for each, which have been entered in registers and submitted for the orders of the Commissioner of the Division.

Nazul groves.

249. During the enquiry into the existence, extent and ownership of groves in general, a large number were found to be ownerless and they were accordingly declared to be Nazul property the income from which would have been taken by Government in the Nazul department, but the

Chief Commissioner did not approve of the procedure and laid down the following rules for their disposal :-

(1) Groves near towns in which no private rights exist, to be declared nazul. Whether private rights exist or not, to be decided as a question of fact.

(2) Village groves enjoyed for a long succession of years by the village community not to be declared nazul, but wherever private right exists in such groves, they be considered the common property of the village.

(3) A Gaontya holding a grove which he has neither planted, inherited or purchased, to be considered as holding the grove on the part of the village community. These orders were duly given effect, to and separate registers of such groves also have been prepared.

Tenures of the district according to nomenclature in use elsewhere.

250. For the sake of classification, I may may divide the tenures of this district as follows :-

Simple "Zamindari."

For instance the most common description of tenure is that called Zamindari (not a privileged tenure) which, corresponds with a single Gaontya tenure, that is to say, in which all the bhogra lands are enjoyed in common and the head member of the family constituted the managing and representative Gaontya of the village or estate.

Taluqdari tenure.

The next most prevalent description of tenure is the "Taluqdari" in which there is a superior Gaontya, and below him there is also an inferior or Shikmi Gaontya, the former being merely a "Malikzamindar" so to speak, with whom, however, the settlement is made, the Shikmi Gaontya holding the bhogra lands and managing the village collecting the revenue and paying it to the Gaontya plus a certain sum constituting the superior Gaontya's profit or malikana, the latter paying in the revenue to Government and being alone held responsible for its regular and punctual payment.

After "Taluqdari" tenures [illegible] the "Birtees" tenures, which

Bhyachara tenures.

correspond with " Bhyachara " tenures, in which all the lands of the village bhogra, as well as ryoti, have become divided among the members of the Gaontyas, and perhaps those of two or three separate families into minute shares who cultivate the mixed lands allotted to each themselves, or let them out to ryots, without distinction of ryoti and bhogra except perhaps in name, and thus constitute a tenant proprietary body responsible only for the quota of revenue supposed to fall on that was originally their share of ryoti land, and enjoying their share of bhogra land free of assessment and receiving a proportionate share of bhatti-biggari service, if the same rendered as the Gaontya does, in proportion to his share. The Gaontya in addition received a plot of land called Tilaiti or Lambardari bhogra.

The smallest number of villages fall under the denomination of a "Pattidari" tenures, in which the bhogra lands have been divided among the Gaontya's consorers according to ancestral shares, and a corresponding sharesoef ryoti land has been allotted to each, but nothing like a perfect partition has been effected, as all the waste lands still remain held in common. This is the case in Birteon villages, likewise as regards waste lands, but in such villages there is an understanding about the breaking up of waste lands, certain blocks being allotted to certain sections.

Pattidari tenures.

The Malik makbuza is here represented by the plot holder in the Gaontyai bhogra irrespective of the tenure of the village. He has nothing to do with the profits, from whatever sources acquired, or losses of the village; he merely holds his land free of assessment, but is liable to pay his quota of cesses or other such items payable by bhogra land holders. He too is called a "Birtia." The Shikai Gaontya tenure has already been discussed. All these descriptions of tenure are found to exist in muafi and quit-rent held villages as well.

Malik makbuzas.

251. Among ryots the distinction between the resident

ryot and the pahi, pronounced paiha, or non resident ryot, is well understood. The latter is not liked by Gaontyas in these days, when he is protected by law against summary ejection, as relying on this protection he often neglects to render the customary bhetti-biggari services, whereas when he was not protected by law he could be turned out by the Gaontya at pleasure, the fact of his being a " paiha " ryot being quite sufficient. There are no classes of ryots here recognized as such who would represent the "Maurusi" and "Chair-maurusi" ryots.

Kashkars or ryots.

252. The status (1) of the Zamindars, (2) of the Gaontyas under them, and (3) of the cultivators under the latter, it has already been mentioned, still remains undefined; but there appear to be no very weighty reasons why the present system should be continued for an indefinite period.

Rights and tenures in Zamindaris.

253. In this Zamindari too the status of the Zamindar and of the Gaontyas under him needs to be defined; but this has been promised to be done as the Chief Commissioner had stated that the orders of the Supreme Government must be solicited on the subject before any specific rights are conferred, consequently in awarding proprietary right to the Gaontyas of this estate it was merely recorded that the rights of Gaontya were conferred on them; the principles which guided such awards being the same as operated in the khalsa villages; but even these simple rights of a Gaontya have in every decision passed been conferred under the distinctly recorded proviso that they are subject to the recognition in favour of the Zamindar of such superior rights as the Government may hereafter accord to him. Nothing however, has been mentioned about a malikana payable to the Zamindar. These were the Chief Commissioner's instructions about this Zamindari which have been referred to in a previous chapter of this report. But with regard

Rights and tenures in Chandarpur cum Padumpur.

to villages founded by the superior proprietor (Zamindar), or in which the present holders have been introduced by him, no Gaontyai rights have been acknowledged, as was also laid down by the Chief Commissioner at the same time. In such villages the Zamindar follows the orthodox Zamindari system of granting short leases of from three to five years to those who can give the largest amount of Nazarana, but taking care not to allow any one lessee to continue long in possession. It may be noted that there are only a few such villages. All the cultivators on the estate, the Chief Commissioner has also laid down, will hold their fields on exactly the same terms as in Khalsa villages, and that their holdings will not be subject to enhancement or other interference. It is to be hoped that the Gaontyas will respect these conditions, which they certainly have hitherto systematically ignored; yet strange to say hardly the record of a single case could be found in the Revenue Courts to show that a ryot had complained against ouster or exaction, which may be either from ignorance of the facts (1) that he possessed tenant rights, and (2) that the Gaontya could not exact a pice more from him than the quota of the assessed Government demand on the village falling on his holding; or perhaps from apathy, for which the people in Chanderpur at least are noted.

Section II.- Record of Rights.

251. Under this heading it may be mentioned, that for each village and estate, a separate proceeding has been prepared, containing all the papers connected with claims to proprietary rights ("Haldat" or "Milkiat") advanced by Gaontyas, their co-sharers, khopra land plot-holders, and other claimants, as also the decisions and orders passed regarding the same, by the Settlement officer, and the superior appellate authorities, in such cases in which appeals were preferred form the Settlement officer's award. In recording these awards "in order to avoid any future content or litigation with respect to the rights declared", the usual formality was

Proprietary right proceedings.

observed to confer in every case the proprietary title as the creation or free gift of the Government. To the same proceedings are attached the papers relating to the claims advanced by under or Shikmi Gauntyas, for under proprietary or Shikmi Gountyai rights, and the decisions or orders passed thereon, as well as all subsequent orders passed regarding the fixed allowance or profit which the superior Gountyas are to receive is future from the under Gountyas during the term of Settlement, the rules for which have already been given under the section for "Rights and Tenures."

Malikana recorded as payable by Shikmi Gountyas.

255. Although the "Malikana," a well known term here, for which "cent chagge on bhogra" has now been substituted, has been duly recorded, as it was fixed, yet the rules laid down that only that amount was to be recorded which has hitherto been paid, or an enhanced one in in particular cases only, yet in point of fact the decisions in appeal passed by the Commissioner and Chief Commissioner have generally fixed what was considered a fair amount of malikana, a course which was also followed by the Settlement officer in all subsequent cases decided by him.

Comprehensive record of rights.

256. The papers which contain the record of all rights however, in each village are, (1) the Khasra, and (2) the Khationi, already alluded to, and the headings of these two important documents are here given.

Khasra.

Serial Number	Name of field with number of beds or plots.	Name, percentage and caste of owner.	Name, parentage and caste of cultivator.	Description and area of land in puries					Remarks as to trees, land, bhog gra or ryoti, service or muafi, &c. opposite each number, also disputes.
				Bahal	Berna	Mal	At	Crop raised.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Khationi.

Serial number	Number in Khasra.	Name, parentage and caste of occupant	Total seed area in the holding. Puris	Khandis	Tambis	Rent of holding. Rupees	Annas	Pies.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

257. As soon as the assessments were sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner and announced to the Gaontyas the Settlement officer took the field again, with all the available staff of Amins, Munserims, &c. whose presence was not required for such work as was being done at Head-quarters; and taking all the proprietary right misls, proceedings relating to muafi holdings, service holding misls relating to groves, and all other papers relating to rights, occupancy or tenure of every description of the villages of two or three contiguous assessment circles at a time, proceeding to the spot, and halting at conveniently situated villages, in successive batches, summoned all the people to his camp and there in groups of two and three villages allotted to each Amin and Munserim, the work of every entry in the Khasra and the Khationi being attested from first to last was taken up, and all errors and changes in the ownership, the cultivatorship and of the holdings themselves, at once noted, and all alterations duly made, any disputes arising being decided there and then by the Settlement officer judicially, and proceedings recorded in writing them, all papers for arriving at a prompt decision being available, as also any oral evidence that was found necessary to record. On return to the station at the time of preparing the Khewat, &c. all the entries regarding owners were again verified. This plan of going out for a fortnight or so and then returning for a fresh batch of papers was repeated several times until the Uttartir tahsili work was completed in March 1876.

Attestation of Khasra and Khationi.

was finished by June 1875, and by a similar process the Dakhintir

258. In the column of remarks of the Khasra, opposite each entry it was noted whether the land was bhogra, ryoti, village service, mafi or under trees; if the latter to whom they belonged or who was in possession of them.

Details entered in remark column of Khasra Khationi.

All these points were duly attested and the necessary alterations where required made in accordance with this attestation. The Khationi was similarly attested and all partnerships in ryoti holdings duly detailed in the column of remarks, showing also the extent of each ryoti share, where more than one cultivated one holding.

259. After the Khasra and Khationi were attested and acknowledged by all concerned before the Settlement officer, to be correct in every detail, the Gaontya and ryots were requested to adjust the Government assessment on the village in any manner they liked, on the ryoti land, whether according to the existing village "Kuts" which have before been alluded to or with reference to the present condition of each holding. In this way the assessment was adjusted in about 98 per cent of the villages in the district, in the remaining 2 per cent, however, it had to be done by the Settlement officer, as the ryots could not agree among themselves as to the manner in which the new assessment should be adjusted. The newly adjusted assessment, of which the Gaontya gave in a list under his signature with details, showing names of ryots and the amount payable by each, was then read out to each individual concerned, standing round the Settlement officer and answering to his name as called out, and on its being admitted by all to be an accepted and correctest adjustment, it was received, initialled by the Settlement officer, and placed with the rough Khationi, the details of the adjusted assessment being afterwards transfered from it to the fair copy of the Khationi made subsequently for permanent record.

Adjustment of assessment.

260. After the Khationis were fair copied, examined and corrected a lithographed slip in the form given below was then prepared for

Parcha Khationi Slip.

each individual ryot's holding, the ryots being summoned before the Settlement officer, the said slips under his seal and signature were handed to them. These slips, called Parcha Khationis, have given great satisfaction to the general body of ryots, who look upon them as their Pattas, which in a quasi "Ryotwari" settlement" is not an inappropriate name.

~~660~~ Parcha Khationi.

Ryot's ~~Ryot's~~ number in Khationi.	Ryot's name, parentage, caste and residence.	Name of fields held by ryot with their Khasra numbers.	Extent of holding by seed area	Annual assessment	Annual cesses (road, school, Dak @ 4½ per cent)	Total annual payment including cesses.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

~~261.~~ 261. As the Parcha Khationis were being given out, all changes which had taken place since the attestation of holdings, were noted on the face of them, which process will be of great help in the preparation of the first set of annual village papers.

Mutations noted on Parcha Khationis.

262. The entries in these Parcha Khationis have gone through a very crucial test, as every one of them has now been verified by the ryots concerned, several of whom it whould be stated detected errors here and there, which have been duly corrected.

~~Trunk~~ Parcha Khationis tested.

263. Parcha Khationis have only been granted for (1) ryoti lands, (2) village service lands resumed and assessed, and (3) muafi plot holdings subject to pay cesses; and have not been granted for (a) bhogra lands, as the Gaontya will receive a complete copy of the settlement misl, (b) village service holdings, as the holders, pay no cesses, and (c) for ryots of bhogra lands, as they are only tenants-at-will.

To whom granted and to whom not.

264. The opportunity has thus been taken, it will be observed, of placing in the hands of each ryot a document which shows the the names and the appraised area of the

Record of his holding in each ryot's lands.

fields held by him, and the numbers of the entries they bear in the khasra (in case of reference being necessary) together with the total sum he is liable to be called upon to pay for the same, in the year, the half of which represents his liability per revenue instalment, of which there are two in the year. This will save many a ryot from having to pay a larger sum than he should on account of cesses, as Gauntyas, who have now to pay cesses on their bhogra lands, would otherwise not have had many scruples about shifting this burden from off their shoulders on to those of the ignorant ryots.

265. The document next in importance is the Khewat, being a record of rights and responsibilities of Gauntyas and their co-sharers, who also, it will be remembered, are held equally responsible for all the liabilities of the Gauntya under the orders of Government, being sharers as they are, in the Gauntyai bhogra, which has been granted free expressly for such liability and responsibility. It has been prepared in the usual form for each class of tenure of which mention has been made under the section "Rights and tenures," and all sums on account of malikana which the Shikmis will have to pay hereafter to village Gauntyas, have been duly entered in the Taluqdari form of Khewat.

The Khewat.

266. Then there is the Wajibularz, commonly styled the Village Administration paper, in which have been entered besides the local customs which regulate the internal economy of each village, certain conditions which are binding on all concerned, and they will now be alluded to in the order in which they have been approved and sanctioned for adoption by the Chief Commissioner. The different matters which are regulated by custom were ascertained and recorded at the time of attesting holdings and adjusting the assessment when the whole village was present before the Settlement officer. The conditions have been laid down by authority.

The Wajibularz.

267. Currency of Wajibularz. By the 1st clause of the Administration paper, the rules and customs recorded in it are accepted by and are admitted to be binding on all concerned for the period of Settlement, unless modified hereafter by consent or law.

268. Property in minerals. In the 2nd clause all minerals are declared to be the property of Government, with right of access thereto.

269. Repairs of boundary pillars. As already noticed, the village boundary and trijunction pillars being only earthen mounds, with a view to their being kept up, by the 3rd clause their being maintained and annually repaired in December, has been secured, the Gaontya being bound to report that this has been done, subject to a discretionary fine by the District officer in case of neglect to do so.

270. Sugar-cane lands. The 4th clause relates to sugar-cane lands, their use, appropriation, distribution &c., according to village custom.

271. Waste and forest lands. Waste and forest lands fall under the 5th clause, in which the Gaontyas admit that such as have been separately demarcated from village areas under sanction of the Chief Commissioner, as reserves, are the property of Government, to be managed by its officers; and they also admit the right of the Government, without compensation, to take up further uncultivated land from villages, to form reserves, and to lay down rules for the management of waste and forest lands, for the good of all. The cutting of teak wood is agreed to as distinctly forbidden except with the sanction of the District officer.

272. Mutation of names. In the 6th clause a proper procedure has been laid down for effecting mutation in names of Gaontyas, from death vacancies &c., as heretofore no proper system was followed in this matter, the Gaontya's heirs

sometimes neglecting to report deaths for several years.

Alienation of rights by co-sharers &c.

273. The 7th clause, under authority of the Secretary Chief Commissioner's letter No. 2243, dated 13th June 1876, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, declares that the co-sharers of Gaontyas and Shikmi Gaontyas may transfer or alienate the rights conferred on them as recognized to belong to them at the time of Settlement. Though not expressed in words, the real meaning of this clause is to show that no right of pre-emption vests in the Gaontyas which they wished to advance in the event of such transfers taking place.

Water rates.

274. Water rates form the subject of the 8th clause; in what case they may be taken, rates how to be determined &c.

Lapses in rent free holdings.

275. In the 9th clause the Gaontyas bind themselves to report all changes in rent-free and quit-rent holdings, as soon as they occur. This clause has been inserted in the absence of a Patwari establishment, whose duty it is elsewhere to make these reports.

Annual village papers.

276. Under the orders of Government, the 10th clause refers to the rendition by Gaontyas of annual village papers, in forms laid down by the Local Government, without any agency being allowed for it by Government. No penalty has been prescribed for neglect in the punctual rendition of these accounts, however, as the district can always get them in by issuing Dastaks.

Position of ryots.

277. In the 11th clause the position of ryots and their rights have been detailed.

Managing Gaontya's remuneration.

278. The 12th clause prescribes the managing Gaontya's remuneration, and who he shall be. After some correspondence it was prescribed in the Secretary to Chief Commissioner's letter No.404-4, dated 8th February 1875, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, that villages in which there are co-sharers, the managing Gaontyah

shall be generally the nearest male representative of the founder of the village or one selected by the co-sharers; his recognition in every case by Government being necessary. The remuneration of such managing Gaontya to be one-tenth of the bhogra land or one-tenth of their profits in additions to such share as he is entitled to hold, the manager's share being always demandable by government on occasion arising. The one-tenth allowed to the Gaontya is in accordance with the custom of the country, and is called the " Tikaiti-bhogra," and so is the manner of selecting the Gaontya in accordance with past practice; it is for the future that this clause provides for a " Tikaiti-bhogra," and claims regarding it have already been instituted.

279. Village servants form the subject of the 13th clause.

Village servants.

Their position, removal and appointment, &c., having already been alluded to, need not be recapitulated.

280. Alienation of village service lands, a subject already discussed under Tenures, is alluded to in the 14th clause.

Alienation of village service holdings.

281. Bhetti-biggari service ordinary and special, as in many villages the rate and form varies, is fully detailed in the 15th clause, in which care has been taken, as laid down by Government, "that the commutation rate should be entered in the village Administration paper," to mention the rate of money payment to be made in the event of non-rendition of service. It was not, however, been expressly mentioned here that "the continuance of this usage is only guaranteed for the term of the present Settlement, as the terms of the 1st clause are comprehensive enough for all purposes.

Bhetti-biggari service.

282. In the 16th clause, the " abuabs," taken in rent-free villages, held as religious personal grants and endowments for temples, which have been supplied according to custom from ancient times, have been detailed and defined. Many of these "abuabs" are heeded,

Abuabs in rent-free villages.

and were fixed with the sanction of former rulers of the country, for religious purpose, it was therefore deemed more expedient to continue than to get rid of them with a violent jerk at once, though it cannot be denied that the supplying of them very often causes trouble and annoyance to the ryots. The latter at one time wished to be freed for the future from these " abwabs," some of which go to make up the aggregate assessment of the village, some are extra to it, and of course this movement caused much, uneasiness among the recipients; but after a time the religious feeling got the better of them and the " abwabs " were continued as usual. The portion which goes to make up the aggregate of the village assessment, consists of payments in kind and generally consists of " Kar-chawal " (" Kar " Sanskrit rent; "chawal" rice) for cooked offerings to idols, with ghee and oil (for lighting) and pulse The extra items consist of wood for Jagarnath's car, for cooking food for the idol, brooms for sweeping the temple, &c. The extras heretofore, only cost the ryots the labour of fetching them from the open waste and forest lands, but may now cost them something with certain forest tracts reserved all over the district.

283. The next two clauses, 17th and 18th, detail the custom about meeting village expenses and the perquisites of village servants, which call for no remarks.

Village expenses and village servants perquisites.

284. In the 19th clause trees and groves, their ownership, the right in them after the owner leaves the villages &c., and in the 20th clause the distribution of water for irigation rice-fields, sugar-cane plantations, vegetable gardens &c., have been fully detailed, and call for no comments.

Trees and groves and the distribution of water

285. The excavation of tanks, the acquiring of land for the same, the compensation to be given to the owner of it &c., forms the subject of the 21st clause; and the use and ownership of manure and manure-droppings that of the 23rd clause, which also do not call for any explanation. The existing custom on both subjects has

Excavation tanks and ownership of manure

merely been recorded.

Gaontyas to live in their villages or keep and agent.

286. Every Gaontya, it is prescribed in the 23rd clause as a condition of Settlement, shall live in his own village and manage it himself, or appoint an efficient and responsible agent to do so, at his own expense; failing to do so, the District officer to have authority to appoint a suitable managing agent, to be remunerated at the Gaontyas' expense with land from the Bhogra or by a money payment; this clause not applying to those villages in which a " Negi " has been allowed with service land for remuneration. This clause has been inserted on account of the number of absentee Gaontyas who hold villages and provide no local representative responsible for reporting sanitary matters, &c., connected with the village.

Skins, &c., of dead cattle and jungle produce.

287. The next clause, 24th, refers to skins and horns of dead cattle; and the next, 25th, to jungle produce for domestic purposes, as firewood, thatching grass, twigs for tooth-brushes, leaves for making little baskets which serve the purposes of cups and saucers in daily requisition by the Urya people, and so forth.

Cattle grazing lands.

288. In the 26th clause, the custom relative to cattle-grazing lands has been detailed. Opportunity has been taken to make it a condition of Settlement to prevent their being broken up for agricultural purposes, with the penalty of a discretional fine by the District officer, should any one infringe this rule; which, however, only refers to lands entered in the Settlement papers as grazing grounds for cattle, and as such only , have been exempted from assessment by being thrown in the "Ghairmumkin" column of the General Assessment Statement. This condition it was deemed necessary to insert in order to prevent Gaontyas from leasing out such grazing lands as waste lands for their benefit, but to the detriment of the village communities. This condition will not, however, and is not intended, to prevent the Gaontya from leasing out unoccupied waste land to be broken up, which have not been determinated in the Settlement

papers as " Gauchar " or cattle grazing lands. In some villages, owing to the total absence from olden times of grazing grounds for cattle, by long established custom they have been grazing in the lands of another village. To prevent this what may perhaps now be looked upon as an admitted privilege, if not a right, being disputed in future, it has been recorded in the village Administration paper, as the regular Courts can accept such in cases of dispute.

289. By an old custom and condition of Settlement, it has been the duty of the Gaontya, Jhakar and the Ganda to see that all ordinary country cartroads, foot-paths and thorough-fares are kept open and passable throughtout the year, and to see that there is no encroachment on any of these by any one, so these conditons have been secured by the insertion of the 28th clause.

Roads and thorough-fares.

290. The 29th clause relates to the partition of villages. In villages in which ryoti lands have already been partitioned, such partitions have been upheld and recorded, but in future the partition of ryoti lands has been interdicted, although bhogra lands may be partitioned, either privately or through the Courts, among classes in which the custom prevails.

Partition of villages.

291. The 30th clause refers to ownerless groves, and is merely an abstract of the Chief Commissioner's orders on the subject, which have already been referred to.

Ownerless groves.

292. For the non-Feudatory Zamindaris there are no record of rights, but a Register of villages with the names of the Gaontyas or other privileged holders in possession of them, the nature of the tenure, as simple Gaontyai, mafi service (Military or Police) relationship, &c., and the length of possession of each, and the works of permanent utility constructed by them, have been obtained under the Zamindar's signature, and verified as far as possible by reference to the village holders, as these Registers were prepared in the Settlement officer's tent when on tour inspecting the Zamindaris, which Registers have also been translated into

No record of rights in Zamindaris, only register of village holders.

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English, and contain besides a detail of the " abwabs " collected by the Zamindars. The village holders place much reliance on the entries in these Registers as affecting their tenures and period of occupancy, and they frequently apply for copies of the entries from these Registers to produce as evidence in Civil and Revenue suits.

Record of rights in Chanderpur and Padampur.

293. For the Chanderpur cum Padampur Zamindari a proprietary right misl has been prepared for each village of the same description as in the Khalsa, and a Khasra and Khationi, also of the Khalsa form, have been made, and the attestation of holdings and adjustment of the assessment were also effected precisely in the same manner as in the Khalsa villages.

Khewats in Chanderpur and Padampur not yet prepared.

294. The Khewats of this Zamindari have not yet been prepared, advisedly, as the status of the Zamindar and of the Gaontyas is yet a subject under discussion, and the malikana question too has not yet been settled.

Special clauses in their Wajibularzes.

295. Although in the main the subjects which find a place in the village Administration papers of the Chanderpur and Padampur parganas, are the same as those treated in the Khalsa Administration paper, a few words may be said about the uncommon clauses. There is a separate village Administration paper for each of the two parganas.

Particulars of special clauses.

296. In Chanderpur. - By clause II, although not separately demarcated, by reason of their limitedness, waste and jungle tracts are placed under the general control of the Zamindar, with the view of what little there is being carefully preserved for the good of all. And the cutting of teakwood of any size has been strictly forbidden. Clause VII provides that no Jhakar or Ganda shall be removed form his post or a new one appointed without the authority and approval of the Zamindar being first obtained by the Gaontyas. In Clause XIV it is provided in the case of farm labourers, (who being scarce here, can only be secured by the payment of advances) that such advances must be paid to the old master of the labourer by the

new one before he can change places. The advances are paid back without interest. The " abwabs " which the Zamindar is to receive in future are detailed in Clause XVI on a scale compromised and calculated at R. 4-13-0 per cent on the village assessment for small, and R.5-6-0 per cent for large villages. In Clause XVII the procedure for mutation of names among Gaontyas, a procedure which has fallen out of practice since the pargana became a Zamindari, has been laid down, providing for what the Gaontya's heirs have to do in the even of his death, and what the Zamindar has to do. By Clause ✗ XVIII it is prescribed that no Gaontya or co-sharer can alienate his village or share without the consent of the Zaindar being previously obtained.

In Padarpur - the subjects above detailed are repeated, except the one relating to farm servants, the rest of the clauses of this pargana are nearly the same as for the Khalsa.

Papers constituting the Settlement misl.

207. For the Settlement misl only the four essential papers have been maintained, viz, the Khasra or list of fields, the Khationi or register of holdings; the Khewats or record of rights and responsibilities, and the Wajibularz or village Administration paper; the last named being a printed document with blank spaces in requisite places for filling in details where they differ in different villages No final Rubakari has been adopted as the history of the village can be gained from the proprietary right misl, and all other particulars are set forth in the Wajibularz. No papers connected with the assessment of the village find a place in the Settlement misl, as an extract from the General Assessment Statement &c. for instance, nor anything about the settlement of boundary disputes; but a separate assessment misl has been prepared for each village, comprising, (1) a proceeding recording the Chief Commissioner's sanctioned assessment to be announced, which when announced is followed by (2) a darkhast of acceptance from the Gaontya, an order is then passed thereon for (3) a patta to be granted; which being done, the Gaontya files his (4) kabuliat. All record of the assessment is in the English General Assessment Statements, and the assessing officer's note book. A compilation of Vernacular General Assessment Statements, has however, in addition to the English ones, been prepared with the bare

figures only, as they will be found useful very often in the District revenue office when any information is required about soils, area, &c. As regards boundary disputes judicially decided, a separate proceeding, complete in itself, has been prepared for each case. Ther are rough papers connected with the demarcation of boundaries laid down, without disputes, the " Kumarabundi " mauls in fact, which thought not quite complete for the whole of the villages in the absence of Thakbast maps, as they are at least records of no disputes having existed about the boundaries as originally laid down. All the rough Khasras and Khationis have been destroyed, but a register in which subjects for the Wajibularz were originally recorded, some adopted, some afterwards rejected, has been maintained for future reference in cases of dispute.

298. Although the bulk of the muafi tenures of this district were decided some ten, some thirteen years ago, no musfidar had up to this Time been furnished with a sanad or any other document showing on what terms and under what authority he held his grant, but carefully filled up certificates or notices of release have now been prepared in printed forms or strong paper and distributed to all concerned under the seal and signature of the Settlement officer, to their great satisfaction.

Notices of release of muafis.

299. When Settlement officers were allowed to purchase paper on which records of a permanent nature are transcribed they could and did select the best and most durable material. Under pres nt arrangements, however, all the paper required for settlemnt records has had to be procured on indents from the Government Stationery offices, from whence a very inferior description of article has generally been supplied. In proof of this the dilapidated condition of the Settlement records, which go through a good deal of handling before they find a resting place on the revenue office record racks, bear abundant testimony.

Inferior paper supplied for Settlement records.

CHAPTER IV

Government Waste Land.

300. From the tenor of Major Impey's Memo of June 1862, as well as from the Chief Commissioner 's orders passed thereon, it is evident that they did not allude to excess waste and jungle lands to which the Government now asserts its claim, but rather, that they referred to cultural waste lands, as the Chief Commissioner said " that it would be advisable in cases where waste lands should appear very valuable, that some small rate of revenue should be fixed in the event of such being brought into cultivation." The fact is that the rules for the exclusion of waste and jungle lands had at that distant period not been framed.

Major Impey did not intend to exclude waste lands.

301. Nothing practical was done in the matter at the time the demarcation of village boundaries was effected. The Extra Assistant Commissioner in immediate charge of the demarcation of boundary work and measurement operations generally, evidently was not aware of the orders on the subject, as under his instructions, the Amins employed on demarcting boundaries, marked off every hill and hillock in the district, without exception, from base to crest, as Government waste, placing the boundary marks round the hill close up to its base.

No wastes properly excluded at the time of demarcating boundaries.

302. It is scarcely necessary to say that no revenue survey has been carried out in this district, and of course no measurement has. The only survey which has been effected was completed before the disturbances of 1837, and it was only a topographical survey. The original one-inch tothe square mile map of this district exist in the Settlement office, of which the published maps are on the reduced scale of 4 miles to an inch. On the original one-inch map, the hills and wastes are given with sufficient clearness to be of some use in excluding excess waste lands, and of this map advantage was taken.

No survey maps available to go by in excluding waste lands.

303. The Settlement Commissioner was the first to raise the question about the exclusion of wastelands, as in June 1866 he asked the Settlement officer to report if any steps had been taken towards/

Settlement Commissioner first raised question about waste lands.

excluding the excess wastes. The Settlement officer's reply was, that no steps whatever had been taken at the time to lay down boundaries for excluding excess wastes; but he stated that he was taking measures for doing so, and that it would be necessary to revise also the demarcation of villages, which of course would follow as a matter of course; but in reality nothing whatever was even then done or attempted in the matter.

304. With nothing but the eye to guide one, with no village boundaries shown on the topographical maps and no area statistics whatever existing to show the extent of land in each village under cultivation, and that lying waste(for the khasras prepared by the Settlement Amins only gave the cultivated area, without the waste) the work of excluding excess waste lands was undertaken.

No area statistics to go upon.

305. It must be admitted at once, that in the exclusion of waste lands here, it was impossible to follow the rule of exempting one and two hundred per cent of waste as compared with the area under cultivation and only declaring as State property the actually excess waste land, forest and hill beyond that proportion. In the topographical map, hills and forests are delineated certainly, but merely as symbols, without exactness of size and extent.

Exact proportions not possible.

306. What was done then in the matter is this. As the villages in the khalsa were being inspected preparatory to assessment, the same opportunity was taken of examining the hill, waste and forest-covered tracts. Under existing circumstances this examination had to be repeated several times over, and from all points of the compass, before a determination could be come to about excluding or exempting any particular waste land tract. In doing so the wants and requirements of the people in the neighbourhood were fully taken into consideration.

Process by which waste were excluded.

307. The operation of excluding waste lands was necessarily confined to hill and jungle tracts, which had notoriously been in the actual possession of

no individual or community, which had hitherto in fact been common property, to which anybody that liked resorted, cut timber, wood, grass, bamboos, made "Dahi" fields and "Bashbas" (hill slopes sown with Indian corn, castor and cucumbers), and in fact helped themselves to anything they wanted, without let or hindrance from any one. In such tracts it is that the rights of the State have been asserted, the selected tracts have been demarcated separately from village areas, and have been declared to be the property of Government.

For what the operations were confined.

308. The usual plan of burying charcoal in an earthern vessel under the mound of earth and stones piled up, which constitutes the boundary pillar, has been followed also in the demarcation of reserved waste lands. A list of these boundary marks has been filed with the proceedings of each block, and a "Sipurd-nama" from all the village Jhakars concerned, has been taken of them. A rough sketch map of the waste block has also been prepared showing its shape and position and in a register as well as in the proceedings, its approximate area and boundaries are given, so that there should be no difficulty hereafter in keeping up the boundaries as laid down and preventing their being encroached upon by village owners.

Wastes how demarcated.

309. In the Uttartir tahsili, there are 29 blocks varying in size from 7 miles by 6, down to a mile by a mile, and although each block is compact in itself, they are scattered all over the sub-division, as there are no continuous tracts of hill and jungle in the Uttartir, except the range of hills in its southern portion, of which only one face belongs the Khalsa and the other to the Boising Zamindari.

Waste blocks of the Uttartir.

310. The waste lands in the Dakhintir are more continuously situated, and are nearly all in one quarter. A list of the blocks in both tahsilis is

Waste blocks of the Dakhintir.

given below with their approximate dimensions, but it is not possible to give their aggregate area with any approach to even an approximation.

Proposal for exempting one face of the Barapahar not sanctioned.

311. As wood for fuel and for ploughs &c. and grass for house thatching are very scarce in the Dakhintir tahsili, and as the people have to come for these articles of daily necessity from great distances to the Baragahars, where alone their wants can be supplied, it was proposed to exempt the southern face of those hills overlooking the khalsa plains, which proposal the Chief Commissioner at one time sanctioned; but on a reconsideration of the matter, the proposed indulgence which had been sanctioned was withdrawn.

Value of waste lands.

312. The waste lands selected to be reserved are nearly all valuable tracts for the forest produce they yield. Those in the eastern portion of the Uttartir tahsili are well stocked with good building timber and timber suitable for making boats, a number of which being made here are sent to Cuttack where they each sell for Rs. 150 or Rs.200. Large quantities of dye-nuts and barks, lac, wax, honey, fibrous barks, bamboos and grass &c., exist everywhere. These Government wastes when in full working order, should yield a handsome sum, as some people even of the Feudatory States used to indent freely on them, and carry away whatever they wanted without paying anything. An income of Rs.15,000 will probably be derived on the commutation system for agriculturists, and annual sale of miscellaneous articles to lessees, which appears to be the most suitable mode of managing them for the present.

Zamindari forests compete with those in khalsa.

313. There is one drawback to the proper working of the khalsa waste lands, however, and that is the existence of Zamindari forests in the midst of, and surrounded, by khalsa villages. As all Zamindaris have been exempted from detailed Settlement operations, the non-extension of waste land exclusion rules, has constituted one of them. It is possible, however, to buy up these Zamindaris in

by allowing them a fixed allowance per annum from the waste land revenue, and taking charge of their forests, which would then be managed in the same way as the waste tracts of the Khalsa. The Zamindaris in which their jungles will compete with those of the reserved Khalsa waste land blocks are in the Uttartir, the Rampur, Kodalagga and Machida in the north; and Loising in the east; and in the Dakhintir, the Pahansirgirda Zamindari. The rich forest tracts of Phuljher and Burhasambar, the two largest Zamindaris, ar too far to tempt the Khalsa people generally to go there, besides they are very extensive and would be found expensive to buy up and to manage.

314. There is one thing in connection with the exclusion of waste lands which has not been done, and that is what the Chief Commissioner in his Assistant Secretary's letter No. 1800, dated 18th May 1872, ordered to be done, as it was not found practicable to do so, namely -

One thing in connection with forests which could not be done.

" To estimate what extent of waste will have to be reserved for the supply of firewood, grass &c., for the people of the district and to define these tracts. * * * Such forest tracts should be in large and well defined blocks, within the limits of which no cultivation should be allowed. * * He disapproves of the system of cutting off small plots from villages which may happen to have more than 200 per cent of waste and holding these as unreserved forests. He also thinks it of paramount importance that the people should n t have to go too far to obtain their supplies of forest produce, and to achieve this end, would not hesitate to include the areas of perhaps even one or two existing villages in the tracts required for forest."

315. In a district in which there is still much scope for new land being brought under cultivation, the District officer's hands should not be tied in the matter of leasing waste lands to those who may be willing and able to bring them

How wastes might be reclaimed.

under cultivation; but if permission is given at all, it must not be of a restricted nature, with rules framed on the principle of the old clearance rules, about so many acres being brought under cultivation in so many years, and that so much per acre must be paid for after so many years, as villages are not created in that way. The fate of the clearance rules owing to these restrictions should act as a warning. During Settlement opertaions many plots of waste lands might have been [illegible] leased had not there been a prohibition against doing so; but as this prohibition did not extend to plots of waste land already appropriated by squatters and brought under cultivation, they have been recognized and assessed, and are now yielding revenue to Government which they did not do before.

***

17. Amkhermun 4 square miles

18. Mundher 8 miles north and south.
3 do. east and west.

19. Jado Loising 3 miles east and west.
2 do north and south.

8 do north and south

20. Tahloi 10 do east and west

21. Basiapapra 5 do north and south.
6 do east and west.

22. Hathibari 8 do east and west.
6 to 2 north and south.

23. Chhamdu 10 miles by 5 miles
24. Kandraput 4 miles by 1½ do.

25. Sunaridungri 2½ do north and south.
1¼ do east and west.

26. Labdera 4 do north and south.
4 do east and west.

27. Bygharra 4 do east and west.
2 do north and south.

28. Nildongri 2 do north and south.
1 do east and west.

29. Junun 4 do east and west.
1 do north and south.

Dakkintir.

1. Lamaidungri 5 miles north and south.
1¼ do east and west.

2. Chandilidungri average 8 do. north and south.
2 do. east and west.

3. Barhampuru 2 do.. north and south.
2 do. east and west.

4. Dhadrokusum 1 do. north and south.
1 do. east and west.

5. Debrigarh 9 do. north and south.
12 do. east and west.

6. Lahore 9 do. north and south
12 do. east and west.

7. Deochuan, average 4 miles north and south.
8 do. east and west.

8. Tarrydamak Burharaja, average 8 miles east and west.
3½ do north and south

CHAPTER V.

MISCELLANEOUS AND CONCLUSION.

316. To avoid a number of figured statements, coming into the body of the report, they have been put in the Appendix, such as a statement showing

classification of tenrures; a statement shewing the occupation of villages by different castes of Gaontyas; another shewing the number of Gaontyas, co-sharers &c., on whom rights have been conferred, and so forth.

Figured statements put in the appendix.

317. The imposition of cesses has been a subject on which there has been a good deal of correspondence. As a road cess in those days was unknown in Bengal, to which Province this district was subordinate in 1850, the Deputy Governer sanctioned one rupee per cent from the assessed revenue to be deducted for the repair of roads instead of its being imposed as a cess at one rupee per cent in excess of the land revenue. When in 1864 the Chief Commissioner raised the road cess to two per cent on the revenue, the difference in the system prevailing here from that prevailing in other districts, was brought to the Chief Commissioner's notice, and he then elicited the sanction of the Supreme Government to a 2 per cent road " cess " being for the present deducted from the revenue payable to Government; but it was ruled at the same time that after the resettlement of the district, the cess must be paid in addition to the land revenue as in other districts.

CESSES
Road cess in Gaontyai villages.

318. Subsequently the Government of India in 1866 having authorized the levy of a 3 per cent road cess in the Chhattisgarh Division, the Chief Commissioner authorized ~~a~~ Rs. 3 per cent being deducted from the land revenue and being treated as a road " cess," again laying it down that " when the revised assessments shall be complete the road cess of Sambalpur will be levied as in other districts".

Road cess raised to 3 per cent.

319. Although no ryot or Gaontya of a Gaontyai tenrure village had had to pay a road cess under the old Settlement, muafidars had had to pay it at the rates fixed on the supposed assessment value of their villages, and the Zamindars also had had to pay the

Muafidars and Zamindars had been paying road cess.

road cess calculated on the amount of their respective tributes.

320. Some muafidars paid the road cess themselves, some made their ryots pay it. To the Zamindars the road cess was a profitable income, as they collected a certain amount from their villages, but according to no rule, and paid a considerably smaller sum into the treasury, retaining the difference as profit, but now they will have to pay in all they collect as fixed.

How Muafidars and Zamindars paid road cess.

321. The question was raised whether the ryots and Gaontyas in this district who had never paid the road cess before, should now be called upon to pay it at the highest rate, not on the revenue as assessed elsewhere, but on the land tax tax contributed by the ryots and on the assumed value of the Gaontya's bhogra lands. This is not the rule in other districts (a rule twice promoised to be carried out here) where the Government sharest* in the expenses of a road cess with the people. Here if the above question was settled affirmatively Government would take all and bear no part of the expense, because the half assets principle of settlement had not been carried out, and it would therefore not be carrying out the promise twice made tothe people The Chief Commissioner, however, would not agree to make any altertion in the matter beyond this that he reduced the road cess to Rs. 2/ 2¼, 2½, or even more, according as he value of bhogra land both exempted and assessed when exceeding the authorized maximum allowed up to 25 per cent of the ryoti assessment may stand in proportion to the ryoti assessment, and may even reach 3 per cent where village service lands resumed and assessed come into the calculation.

Question raised and orders passed about road cess being paid by Gaontyai villages.

* Directions for Settlement Officers, Appendix XX., footnote at page 142

per cent on the ryoti assessment of a village plus as cess at the same rate on the assumed value of the Gaontias - bhogra [illegible] road cess in some villages with a jama of Rs.100/- may fall at the rate of Rs. 2/-,

322. The road cess having been imposed as an extra item, to be paid both by royts and Gaontyas for the future, in addition to land revenue, raises their payments into the treasury nearly up to 43 per cent (including the land tax), as compared with what was paid under the old Settlement.

Road cess increases payments into the treasury up to 43 per cent.

323. Other causes which increase the road cess.

Under the present Settlement not only does a much larger sum on account of road cess come to be paid into the treasury by reason of the increase in the assessment of Gaontyai tenures, but also from mafi villages having to now contribute to the cess on their full ryoti assessments as fixed by the Settlement officer as well as on assumed value of bogra lands in them. And a large increase also comes from the Non-feudatory Zamindaris, in which the road cess has been calculated on the Settlement officers estimated "Kamil jama," made up of all items of income falling under land revenue; so that the Chandarpur cum Padarpur Zamindari alone, which was paying the road cess on a jama of Rs. 4,130, will now have to pay it on one of Rs. 12,446; Phuljhor on a Kamil jama of Rs. 11,623 instead on Rs. 800 as heretofore, and so on. These increments are here alluded to with an object to be mentioned presently; Had the road cess been collected from Zamindaris all these years, counting from 1863-64, the road fund of this district would not have been so poor as it has been, but no one seems to have understood the purport of the orders on the subject when the cess came to be imposed.

324. The School cess.

The school cess was levied here from the time the district came under the Central Province Administration first at one rupee per cent on the ryoti assessment in Gaontyai tenures, the Gaontyas themselves, however, paying nothing towards it; in mafi villages on the estimated rental value of the villages; and in Zamindari estates on the tribute paid by the proprietors. This cess on Zamindars was subsequently raised in 1866 to 2 per cent, and was collected in the same way as the one per cent cess, so that all the Khalsa Zamindaris combined only paid a trifle, whereas now they will have to contribute above Rs. 1,200. Although in some Zamindaris the payment of the school cess had been excused by reason of the Zamindars supporting certain schools in their Zamindaris on the grant-in-aid system, yet it was found that they still went on collecting from their Gaontyas the school cess as well, all the same.

325. In the present Settlement the school cess at Re.2 per cent has been calculated precisely in the same way as the Road cess, in all Gaontyai villages, and mafi villages and Zamindari estates.

School cess how calculated in present Settlement.

326. The dak cess, at eight annas per cent, was being calculated and levied as the school cess, but it has now been calculated on the assessments fixed on each class of tenure as the school cess has been.

The Dak cess.

327. There were a number of unregistered mafi plot-holders who were paying no cesses at all, as their very existence was not officially known. All these plot-holders will now contribute their share, as fixed, towards all the three cesses.

Unregistered mafi plots will now pay cesses.

328. In other districts cesses were calculated according to a scale on parts of a hundred, but here, where the cesses have had to be calculated separately for each ryots holding, and for the Gaontyas' bhogra separately, for the mafi and quit-rent paying plot-holders separately, no such scale could be adopted, the different amounts have therefore been calculated down to annas and pies exactly on each holding.

Cess how calculated.

329. The kistbandi supplied to the District officer, according to which he will make his future collections of land revenue and cesses, gives the total of the latter (Road, School and Dak) in one sum leviable from the village, but to enable the collecting officials to know or to inform enquirers how the total has been arrived at, a key has been supplied, showing (1) how much the ryots have to pay, (2) how much the Gaontyas has to pay for his free and assessed bhogra, and (3) how much plot-holders have to pay. This course became necessary owing to the free bhogra being subject to payment of cesses, which free bhogra.

Cesses detailed in kistbandi furnished to District officer.

does not come into the kistbandi in in any way; otherwise the cesses could not have been worked out from the assessment to be collected in case the correctness of the amounts entered opposite any village were questioned at any future time.

330. In charging cesses, the value of the lands held rent free for village sama services by the Jhalars, Gandas &c., have been omitted and in calculating cesses on the assessment payable on ryoti holdings, they have been taken together at Re 1/ per cent, viz Road 2, School 2, and Dak annas 8, instead of separately, as the labour of calculating three sums for each of the holdings of several thousand ryots, besides for the Gountya's Nagra, would have be a great.

Cesses not charged on service lands, and how calculated on ryoti holdings.

331. During the time Settlement operations have been going on, the stamp revenue has been much larger than it had ever been before or will probably be in future. This increased stamp revenue was to some extent a set off against the expenditure which the settlement establishment entailed on the district revenues, and as the Government may fairly look to that expenditure being now recouped, it will require great care on the part of the District establishments to see that the Stamp laws are not extensively evaded. From the foregoing paragraphs of this report it will have been noticed that there are a large number of villages in the Non-feudatory Zamindaris of the district, besides in several large rent free estates, in which the Gountyas' and Shikmi Gountyas pattas are renewed every three or five years, so that where these pattas granted on stamp paper as they should be, a large amount of stamp revenue would be gained from this source alone, besides from the Registration fees of these leases and counterparts; but from a return obtained from the Registar for three years, it is found that no pattas were registered in 1874 only 6 in 1875 and the same number in 1876.

Stamp revenue during Settlement operations.

332. From the Zamindari reports as abridged and given under the assessment section, it will have been observed that there are some insignificantly small

Abolition of small Zamindaris suggested.

estates of that denomination have, of 4 or 5 villages only, the Zamindars exercising Police jurisdiction by authority, as also to some extend jurisdiction in Civil Criminal and Revenue matters which has not been conferred upon them, as they have during enquiries into their tenures and the condition of their estates added to that in small matters they levy a light fine and dispose of them, only referring serious cases to the Government officials. Were these Zamindaris converted into simple quit-rent holdings, the stamp revenue &c., would no doubt benefit by the measure. Besides they would then come under regular Police supervision, a supervision for which the existing establishment, with a judicious redistribution, would be found amply sufficient.

333. The greatest want of this district it has been remarked before is roads, and now that there will be a forest revenue of from 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 per annum, if the Government would make an annual grant of say Rs. 5,000 from it, with that sum added to the now increased income of the Road fund, the road to Raipur might be made passable for carts all the year round, in a few years; the one to Bilaspur might be improved and also the road towards Cuttack. As the second passes over a portion of the Feudatory State of the third through that of Sonpur, the Chief of those States could Raigurh and/perhaps be induced to contribute towards these roads, which would be for the equal benefit of the people of their possessions as they would be to those of the Khalsa. And certainly a portion of the forest revenue should be granted to open out a couple of roads into the Barapahar hills, which would materially contribute towards the development of the Laikanpor pargana lying within them, into which more capital and men of a better class than exist there just now would then be attracted, and this would eventually more than repay the present expenditure when the next Settlement comes to be made, not to speak of rendering accessible at all times a noted and difficult haunt of evil-doers.

Improving opening roads suggested.

334. The cost of the Settlement now made, which extends from 1st July 1876 to 30th June 1888,

has amounted to Rs. 1,09,787,* of which sum Rs. 25,878 were expended up to November 1877, and the balance Rs. 83,908 has been expended since the 21th February 1871, and up to 31st October 1877.

Cost of Settlement

338. The financial result of the new Settlement has been that Rs. 23,520 (after allowing for drawbacks in favor of certain Ghontwas with small Bhogras) have been gained in the Khalsa, and Rs. 1,396 in the Zamindaris, giving an aggregate gain of Rs. 27,910 and at this rate the cost of the Settlement will be recovered in about four years, but adding the income expected from forests, the cost will be recouped in less than three years.

Financial results

339. It is customary to give some account of the district under its former rulers; but this has been already supplied by the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces; of trade and resources, which the annual Trade Statistic reports now give; and of the population, which the last Returns and report so carefully prepared have furnished already, consequently these matters have been omitted from this report.

Subjects not mentioned in the report.

337. The Settlement establishment was broken up on the 31st October 1877.

Settlement establishment broken up.

SAMBALPUR
The 12th November, 1878

A.M. Russell,
Assistant Commissioner,
Settlement Officer.

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* Exclusive of the Settlement officer's pay as Assistant Commissioner, charged to General Revenues.

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XXVII
7
ORISSA

FINAL REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ORISSA

(TEMPORARILY SETTLED AREAS)

1890 TO 1900 A.D.

VOL. I

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S. L. MADDOX, I. C. S.

Settlement Officer

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Glossary of Vernacular Terms in the Orissa Final Report.

Abadhans—Village pandits or teachers.
Abwab—Illegal cess.
Achhara—The light and worthless refuse of grain.
Ada—(*Zingiber officinale*)—Ginger.
Adhajama or *nisfi bazyafti*—The tenures held rent and revenue free before the last settlement (1837) and resumed and assessed at half-rates at the last settlement.
Adkikari—Head-priests of temples.
Ail—The raised boundary of a field.
Aima—Learned or religious men. Used to denote grants made to religious and other Mahomedans.
Akhu—(*Saccharum officinarum*)—Sugarcane.
Akhubadali—The temporary exchange of a field not suitable for sugarcane for one that is suitable.
Amli—Is the era according to lunar months current in Orissa, but is liable to considerable variation and is regulated by the solar *Vilayati* year, which commences on the 1st *Assin*. The lunar *Amli* year commences in Orissa on the 12th day of the second-half of the lunar month *Bhadra* (*Vide* page 374 of the Appendix).
Anabadi—Uncultivated and unoccupied land.
Arhar—(*Cajanus indicus*)—A kind of pulse.
Arua—(See *Atap*).
Assamis—During the Mahratta rule farming leases of estates were put up to auction in Nagpur and were bought sometimes by two or three persons, who came to Orissa and tried to levy what they could, and were responsible for the collections of revenue. They were known as *Assamis*.
Asu or *Beali*—(*Oryza sativa*)—Rice grown on high lands.
Atapoor Arua—(Rice) prepared from paddy by drying it in the sun, and then crushing it in the *dhenki*.
Awal—First class (land).
Badar fard—Mistake list.
Badshahi—Royal.
Bahal—Stands for *Lakiraj—bahal, i.e.*, revenue-free lands confirmed as such at the last settlement.
Baigun or Brinjal—(*Solanum melonga*)—A vegitable.
Baishnabs——Religious mendicants. There is also a caste of that name.
Balia or *Baliara*—Very loose sandy soil which grows poor specimens of the *rabi* crop.
Balia matal—A loam, with a large admixture of earth; a rich sandy loam, the most common of soils, and varying much in composition and fertility.
Balichar—Pure sand unfit for cultivation.
Banghi—A bamboo stick with strings from each end used across the shoulder for carrying loads.
Baradaran Jagir—*Jagir* assigned to brothers and other near relatives for their support
Baraj—The *pan* garden.
Barhai—Carpenter.
Bari—Homestead land.
Barkandaz—A guard.
Baruai—A village headman (found only in North Balasore).
Bati—20 *mans*—Equivalent to from 8 to 20 acres, varying with the local standards of measurement.
Batwara—Partition.
Bazefasal—Miscellaneous crops.
Bazyafti Tenures—Tenures held rent and revenue-free before the last settlement (1837) and resumed and assessed at the last settlement.
Bazyaftidars—Holders of resumed tenures.
Bazyafti kamil or *pura jama*—Tenures held rent and revenue—free before the last settlement (1837), and resumed and assessed at full rates at the last settlement.
Bechapari—Literally "without roof". The word is issued to designate unihabited villages.
Bena—(*Androdagon miliaceus*)—Thatching grass.
Benapat—Waste covered with thatching grass.
Bethia—One who labours without hire. '*Bethi*' is labour which is not paid for.
Bethia Bauri—Labourers of the Bauri caste (holding *Jagirs*) bound to render service when called upon to do so.
Bhadai—(*Oriza sativa*)—Autumn crop.
Bhadra lok—Respectable persons.
Bhag or *Dhulibhag*—Means literally a 'sharing' of the dust. A rent in kind equal to half the produce, including bye-products.
Bhagbandhak or *Phalbandhak*—Is a common form of usufructuary mortgage.
Bhagchas—Land cultivated by a raiyat for his landlord on condition that he would pay a certain share of the produce, generally half-share.
Bhaiya—Relations.
Bhandari or *Napit*—A barber.
Bhat—Village bard.
Bhaurias—Field books or khasras
Bhians—Rent rolls
Bhoi or *Kothkoran* or *Baithkaran* or *Sethi*—Village accountant.
Bhoimul or *Bisoi*—Divisional (*bisi* or *Khand*) head.
Bhupati—Lord of the soil.
Biali—(*Oryza sativa*)—Autumn rice sown in May-June and harvested in August and September.
Bibaha—Magan—Subscriptions raised for meeting the expenses of the *zamindars* for marriage in his family.
Bida—Rake.

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Bigha—A local land measure which is equal to one-third of a *man.*
Birhi—(*Phaseolus radiatus*)—A kind of pulse.
Bisa—Weighs 120 tolas or one-and-a half standard *seers* and is divided into 20 to 30 *pais*=1/80 *chhala.*
Bisa kati—A steel yard used for weighing vegetables, fish and utensils, &c.
Bisi or Khand—Villages grouped into large divisions of ten to fifty square miles.
Biswa=1/16th of a *gunth* or 1/400th of a *man* (see *Man*).
Bramhottar—Grants of lands assigned for the supoprt of Brahmans.
Chaharam—(lands)—Fourth class soils.
Chakbandi (Sheet)—A uetailed rent roll showing the area and class and rate of rent for every plot in each holding.
Chaki or *Janta*—Flour Mill.
Chakran Tanki (lands)—Service lands held on a quit rent.
Chakria—An unskilled labourer who is engaged by the year.
Chana—(Lathyrus *sativus*)—Gram.
Chandina—Homestead lands of shopkeepers artizans, and those of the labouring classes, who, having no arable land in the village, pay rent for homestead lands only.
Chandinadar or *Chandina raiyat*—Holders of *Chandina* tenures.
Chandinadar-ko-delu-patta—A *Chandinadar* to whom a lease for cultivated lands, similar to a thani lease, was given at the last settlement, fixing his rent for that settlement.
Chati (land)—Land occupied by lodging-houses on the Trunk Road.
Chaukidar or *Choukia*—Village watchman.
Chaulia matal—Brownish soil, very friable, commom and fairly fertile.
Chaupani—A tax levied by the *killajat* chiefs for military service.
Chauria—A hard clay which is very liable to cake on being exposed to the sun when ploughed.
Chela—Disciple.
Chhar—A small remission or rent.
Chhala—(Measure)—80 *bisas* (see *Bisa*).
Chhatia—Watchmen, landlords' peons. Chaukidars are called *chhatias* in the Puri district.
China (*Paricummilia ceum*)—A kind of millet.
Chouth—Tribute levied by the Mahrattas.
Chula—Hearth.
Dabir Jai or *Dabijjya* (land)—Is the dower given by the father on the occasion of a daughter's marriage.
Dakdehati—Zamindari *dak* cess.
Dakhal bandhak—Loans on a usufructuary mortgage. No interest in charged, but the Mahajan obtains possession until such time as the debt is repaid or for a certain period, at the expiration of which the Mahajan returns the lands to the mortgagor, the enjoyment of the lands for that period being considered equivalent to principal and interest.
Dakhil kharij—Process of registering mutations.
Dal—A general term for pulses.
Dalua—(*Oryza sativa*)—Spring rice sown in November—December and harvested in March.
Dan or Dutta—It is a gift, and is used of grants, to perosns other than Brahmans, especially for services. Some times also used of grants to Brahmans.
Dandidar—Weigher appointed to supervise a market.
Dangar or *Thenga* or *Thangi*—High lands that suffer from want of silt and water.
Dao—A small toothed sickle for reaping. A large knife with straight and heavier blade for cutting jungle wood and fodder is also called a *Dao.*
Daroghas—Sub-Inspectors (Police).
Dastak—Warrant.
Dasti—(measure)Four half inches or the width of a man's fist across the knuckles.
Debottar—(Bestowed on the Gods)—Lands assigned for the worship of an idol.
Dhaincha—(*Sesbania aculeata*)—A crop cultivated for fibre.
Dhangira—Sugarcane cuttings.
Dhania—(*Coriandrum sativum*)—Coriander seed.
Dhaulia matal—A greyish white soil which is usually fertile.
Dhenki—The grain-husker.
Dhipa—High arable lands.
Dhoba—Washerman.
Dhoti—Cloth for wearing.
Dhuan patra—(*Nicotina tabacum*)—Tobacco plant or 'smoke leaf'.
Diha—Homestead land (including the garden as well as the house site).
Doem or *Dayam*—Second class lands.
Dofasali—(land)—Double-cropped area.
Doli—Bamboo baskets plastered over with mud and cow-dung for storing paddy.
Dorasa—A mixture of clay and sand in nearly equal parts.
Dudhia matal—A white soil, very friable and fairly fertile ; grows fine paddy.
Ekhrajat,or more properly *Ikhrajat*, is an Arabic word meaning 'expenses'—After the conquest of Khurda in 1804, Government continued to make certain cash payments to the Puri Temple, which was held in high respect by the Hindu communities through out India In 1858, in difference to very strongly expressed views in England that the Government should divest itself of all connection with religious endowments in this country, it was decided to grant certain lands in lieu of the cash payment. These estates are known as the *Ekhrajat Mahals.*
Ekpadiya—Zamindar's rent roll.
Ekrarnama or *Iqrarnama*—An agreement.
Fasal-bandi—An assessment made on the basis of cropped area.
Gaba or *Jara*—Castor oil.
Gahama—(*Titicum sativum*)—Wheat.

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Gamcha—A towel-like piece of cloth generally used for bathing, &c.
Ganja—(*Gannabis sativa*)—A kind of drug.
Gauni—(Grain measure)—This is a basket with a capacity varying locally from 1 1/2 to 6 seers of rice and called accordingly *tin siriagauni* ; *'charsiriagauni'*, &c. &c.,
Gours or Gonds—Village cowherds.
Gengutia—A clay containing and admixture of *genguti* or lime, to be met with near those river beds which abound with nodulous limestone.
Gharbari—Homestead lands including *bari.*
Ghat Manjhi or *Nauria*—Ferryman or boatman.
Ghee or *Ghi*—Clarified butter.
Gomasta—A servant of the Zamindar or the *Ijaradar* who collects rents from the tenants.
Gora—A very common light-coloured soil.
Gram debati—Village deities.
Gunth—(land measure)—One twenty-fifth of a *man.*
Gur—Molasses.
Guru—(Literally,,heavy)—A variety of *Sarad* paddy.
Halabira—A sheaf of corn given to the Chaukidar at the harvest time by each tenant.
Haldi—(*Curcuma longa*)—Turmeric.
Handi—An earthen pot used for cooking, &c.
Harar—(*Cajanus indicus*)—A kind of pulse.
Hari Kharcha—(Cuttack)—A kind of *abwab.* Annas four to rupee one for tenant to meet the expenses of religious festivities.
Hasilat or *Khalisa*—Lands other than *Lakhiraj, i. e.*, lands comprised in a revenue-paying estate.
Hastabud—The area in which the zamindar collects direct from his tenants.
Hat—Market.
Hatkar—(Cuttack)—Market dues.
Hatwa or *Hatua*—The merchant class.
Hazur tahsil—Direct collections.
Hira or *Hida—Ail*—(See *Ail*).
Hinihayati lakhiraj—Lands granted revenue-free for the life time of the holder.
Ijaradar—(*Ijara*, a lease)—The farmer of a village, market &c.
Inkar—A reed used in enclosing and thatching *pan* gardens, and for the support of the young *pan* plants.
Istimarari mustajiri—Farming leases granted in perpetuity.
Istimarari Patta—A permanent lease.
Jaba—(*Hordeum hexastichum*)—Barley.
Jala—The oridinary rice lands of the village, not including houses and gardens.
Jalapat—Low lands.
Jalakarmahals—Estates consisting of rights of fishery.
Jalpahi—Certain lands known as *'Jalpahi'* (in Balasore) were acquired by the East India Company for the manufacture of salt in the beginning of the century under perpetual leases.
Jagir—Service lands.
Jagirdars—Persons holding lands free of rent in consideration of thier services to an individual or the community.
Jama—Revenue or rent.
Jamabandi misl—The collection of papers relating to the proceedings for the settlement of rents.
Jamawasilbaki—A statement of demand, colllection and arrears for each tenant.
Jara or *Gaba*—Castor oil.
Jarib—Measurement.
Jarimana—A fine.
Jhil—Low lands ; also a narrow water-course.
Jhora—A narrow water-course.
Jogi—A religious mendicant.
Kabala—Deed of sale.
Kadimi (raiyats)—Resident and hereditary cultivators having a customary right of occupancy.
Kakuri—(*Cucumis sativus*)—Cucumber.
Kala or *Kalamati*—(Black land)—Lands lying round the village site, over which the washing water of the village is poured and all village refuse is thrown.
Kalamatal—Black, soil, usually of low levels.
Kamar—Blacksmith.
Kanda—Partly refined molasses.
Kandamul—(*Cucumis melo*)—Sweet potato.
Kantari—(*Saccharum officinarum*)—A variety of sugarcane.
Kanungo—A subordinate revenue official.
Kapa—(*Gossypium herbaceum*)—Cotton.
Karhia—This is a system of cash loan to meet the kist of rent due in November before the winter rice is ripe. It is repaid in February in grain at the market rate then current, with interest at about 20 per cent.
Karja—Money loan.
Karji—An agent appointed by the *talukdar* for collections where there were no hereditary headmen or where the *padhan* had been dispossessed. The term is now generally applied to rent collectors.
Kar-pahi or *thani-pahi*—Lands cultivated by a *thani* raiyat which did not previously form part of his *thani* holding or tenure.
Karta—The head of the family.

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Katki seer—The *seer* in common use in Cuttack and Puri. It weighs 105 *tolas* or 2·7104 lbs. A Avoirdupois.
Kela—A class of wandering beggars.
Kenkshiali pariya—"Uplands where the foxes have their holes".
Khai—Fried rice, sometimes seasoned with sugar, when it is called *mudki* or *ukhda*.
Khai—A kind of sugarcane mill, in which the canes are pressed between rollers, horizontal or vertical, turned by hand or by bullocks.
Khairat—The name was used of grants of lands to mendicants and other poor Hindus, and sometimes also of grants for charitable purposes.
Khairatdar—The holders of *khairat* land.
Khali (soil)—An admixture of clay and limestone dust.
Khalisa (lands)—(See *Hasilat*).
Khama alu—(*Dioscorea sativa*)—The true yam.
Khamar—Grain store. Also signifies a proprietor's private lands.
Khanabari—Homestead lands in the possession of proprietors.
Khanapuri—Record-writing (*khana* means column and *puri* means to fill up).
Khandait or *Bhuyan*—Literally, swordsman, *i.e.*, the wearer of the *khanda kharga* or sword. Was originally chief of *paiks*; a *khandait* is now scarcely distinguishable from a *paik*.
Khara—(*Spinacea oliracea*)—A variety of spinach ordinarily grown in *bari* lands.
Kharcha—Miscellaneous collections.
Khardapani or Khanapani—A kind of *abwab* taken by the *gomastas* similar to *Gomasta kharch*.
Kharida (lands)—Land sold rent-free or at a quit rent by the proprietors during the Hindu, Moghul, or Mahratta rule.
Kharidadars—Purchasers of *Kharida* lands.
Kharidagi (estates)—Estates formed of *Kharida* lands, often known as *Kharidagi bazi Asamiyan*.
Kharida—Jamabandi (Lands)—*Kharida* lands assessed to revenue.
Khasra (form)—A field index.
Khatian (form)—A detailed record of each tenancy.
Khet—Field.
Khewat (form)—An abstract record of the rights of proprietors and teunre-holders.
Khulti matal or Khari matal—A chalky soil, fairly fertile.
Khurpi—An instrument for scraping weeds or grass.
Khushbash—Respectable *thani* and resident raiyats. Also a kind of revnue-free grant to Brahmans and other better class Hindu cultivators for their houses.
Killajat—Estates of which the revenue was fixed by Regulation XII of 1805 are known as *Killajat* estates.
Kimbiriamatal—Slate (crocodile) coloured soil.
Kist—Instalment of revenue or rent.
Kist Khilaf Siwai—(Cuttack)—A collection of at annas six per rupee on arrears. This is not common as no interest is usually charged on arrears; it is mentioned in pargana Beruan only.
Kita or Kiari—The plot or portion of a field surrounded by a *hira*.
Kodali or Kuri—Mattock.
Kolhua—This is the commonest form of sugarcane-mill.
Kos—2,000 *dhanu* or 4,00 yards.
Kotwal—The assistant of the '*Amil*'.
Kula—A flat basket for winnowing.
Kulthi—(*Declichus biflorous*)—A pulse.
Kumbhar—Village potter.
Kunda—The fragments of husks and the outer shell covering the grains of rice.
Kuthia or Halia—A class of unskilled labourers engaged by the year and paid daily in kind.
Laghu—(*Chota, Majhla, Bara*)—(*Oryza sativa*)—The winter rice is sub-divided according to the amount of water it requires into *guru* or heavy and *laghu* or light, and the latter again into small medium and large.
Laikpadia—Culturable waste land.
Lakhiraj—Revenue-free land.
Lakhiraj bahaldars—Revenue-free properties, holding their lands free of revenue in prepetuity.
Lakhiraj bazyafti—(See *Bazyzafti*).
Madad Mash—Grants of land to learned Muhammadans for their help and maintenance.
Magan or Mathout or Chanda—Subscriptions or ceses levied by the zamindar for special purposes.
Mahal—is used for 'estate' or "belonging to the estate," i.e., not in the possession of tenants holding under tenure-holders or other middlemen.
Mahi or *Moi*—Harrow.
Makka—(Zeamays)—Maize.
Malguzar—Revenue Payer.
Malikana—Allowances paid to a proprietor on his becoming recusant.
Mali—Gardner.
Man—A local measure, contains from .33 to 1.21 of an acre.
Mandua or *Mandia* (*eleusine corocuna*)—A millet grown both as an Autumn and as a Spring crop.
Marfatdar—Agent, trustee.
Mark—Is equal to 905 grains Troy.
Math—A religeous institution resembling a monastery or abbey.
Mathadhikari—The head of a *math*.
Mathi—Earthen pot for keeping water.
Matial—Is a kind of soil which includes a large proportion of clay.
Matwalli or *Darogah*—The trustee of a Muhammadan Shrine.

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Maund—Forty *seers* (one *seer*=2·0532 lbs. Avoirdupois).
Maurasi—Hereditary.
Maurasi Sarbarakari—The heriditary property of a *Sarbarahkar.*
Mauza—Village.
Mauzawar—Village by village.
Mazkuri (estate)—Specified (i.e., in the rent roll) estate.
Mehtars or *Haris*—Sweepers.
Milan khasra—Is a total of the *khasra* pages showing the different classes of land into which the total area of the village is divided.
Minha—Lands left unassessed. Generally lands granted free of rent for the site of a house and garden.
Misl—Record.
Miyadi Sarbarahkari—A temporary tenure held by a *Sarbarahkar.*
Mohant—The abbot of a monastery.
Mot khasra—A form used for entering the area columns of the *khasra.*
Maafi or *Maafi kharida*—Land bought for a consideration from a zamindar or *talukadar* free of assessment. These lands were confirmed as revenue-free at the last settlement.
Mug or *Mung* (*phaseolus mungo*)—One of the pulses.
Muharrir—Subordinate vernacular clerk.
Mulia——Day labourer.
Munsarim—A superior vernacular clerk.
Muqadam or *muqaddam* or *mukadam* or *Mukaddam*—(An arabic word meaning headman) A class of proprietary tenure-holders or sub-proprietors.
Mustajir—Lessee.
Nai—Twine.
Naibs—Resident managers.
Nalaikpadia—Unculturable waste-land.
Nalita—(*Corchorus capsularis, corchorus olitorius*)—Jute.
Nangal—Plough.
Nankar estates—Estetes consisting generally of scattered villages or portions of villages assigned for the support of high officials or of friends and dependents of the Sovereign.
Nijchas—Land cultivated by the proprietor or proprietary tenure-holder, but which is not true *sir.*
Nij jot—Is the private land (or true *sir*) of the proprietor or proprietary tenure-holder.
Nij kot—Jungle and waste-lands in the possession of a *Khandait.* (This is one of the three parts of the property of Garh Haldia divided at Mr. Wilkison's Settlement.)
Nij mauza—Means the land belonging to the original estate of the village.
Nikhat—Whatever is buried in the land ; also means minerals.
Nullahs or *Jores*—Drains.
Nuna jami—Land which is more or less of a saline nature.
Nunia (called *nunichar* while out of cultivation)—Soil which has been inundated with salt water and has not recovered ; may or may not be in cultivation.
Olaro—A long coffin—shaped basket of split bamboo fitted on to a cart for carrying grain.
Oger or *ogaira* or *wagaira*—"And others".
Padhan—A class of proprietary tenure-holders or sub-proprietors.
Padika—Rod for measuring. A bamboo pole varying from 7 to 12 feet in length.
Pahi—Raiyats whose rents were not fixed for the term of settlement ; non-resident raiyats as distinguished from *thani* or resident raiyats.
Pahikasht—Lands cultivated by *pahi* raiyats.
Paiks—Hereditary landed militia. They are road and *ghat* patrols occupying a position similar to that of the village chaukidars.
Pakhias—A shade made of palm leaves to protect the head and back from sun and rain.
Pal—Silt enriched lands on or near the banks of rivers.
Pulang—(Rottlera tinctoria)—A tree the fruits of which yield a kind of oil which is used for lighting. The oil is an excellent medicine for burns.
Pan—(*piper betel*)—Betel leaf.
Panamohure—(*Pimpinella anisum*)—Aniseed.
Panidhan or *Katdhan*—The portion of a rent fixed in cash which is payable in grain at the current market rate.
Panikar—Water-rate.
Pani-gahira—'Water-holes'.
Panigrahi—The head of a Brahman *Sasan* village and keeper of its title deed, rent receipts, &c. is generally known as *Panigrahi.*
Pankua—Black mud unmixed with sand, such as is found at the bottom of ponds and tanks.
Pansia—A loose though comparatively fertile soil.
Pao or *poa*—Four *chhataks*, one-fourth of a seer.
Parcha (form)—Abstract of the draft *khatian* given to the tenant, sometimes known as a *jamabandi* slip.
Pargana—Name of a fiscal division of the Moghul period. It is still in use.
Parganawar—*Pargana* by *Pargana.*
Parsethis or *pursethis*—A class of proprietary tenure-holders or sub-proprietors.
Partal Bhauria—A measurement made periodically to ascertain the extension of cultivation.
Patna—It means primarily homestead rather than arable lands. Small villages are also called Patnas.
Patsala kharach—A fee to defray the cost of maintenance of a school at the zamindar's residence generally three pies per head.
Patta—A lease given to a raiyat showing his land and his rent and the period for which it was fixed.
Patta Salami—A fee for the grant of a new lease of land.
Pattu—An alluvial soil, formed from silt deposited by floods.

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Pauti—Rent receipt.
Peshkas or *Peshkush*—Quit revenue.
Phalbhag or *Rajbhag*—A division of the fruits or grain only, the straws or other bye-products being left with the cultivators ; a less common form of produce rent.
Phuti—(*Cucumis momordica*)—Cucumber.
Piada—*Kharch* or *Piyada-miyadi*—A fee, usually amounting to one pice per rupee of rent made nominally to cover the cost of maintaining collection peons.
Pir—A Muhammadan Saint.
Piria—Oil-cake.
Pirottar—Lands assigned for the support of the shrines of Muhammadan Saints.
Pitrakh or *pitrali* or *Paitrali*—Ancestral *jagir* or *nankar* lands.
Piyadamiyadi or *Talabana*—A fee varying from one and a half to three annas per diem, and realised from a tenant by the peon sent either to demand rent or to summon him to the zamindari *kachari*. A portion of this fee goes to the peon, and it varies with the number of days he is engaged.
Pota—Crops.
Pura jama or *Kamil Bazyafti*—(See *Kamil bazyafti*).
Purohit—Priest. (*Despurohit*=Priest appointed by the zamindar. Kulpurohit=Hereditary chaplain of a respectable family).
Qadam Rasul—Muhammadan endowments of shrines where the prophet is believed to have set his foot.
Qaulnama or *Sanand*—Acknowledgements granted to the proprietors of Aul and similar estates for the agreements executed by them.
Rabi—Spring crop.
Rahadari—A free levied for the cost of sending remittances to the tresasury under escort.
Rahbars—Road patrols.
Rahan bandhak—Loans on simple mortagage usually bearing interest at six pies per rupee per month.
Rajwara—Lands excluded from the Moghul Settlement.
Rasad—*Supplies*.
Rasad kharcha (*Cuttack*)—A payment at one piece per rupee to meet the expenditure incurred in finding supplies (*rasad*) for any high official touring in the neighbourhood.
Rasadi—Progressive assessment of revenue or rent to mitigate the hardship of sudden enhancement.
Rekti matal—A stiff rich soil.
Reportdars—Elected representatives of a *Sasan* or *Tanki* village through whom the revenues are paid.
Rokar or Jamakhirach—Ledger.
Ruidads—Completion reports of the former settlements.
Rusum or Russoom—Deductions of five per cent. from the gross collections of village under the charge of a *talukdar*.
Sadabrati or "*Pious Endowments*"—Is the generic name for all charitable endowments. They appear to be generally recorded as *khairat* or *debottar*.
Sadar—An abstract.
Sag—Spinach.
Sagbari—A portion of the homestead set apart for growing *Sag*.
Sairat or Defait jama—Miscellaneous rent other than that collected for the use of the land.
Sair Wasi Wai—Extra collections in the form of octroi, market dues, etc.
Sanad—Deeds by which grants of lands were made by Hindu, Muhammadan or Mahratta Rulers, also certificats granted by the British Government to Tributary Chiefs and proprietors of peshkas' estates describing their status, etc., etc.
Sani—Subsequent.
Sanja—Means a contract, and is used of a rent in kind fixed at a certain quantity, which is payable whatever the outturn may be.
Santak—A caste mark which is affixed by the illiterate to documents in place of signature.
Sarad—(*Oryza sativa*)—Winter rice sown in June-July and reaped in November-January.
Sarai—Lodging-house for travellers and suitors in the courts.
Sarbarahkar—Originally a farmer of the revenue, who has now in many cases become a properietary tenure-holder.
Sarba Sadharan (lands)—Waste-lands and tanks to the use of which the villagers have a customary right.
Sarisa or *Sayam*——(*Brassica campestris, brassica juncea*)—Mustard.
Saru—(*Colocaria antiquorum, caladium*)—A kind of vegetable.
Sasan—A Brahman settlement, &c.
Sawai or *Panchpai*—An agricultural loan of grain for food and seed to be repaid at harvest time with interest at 25 per cent.
Seba—Service or worship
Seer—Weight of 80 tolas=four paos = 2.0532 lbs. Avoirdupois.
Sewai or Extras—Is the expression sometimes used to cover all the excess collections in the Puri district but in some cases it denotes the addition taken to cover interest on arrears of rent ; arrears are often charged at 25 per cent.
Sebait—Minister or worshipper.
Sherista—An office where records are kept.
Siha—Daily cash-book.
Sidha (rice)—Rice prepared from paddy by boiling it, and then drying it in the sun and then crushing it in the *dhenki*.
Sir (land)—Proprietor's private land.
Sirkar—Is a part of the paraganas which were grouped into three parts (Cuttack, Bhadrak, and Jaleswar) by Raja Mansingh.

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Soem or *Sayam*—Third-class (inferior and sandy) soils.
Subah—Province.
Sudh matal—Purely muddy soil.
Sukua—Dried fish.
Sunia, Salami or *Bhcti*—A form of *abwab*.
Sunn—(*Crotolaria juncea*)—A kind of fibre.
Supari—(*Areca catechu*)—Betel-nut.
Tahasildalahidas—The *tahasildahida* lands of a village are the lands of estates which, at the time of the last settlement, did not form part of the estate to which the village originally belonged.
Tahasilkharcha or Tahari (Cuttack)—A fee varying from half-an-anna to two annas in the rupee of rent levied annually for the maintenance of a collection staff.
Taluk—An Arabic word that may be translated 'shphere of influence'. Sometimes also called *Tappa*.
Tamasuk—Bond.
Tankí (rent)—A quit rent.
Tankibahal—These are tenures which were assessed at the last-settlement with quit rents fixed in prepetuity. In Khurda the rates, but not the rents, are fixed in perpetuity.
Tarmuj—(*Citrulus vulgaris*)—Malon.
Tari—Juice of the palm tree.
Tarmim—Corection.
Taufir—Lands held in excess of an original *lakhiraj bahal* or *jagir bahal* grant which have been assessed to rent.
Til indicum (*sesamum*)——Is a kind of oil-seed.
Tisi or Pisi—(*Linum usitatissimum*)—Linseed.
Tola—Fees in kind or cash for the shops of a market.
Tola—Is the weight of one standard rupee=180 grains Troy.
Tolan or *Sahi*—Hamlet.
Thanawar—Thana by thana,
Thani—Raiyats resident in the village whose rents were fixed for the term of the last settlement.
Thani-pahi—(See *karpahi*).
Thani Kharcha (Cuttack)—A fee paid by a *thani* raiyat to retain the services of the *Gomasta* and *Amin* for the purpose of re-measuring his holding or laying down the boundary. It usually amounted to two or three annas per holding.
Tunsa—The outer husk of the paddy which is removed during the preparation of rice.
Turiya bharangiya—Trumpeters.
Uparpahi—Karpahi lands tenanted by a resident of another village.
Usna—Same as sidha rice.
Utbati—A tenancy from year to year or from season to season.
Vilayati or *Wilaiti*—(*Vide* Amli)
Warija—The old name for the *khatian*.

Zamindars or Malguzars—Proprietors directly responsible to the State for the revenue of the land they own.
Zamindar—dia—jagir—Grants of service lands made to retainers, servants, and others by Zamindars.
Zamindars-dia-minha—Plots of land, mostly homestead, allowed by zamindars to a raiyat without payment of rent, and generally forming part of an occupancy holding.
Zamindar-dia-niskar or *kamjana*—These were grants, rent-free, or at a nominal rent, made to Brahmins or old servants, and by the custom of the country generally tenable more or less at the pleasure of the donor.

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REPORT
ON THE
SETTLEMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ORISSA.
(TEMPORARILY SETTLED AREAS)
1890 to 1900 A. D.

PART-1

CHAPTER 1.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT.

Area under report.

1. The jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Orissa and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals comprises :—

	Square miles.
Seventeen Tributary States, with an area of	14,387
Cuttack district with an area of	3,663
Balasore „ „ „	2,077
Puri „ „ „	2,499
Angul „ „ „	1,681
Total	24,307*

The Tributary States pay a quit-rent fixed in perpetuity, while in the three districts, the temporarily settled area amounts to about 6,000 square miles, of which 2,300 are situated in Cuttack, 2000 in Puri and 1,700 in Balasore. Out of this area (6,000 square miles) the Khurda Government Estate comprises about 1,000 square miles. The resettlement of this Estate was completed last year by the Settlement Officer of Orissa and his assistants, and has formed the subject of a separate report already submitted to the higher authorities. It is only necessary to say here that the work was done under the immediate supervision of Mr. James Taylor, Assistant Settlement Officer, and that rents for some two hundred thousand tenants were raised from Rs. 3,09,000 to Rs. 3,77,000, the actual annual gain of revenue to Government being Rs. 55,000 and the cost of the operations, Rs. 1,92,000.

Area surveyed

2. The area dealt with by the Survey Department in Orissa is returned as follows :—

District	Cadastal Survey			Topographical Survey
	64 inch to the mile.	32 inch to the mile.	16 inch to the mile.	2 inch and 4 inch to the mile.
Cuttack	6	364	2,412	740
Balasore	....	7	1,858	223
Puri	....	993	1,026	456
Total	6+	1,364+	5,296	1,419
	6,666			

With the exception of the 32-inch work nearly the whole of the survey was original, the areas under canal irrigation and the Khurda Government Estate having been surveyed on the 32 inch scale some fifteen to twenty years ago.

* The revenue of this area is given in paragraph 553.

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Temporarily-Settled area.

3. In this report I have only dealt with the temporarily-settled area of 5,000 square miles (excluding the Khurda Government Estate). In this area rents have been settled for some fifteen hundred thousand tenants, and the Government revenue of nearly six-and-a-half thousand estates has been raised from nearly fourteen lakhs of rupees to more than twenty-one-lakhs. The operations lasted from the end of 1889 to the end of 1899; and in addition to the work in the temporarily-settled areas the Settlement Department was entrusted with settlement work in the large Ekhrajat and Satais Hazari Estates belonging to the Puri Temple, with several minor operations in Khurda; with the record of rights in portions of *Killa* Darpana and *Killa* Aul (both permanently settled); and with the record-of-rights and settlement of rents in *Killa* Madhupur, a permanently-settled estate under the Court of Wards.

4. The report is divided into seven parts :—

Divisions of the report.

Part I.—*Statistical.*—Chapters II, III, and IV contain brief statistical accounts of the temporarily-settled areas in Cuttack, Balasore and Puri (excluding Khurda, already dealt with in a separate Settlement Report). These chapters serve to bring up to date the information given by Sir W.W. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Orissa.

Part-II.-*Economical.*—In this part, economical matters, other than the relations between landlord and tenants (relegated to Part-III) are dealt with. Chapter V contains an account of the Irrigation and Protection works in Orissa and of the enquiry made regarding the proposal to introduce an owner's rate. The information regarding Embankments may be supplimented by the History of Embankments in Orissa lately written by Mr. W. A. Inglis, Superintending Engineer. In Chapter VI an attempt has been made to supplement the information on agriculture given by Mr. N. N. Banerjee and Mr M.H. Arnott. Chapter VII gives a history of prices and chiefly deals with the prices of common rice. In Chapter VIII the material condition of the people is described, and an account is given of the wealth of the Province and of the famines which have at times overwhelmed it.

Part III.—History and Land Tenures.—In Chapter IX a brief account is given of ancient Orissa, its history and its religion, so far as may be gathered from the writings of certain well known authorities. Chapter X contains history of the early Revenue Settlements; while in Chapter XI the history of the Land Tenures is brought down to the present day. In Chapters XII and XIII the relations between landlord and tenant, and the laws which govern these relations, are dealt with.

Part IV.—Procedure.—In this part an account is given of the procedure adopted in different stages of work. So far as possible, the results of the work have been relegated to the next Part (Part V). These chapters have been written, at considerable length for the benefit of the Settlement Officers of 1927. Great difficulty was experienced in discovering the procedure at the last Settlement, as details were not set forth in any one place, and a search in Record rooms, in manuscripts, and even in printed papers involved a considerable expenditure of time. For this reason, the chapters on procedure have been written very elaborately (see also Appendix A).

In Chapter XIV a general account of the procedure is given, together with some references to the officers employed on the work. Chapter XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX follow the regular sequence of the procedure from the stage of demarcation and survey through the stages of khanapuri, attestation, settlement of rents and settlement of revenue, up to the last stage of arrangement of the final record and its maintenance.

In Part V there are two Chapters—XXI and XXII—describing the results of the work, so far as areas and so far as rents and revenue are concerned.

In part VI there are also two Chapters. Some account of the permanently settled estates, Tributary States, and the *Killas* eligible for specially lenient treatment is given in Chapter XXIII; and Chapter XXIV contains an account of the revenue-free areas, almost inextricably intermingled with the temporarily settled revenue paying area under report.

Part VII of one Chapter (XXV) containing a brief account of the cost of the operations.

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5. The Appendices contain the following information :

Appendices.

Appendix A gives a reprint of important correspondence; in Appendix B are the rules under section 189, Bengal Tenancy Act, and the rules prescribed for record writing and attestation. The rules for settlement of rents and assessment of revenue are contained in Appendix C. Appendix D contains certain forms illustrating village areas. In Appendices E and F the *Milan Khasra* (statement showing the areas of villages under heads 'Cultivated', 'Culturable', etc.) and the crop statements are compiled. Appendix G contains a reprint of the note on the embankments classified by Mr. C W. Odling. Appendices H to M show lists of roads, bungalows ferries, grazing grounds and public lands. Appendix N contains a list of prices of commodities sold at the Bhadrak hat and Appendix O gives an account of a raiyat's annual expenditure. In Appendix P there is a statement showing how rents have been altered. Appendices A.A to E.C give figures for rents and incidences and F.A to F.C for revenues. Appendices G.A. refer to tenure-holders (proprietary) K.A and K.B. give figures for rents payable to under-tenants. L.A. to L.C. show revenue for areas; M.A. to N.C. give an account of the zamindars in the Province. In O.A. and P.A. Mr. Carey's notes on the *Amli* year and Kists are reprinted. At the end of the Appendices will be found the reports by Messrs D. H. Kingsford and H. McPherson on the settlements of Balasore and Puri. Mr. James Taylor's Report on Khurda has been published separately and separately dealt with.

6. I cannot conclude this introductory preface without an expression of my deep sense of gratitude and obligation to Mr. J.E. Webster. With the exception of the introductory chapters and the chapters containing reviews of general results, he has either written or drafted a very large portion of the report. He is thus largely responsible for its form, matter and manner. Mr. Webster possesses the most complete knowledge of the literature of the old Settlements, as well as of all the details of the Bengal Settlement laws. My gratitude to the other convenanted officers (Messrs H. McPherson, Carey and Kingsford) who have worked with me has been expressed in the Introductory Chapter to Part IV. In that Chapter the names of other Assistant settlement Officers have also been recorded, and I would only mention here the name of Mr. James Taylor as responsible for carrying out the Khurda Settlement. In addition to the work of inspection and organisation done by the above officers, I would ask permission to draw attention to the very able reports written by Mr. H. McPherson on Puri, Mr. Kingsford on Balasore, and Mr. James Taylor on Khurda. A record is also made in Part IV of the very valuable work done by Messrs Maude, Walsh, and Nathan during the first six years of the Settlement operations. On account of ill-health they were unable to complete their work, and it was thus left to others to reap the fruits of their labours. Extracts have been made (not always with due acknowledgements for the great assistance they have given us) from the historical works of Stirling, Toynbee, and Hunter and from the orders and reports of Directors of the Department of Land Records—Messrs, Finucane, McPherson and Lyon. I beg leave to express here my very great obligations to all these authorities.

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CHAPTER II.

PHYSICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS OF THE CUTTACK DISTRICT.

Situation and Boundaries.

7. Cuttack, or Katak, the central of the three districts of Orissa, is bounded on the north by Balasore, on the south by Puri, on the west by the Tributary states of Keonjhar, Dhenkanal and Athagara, and on the east by the Bay of Bengal. The boundary between Balasore and Cuttack is the river Baitarani* which, issuing from the Keonjhar hills, flows in to the Dhamra estuary.

Between Puri and Cuttack there is no natural boundary; it has been proposed to make the right banks of the Mahanadi river and of its branches, the Kathjuri, and, lower down, the Deb, the dividing line, thus transferring to Puri about 327 square miles comprising the whole of *Killas* Banki, Patia and Domapara, and of pargannas Sauri, Bahurupa, and portions of pargannas Bakhrabad, Sujanagar, Kodinda, Saibiri, Sailo, Deogaon, Kate, and Benahar. The transfer would have the effect of equalising the size of the two districts, but, if we expect *Killas* Domapara and Banki, which might be attached to the sub-division of Khurda, the remaining area is more readily accessible from Cuttack than from Puri.

Village.

8. The number of villages or "Mauzas" in the district is, according to the census of 1881, 12, 841, and according to the census of 1891, only 5,429. In the present Settlement the number was found to be 6,347 *viz*—

Thana		
Tirtol	....	817
Kendrapara	....	665
Patamundai	....	394
Aul	....	553
Dharmasala	....	1,306
Cuttack	....	416
Salepur	....	699
Jajpur	....	703
Jagatsingpur	....	794
Total		6,347

Out of these, 4,665 are dealt with in this report. They have an average area of 300 acres each.

Population.

9. In 1872 the population was returned at 14,94,784, in 1881 at 17,38,165, and in 1891 at 19,37,671 persons.

That is to say in the first ten years it increased by more than 16 percent, and in the next decade by nearly 12 percent. Assuming, then, an increase of 1 percent per annum as a safe amount, we get the present population as nearly 21,60,000 of which, taking the proportion of males and females, viz., 95 to 100, found at the last census to still subsist, the number of males is about 10,25,000 and of females, 10,75,000.

The average number of persons to the square mile is 573; and population is densest in Salepur, Jagatsingpur and Jajpur thanas, and least so in Aul, Dharmasala and Tirtol.

Roughly, we may take the distribution by religions to be :—

Hindus, 97.1 percent	....	20,89,000
Mahommedans 2.7 percent	....	57,000
Christians ·14 percent	....	3,000
Others	..	1,000

Area.

10. The total area of Cuttack District is 3,663 square miles, of which 752 square miles, contained in Kujang, Kanika and Banki, have already been dealt with in previous Settlement Reports. For another 717 square miles in the permanently settled estate of Sukinda, Darpan, Kalkala, Patia, Domapara, Harispur and Bishnupur, details of the cultivated and uncultivated area are not available. For the remaining 2,194 square miles comprising all the temporarily settled estates, besides parganna Derabisi (of *Killa* Aul) *Killa*

* See Notification No. 2395 of the 18th May 1896 which transferred several villages from Cuttack to Balasore and vice versa.

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Madhupur, *Killa* Chhedra and the revenue free and permanently-settled lands within the temporarily settled parganas, the following figures have been compiled * :—

	Acres	
Total area	14,03,600	
Cultivated (including homestead lands)	9,75,600	or 70 Percent.
Culturable	68,300	or 5 Percent.
Uuculturable	3,59,700	or 25 Percent.

Map No. VI shows the extent to which the several parganas are cultivated. As might be expected, it is generally along the western border, where there are large areas still under jungle, that the percentage is lowest. In a few also of the central parganas, such a Karimul and Cuttack Haveli, the large area covered by the bed of the Mahanadi keeps down the proportion of cultivated land.

Details of the culturable are as follows :—

Culturable lands.

	Acres		Acres
New fallow	31,300	Thatching grass	1,900
Old fallow	24,400	Culturable jungle	10,700

Nearly a quarter of the new fallow lies in Cuttack thana and consists mostly of high lands capable of growing crops in favourable seasons only; and the next largest area is in Jajpur, where it is to a great extent now cultivated with *dalua* or spring rice (see paragraph 11).

The old fallow may or may not be culturable at present, but if some of it is not, there are probably protions of the so-called unculturable waste that may eventually be reclaimed. Nearly a third of it is in Jajpur Thana, where it is low-lying and heavily inundated and somewhat saline, but affords grazing to large herds of cattle throughout the cold and hot weather. The thatching grass forms a valuable property, and is chiefly found in parganas Bakhrabad and Tapankhand, and in Madhupur and the neighbouring *Killajat* estates. The culturable jungle consists chiefly of low scrub at the foot of the Bakhrabad, Dalijora and Sukinda hills and it is very doubtful if much of it will come under the plough during the next thirty years, but it might be used for orchards or plantations.

From this 68,300 acres of culturable land we have, however, to deduct at least half the area reserved for grazing and other purposes.

Altogether the reserved lands consist of :—

		Acres
Grazing lands		
Grazing grounds	....	48,808
Cremation grounds	....	6,180
Tanks, &c.	....	341

The last two are generally unculturable, but taking half the grazing ground to be culturable we have only 43,900 acres left to be brought under the plough, and it is to be hoped in the interests of the cattle that most of this land may be spared to them.

The unculturable lands are made up as follows :—

				Acres
Houses	....	....	....	10,300
Tanks and rivers	....	....	....	1,00,700
Canals	....	....	....	5,000
Embankments	....	....	....	6,500
Jheels	....	....	....	5,300
Government roads	....	....	....	4,050
Other roads	....	....	....	9,600
Burning ghats	....	....	....	3,450
Waste, &c.	....	....	....	2,14,800

Cropped areas.

11. Rice † is by far the most important crop, and is grown in three distinct ways as—*sarad* or winter rice sown in June-July and reaped in November-January; *biali* or autumn rice sown in May-June and harvested in August and September, and *dalua* or spring rice sown in November-December and harvested in March. Map No. VI will show

* See Appendix E.

† See Paragraph 130

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at a glance the proportion under rice-*sarad* and *biali* combined - in different parts of the district, and further details will be found in Appendix F.

After rice, the most important cereal is *mandia*[1], a millet grown both as an autumn[2] and as a spring[3] crop. Wheat and barley are cultivated but to a very small extent. *China*[4] is more largely grown but is not of much importance, and after rice it is on the pulses sown in the autumn and harvested from January to April that the people mostly depend.

Of these the commonest is *kulthi*[5] grown on very inferior lands (often after *mandua*), and birhi[6] a small plant somewhat resembling *Kulthi* in its habit but producing quite a different grain. The *Kulthi* seed is a dark, flat and pointed bean which makes an excellent food for cattle and horses and is boiled and eaten with rice by the poorer classes and even taken alone in time of scarcity. *Birhi* produces a little round reddish pea largely used as *dal*; it is a more valuable plant and generally follows *biali* rice. *Muga* or *mung*[7] is one of the most valuable pulses and resembles *birhi*, except that it is usually grown on *sarad* lands. It is chiefly found in the flooded tracts.

On riverside lands *harar*[8] is sown and gives a valuable crop, though it is said to be too indigestible to be taken alone as food.

Oil seeds, *viz*, linseed *til* and mustard are raised on silt-covered lands after a crop of rice, and the castor seed is sown for choice in a mixture of sand and silt, as it will grow in a depth of sand that would kill almost any other crop.

Sugarcane is grown on irrigable fields, and so are to some extent jute and cotton; dyes are of small importance, though there is an indigo factory at Kenduapatna; but condiments and spices are very generally grown in garden lands, especially coriander and turmeric.

Tobacco is an important and valuable crop, being grown every-where on silt-covered lands, but more especially along the lower basin of the Katjuri in parganas Deogaon, Kate and Saibir.

Pan[9], though covering but a small area, is very valuable. It is not grown every where but is found chiefly in Kodinda, in Kate, in Sungra, and in Tisania.

Among vegetable the *saru*[10] and the brinjal, pumpkins of many kinds, and onions, are the most important. Potatoes have been introduced, but are not yet widely known. Arrowroot is said to be grown by Native Christians only.

Among fruits, plantains are found in most villages and mangoes grow freely and from a valuable food during the hot weather, though very inferior in taste to those of Bombay or Malda; pineapples are also common throughout the district. Other fruits are the bael, jack, tamarind, Indian plum and custardapple.

Area under crops.

In round figures the areas under the several crops, (excluding Kanika, Kujang, Banki, and 717 square miles not under Settlement) are as follows[11] :—

Winter rice— 6,85,000 acres or 70 percent of the nett cropped area, grown in every part of the district.

Autumn Rice— 1,28,000 acres or 13 percent of the nett cropped area. The distribution of the *Winter* and *autumn* rice is shown in map No. VI.

Spring Rice— 17,000 acres or 2 percent, chiefly in the low lands near the estuaries of the Kharsua and Brahmani rivers.

Mandua — 29,000 acres or 3 percent, chiefly in central Cuttack.

Other Cereals— 1,000 acres.

Pulses and other food grains— 1,63,000 acres or 17 percent. Found everywhere, but most general on high river side lands.

Castor—1,000 acres. Most common in the country between the Brahmani and Kharsua.

Other oil seeds—8,000 acres. Chiefly in Deogaon and Saibir and the valley of the Katjuri; also along the lower reaches of the Chitratola and Nuna rivers.

Tibres— 2,500 acres, of which two-thirds is cotton. Chiefly in the irrigated tracts.

1. Eleusine coracana.
2. Bhadai.
3. Rabi.
4. Paricum miliaceum.
5. Dolichus biflorus.
6. Phaseolus radiatus.
7. Phaseolus mungo.
8. Cajanus indicus.
9. Betel.
10. A variety of Arum.
11. See Appendix F.

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Tobacco —3,200 acres. Of this nearly 2,000 in Jagatsingpur Thana alone.

Pan and other Drugs— 200 acres. Chiefly in Salepur, Jagatsingpur and Cuttack thanas.

Yamas, Brinjals and other vegetables —2,000 acres, besides what is included in the 52, 000 acres of homestead land.

Garden Produce and Fruit Trees — 21,000 acres.

The figures given in the last two paragraphs refer only to the 2,194 square miles shown in the *Milan Khasras*.

In Banki, Kanika, and Kujang the cultivated area is 317 Square miles and we may take the Cultivated Area of the reminder at one half of 717 square miles, thus making the total area of the district under cultivation 2,200 square miles.

12. Numerous as they are, the rivers are not now very largely used as waterways. From Sambalpur to Cuttack boats come down the Mahanadi, and there is some little traffic on the upper waters of the Brahmani, but on the whole the rivers are, except in the tidal reaches, too shallow and too uncertain to be very much used.

Communications. (a) By water.

The bulk of the heavy passenger traffic between Cuttack and the neighbouring districts was carried by road and canal; I say "was" for a new route, the East Coast Railway, was opened in 1899.

The Kendrapara and Gobri Extension Canals connect Cuttack with the Brahmani at Alba, and from there boats go down the river to Chandbali, where cargo is transhipped and carried by steamer to Calcutta.

The Taldanda Canal between the Mahanadi and Katjuri rivers connects Cuttack with False Point, from which rice is shipped chiefly to the Mauritius. The High Level Canal supplies a direct route between the marts of Cuttack and Bhadrak.

There has been some talk of making the Machgaon Canal available for navigation and of extending it to Machgaon so as to obtain a third route to the sea *via* the Deb river, but it is doubtful whether the Deb would prove fit for the entry of any but very small boats, and there is no reasonable prospect of the scheme being carried into execution. I do not myself consider that there is now much need for further extension of the canal system, the district being already remarkably well served.

13. Roads * of three classes are maintained :—

Communications. (b) Roads.

(1) *Provincial Roads*, paid for out of provincial funds and in charge of the Public Works Department.

(2) *District Board Roads* paid for from the District Road fund and in the immediate charge of the District Engineer. Total length 464 miles, of which 25 are metalled.

(3) *Local Board Roads* — Roads of purely local utility paid for out of the District Road Fund but in charge of Local Boards.

First among the Provincial Roads ranks the Grand Trunk, the highway from Midnapore in Bengal to Ganjam in the Madras Presidency. It enters the District at Akhoyapada, 46 miles from Cuttack. It is raised and metalled, and crosses the Baitarni, Kharsua, Brahmani, and Mahanadi rivers by ferries, and is provided with bungalows at Akhoyapada, Khandetar, Dharmsala, Barchana, Tanghi, and Cuttack.

Skirting the western hills it reaches Cuttack town, where it divides into two, the Cuttack to Puri road and the Cuttack to Ganjam road, the former being generally known as the Jagannath Road †. This road was constructed between 1811 and 1819 in place of the old Pilgrim Road, of which traces are yet visible in ruined but massive bridges in the Hindu style of architecture standing in solitude over streams where there is neither road nor traffic.

There are 2 other Provincial Roads; the first, from Cuttack to Sonepur, is mostly unmetalled. It lies up the valley of the Mahanadi and along the right bank through Banki. The other, from Cuttack to Sambalpur, is a new road through Atgarh up the left-hand valley of the Mahanadi.

The principal District Board roads leading to Cuttack are :—

* See Appendix H

† See Toynbee's History page 82, Paragraph 42 below.

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(1) *Cuttack to Taldanda*—44 miles along the south of the Mahanadi 13½ miles metalled with laterite; a fair road all the year round.

(2) *Cuttack to Machgaon*—Leaves the last road at the 11th mile, and runs 32 miles to Machgaon on the Deb river. Metalled to 14th mile from Cuttack. Carries a heavy grain and salt traffic.

(3) *Cuttack to Chandbali*—63 miles, of which two are metalled. Crosses the Mahanadi at Cuttack and the Brahmani at Patamundai on the 50th mile. Passes by Salepur, Kendrapara, Aul and Patamundai Thanas.

(4) *Fulnakhera—Madhab road.* From 10th mile of Puri road along the border of the district to Madhab, 25 miles, and so on to Puri. A fair road to the 15th mile.

The above are the chief roads by which the produce of the country is brought to Cuttack; the principal cross and feeder roads are the following :—

(5) *Tangi to Haripur* —Connects the Garhjats with Tangi on the Grand Trunk road; 10th mile.

(6) *Jajpur to Kuakhia*—9 miles from Jajpur, through Beruan to Kuakhia, at the 30th mile of the Grand Trunk road. A fair road with two ferries.

(7) *Jajpur to Kendrapara*-25 miles; Kharsua and Brahmani unbridged. A very bad road in parts, and impassable in high floods.

(8) *Beruan to Kalamatia* - 16 miles, joining the last two roads. A bad road in the rains.

(9) *Jajpur to Pachikot* -19 miles to Ragri in the extreme north-west. A fairly good road partly bridged.

(10) *Jajpur to Kyanti* -17 miles in a south-easterly direction. A fair-weather road, Bengu *nala* being unfordable when high.

(11) *Beruan to Balichandrapur* -14 miles through the hills of Alti; four unbridged rivers to cross.

(12) *Salepur to Chatia* - From Salepur on the Kendrapara road at Chatia on the Grand Trunk road; 18 miles with two rivers to cross. Is almost impracticable for carts in the rains.

(13) *Patamundai to Sudipur* - 11 miles. A good road; unmetalled.

(14) *Jagatsingpur to Jajpur*-8 miles, joining the Taldanda and Machgaon roads.

(15) *Jagatsingpur to Tirtol*-9 miles, joining the Taldanda and Machgaon roads.

This is by no means a complete list, but the above are the principal roads under the District Board; and the accompanying map will give a fair idea of the road system of the district. On the whole it is very well supplied, and there has been a very great advance since the time of the last Settlement. There are, however, still many villages accessible only to pack bullocks, and many only by boats in the rainy season.

In the east parganas Benahar and Khandi are poorly supplied, so is the strip of country between the Taldanda and Kendrapara canals. Generally, however, the District Board appear to have done their best, and if there are large areas very difficult of access, the nature of the country, intersected as it is by rivers, sufficiently accounts for this.

Village roads, however, leading to the district roads are very badly kept, and a great improvement would be effected if the villagers would combine to keep in repair fair weather paths to their houses and fields.

Accommodation of travellers.

14. The District is very well supplied with staging and inspection bungalows. There are bungalows at every stage (about 10 miles) along all the provincial roads - the Cuttack-Chandbali road, the Fulnakhera-Madhab road, the Taldanda road, and the Machgaon road; also along all the canals, and at Beruan and other central positions.

A list of these bungalows is given in Appendix I.

The Railway.

15. The year 1899 saw the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line, which, when complete, will connect Cuttack directly with Madras and Calcutta. Within the District there will be stations at Cuttack, Tangi (Kapilas Road), Jenapur, and Jajpur Road.

What its ultimate effect on the prosperity of the country may be it is impossible to say. Already the demand for labour created by it has sent up wages, and it is unlikely that they will ever again fall to quite their former level.

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It is doubtful whether it can hope to compete successfully with steamers in the rice export traffic unless branch feeder lines are extended in to the rice-growing districts, towards Taldanda to the east and Sambalpur to the west. The stations on the main line are so placed that they may receive all the grain now brought in to Cuttack town and all that is brought down from the Tributary States, but it is by no means certain that they will get the river-carried rice from Sambalpur, and it is highly improbable that the railway can seriously interfere with the Chandbali or False Point trade.

16. There are only three towns of any importance in the District.

Towns. Cuttack. Cuttack, the present capital of the District, first sprang in to importance in the tenth century, when the protecting dykes were built and the fort constructed by the Hindu king ***Makar Kesari.*** It was the head-quarters of both the Mogul and Mahratta administration, and for many years after its first occupation by the British gave its name to the whole Province.

It contains, besides the district Offices, the offices of the Commissioner of the Division and of the Superintending Engineer in charge of the canals and embankments of the province. In the old fort, a wing of a Madras regiment is still stationed.

It had a population, according to the last census, of 47,186, and now probably holds little less than 60,000 souls. It stands at the apex of the delta formed by the Mahanadi and Katjuri rivers, and is protected from inundation by embankments solidly revetted with stone.

The Grand Trunk road and the new railway line pass through,. and almost all the principal roads of the District converge on, it, and it has a large and steadily increasing trade.

It is curiously devoid of fine public buildings. The little English Church, the Collector's offices, and the Lallbagh House are all handsome buildings in their way, and standing on the river banks present a fine view to the approaching visitor's eye; but there is not a single ancient temple of interest, and but for the old fort gate and moat and the river revetment there is hardly any sign of the town's antiquity.

Jajpur Jajpur, the ancient capital of Orissa, and now the head-quarters of the sub-division of that name stands on the right bank of the Baitarni. The population, according to the last Census was 11,992. The chief importance of the town is as a resort of pilgrims, there being comparatively little trade. It contains many interesting buildings, among which the most striking are the temples of ***Biroda Devi,*** of the ***Boar*** * incarnation of ***Vishnu,*** and the great sun pillar that stands a mile outside the town. This latter consists of a huge and beautifully proportioned column of stone raised on a solid pedestal, and if the temple was in proportion, it must have been of remarkable size. All traces of it have, however, disappeared, and the column has only escaped owing to its great weight, which prevented its would-be destroyers from moving it. Tradition says that the stone was brought from the hills of Alti ; but how such a heavy mass was carried across rivers and fields remains a puzzle to the cleverest engineers.

Besides these there are some ancient heroic figures of Gods and Goddesses standing and lying in the compound of the subdivisional office. They are considered to be very fine specimens of Hindu art, but all bear traces of Mahomedan vandalism in their mutilated features, from which the noses were cut by the renegade Kalapahar. Indeed, the idol of ***Biroda*** is said to be the only one who escaped the fury of that iconoclast, she having taken refuge in the belly of a crocodile until the danger had passed. Interesting, too, are the grim features of the seven mothers of the earth in a dark little gallery by the river bank; but there is little beauty in any of these early works, and it is rather the crudeness and grotesqueness of the sculpture that attract. The Mahomedan mosque built by Nawab Abu Nasir in the seventeenth century is an elegant building and has lately been restored by the Public Works Department.

Kendrapara. Kendrapara, the head-quarters of the other sub-division and the second town of importance in the District, was also a place of considerable sanctity. It had a population, at the

* Boraho. For an account of this see pages 268, Vol.—I of Hunter's Orissa.

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last census, of 17,647 persons, and its position on the Kendrapara Canal and in the centre of rich grain-producing country gives it a considerable trade. It is connected by road with Cuttack, Jajpur, and Chandbali, and is the residence of many well to-do persons. Besides the sub-divisional buildings, it has a good school and dispensary, and a public library has lately been opened for the supply of English and vernacular literature.

Harbours.

17. In spite of the extent of sea face and the many estuaries by which its rivers flow in to the Bay of Bengal, the District does not contain a single harbour capable of sheltering ships of any size. As late as 1866, the export trade was carried on from False Point at the mouth of the Mahanadi, where ships have to anchor in a comparatively exposed roadway, and loading and unloading can only be done in fair weather. At present there is still a considerable export of rice, chiefly in sailing ships from False Point to the Mauritius, but most of the trade passes through Chandbali in the Balasore District at the mouth of the Baitarni. There is a deep channel up the Devi river as far as Machgaon, but, like all the other estuaries, this too has a bar of sand across the mouth that prevents the entrance of vessels of any size except at high tide.

Trade and Manufacture.

18. Cuttack imports large quantities of Kerosine oil, salt, cotton twist and piece-goods, spices, gunny bags, sugar and other miscellaneous articles. The total value it is very difficult to estimate, as the returns for Chandbali port to do differentiate between the imports for Balasore and those for the Cuttack District.

Allowing that two-thirds of the trade of Chandbali is on account of Cuttack, the total value of the imports in to Cuttack was about Rs. 50,00,000 in 1897-98.

The principal exports are rice and hides, making up, with brass ware, timber, and stonewares, and grains of various sorts, a total value of about Rs. 60,00,000/-.

There are no manufactures of great importance. Salt, which was manufactured to the value of about 4 lakhs annually, has been discontinued; country cloth is woven in many villages and is largely used by the people, but is not exported. The brass work is said to be good its kind, and some is exported both in the form of household utensils and in the shape of small bells and figures used in Hindu worship.

Blankets are mada in some villages of Tapankhand, and silk is spun in places along the foot of the hills. Cuttack silver filigree work is speciality, but the manufacture is confined to but a few persons.

Administrative division.

19. For administrative purposes the District is divided in to three sub-divisions; (1) the Sadar or Cuttack Sub-divion, (2) the Kendrapara Sub-division, (3) the Jajpur Sub-division. Each of the last two is under a Deputy Collector, who is immediately subordinate to the Magistrate and Collector of the District. The sub divisions are for Police purposes divided in to *thanas* viz :-

Sadar Sub-divison.....	1.- Cuttack	Thana
	2.- Banki	,,
	3.- Jagatsingpur	,,
	4.- Tirtol	,,
Kendrapara Sub-division.....	1.- Kendrapara	,,
	2.- Patamundai	,,
	3.- Aul	,,
Jajpur Sub-division....	1.- Jajpur	,,
	2.- Dharmsala	,,

Revenue division.

For revenue purposes the District is divided in to 77 parganas, besides the permanently-settled estates of Aul, Kanika, Kujang, Kalkala, Darpan, Sukinda, Harispur, Marichpur, Dompara, Patia and the Khas Mahal of Banki.

The ultimate unit of division is the estate, of which there are 4,465, besides about 73,000 revenue free estates.

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The revenue-paying esates may be classified as follows :-

Class.	Number.	Area in Sq.miles.	Revenue. Rs.
Permanently-settled	11*	1,835·1 †	79·700
Temporarily-settled with revenue of over Rs. 10,000	5	150·2	1,09,600
Revenue of-			
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000	208	897·8	5,20,900
Rs. 100 to Rs. 1,000	1,204	603·1	3,82,500
Rs. 50 to Rs. 100	594	68	42,700
Rs. 10 to Rs. 50	1,457	55·8	37,500
Rs. 10 and under	981	7·9	5,200
Killajat	3	49·7	Not yet settled. ‡
Tanki Bahal Estates	2	0·3	22
Total	4,465	3,667·9	11,78,122

The whole of this land revenue will not become due for ten years, owing to the *rasadi* terms allowed in the case of large increments.

Physical Divisions.

20. The surface § of the District falls according to its natural features in to three main divisions.

To the west a strip of high sterile land and rocky hills covered with throny bamboo or scrub jungle and intersected by narrow valleys. The greater part of this region is occupied by the permanently-settled estates of Sukinda, Darpan, Kalkala, Patia, and the *Killajat* estates of Balarampur, Ragri, Chausatipara and Kantajhar, once the strongbholdes of almost independent border chieftains and still known as *killas* or forts. Dalijora and Bakhrabad are the only temporarily-settled parganas having any considerable area within this zone. Shergarah, though even more westerly, is a high, dry plateau, in no way resembling the neighbouring *killas*. East of this region lie the wide alluvial plains forming the delta of the Mahanadi, Brahmini, and Baitarni rivers. They have a gradual but steady slope from the high lands of the west to the sea, and a composition varying greatly according to the relative proportion of the sand and silt of which they are formed.

The surface is generally level, but is broken by the hills of Alti and Matkatnagar in the centre, and is cut up by numerous river channels.

It is fairly wooded, especially in the centre portion; mango, banyan, and pipal trees being common and cocoanut, toddy, and date palms found in most well-to-do villages. The banyan trees particular are very fine; one at Kuhunda in Jajpur under which a cattle fair is held, covering about a$_n$ acre.

East again from this area are the low lands of the sea coast, treeless expanses of rice land and grass, full of swamps and saline creeks, sloping down in to penetrable morasses, the haunt of wild hog and deer; and enormous crocodiles. Almost the whole of this third divison is contained in the permanently-settled estates of Kujang, Kanika, Aul, Harispur and Bishnupur, though the parganas of Bara, Kaima, Bautara, Hatimunda and Utikan, belong rather to this than to the central division.

For an account of the geological formation of the District, I would refer to Messrs. Blandfords' report on the portion of the Cuttack District examined by them in 1855-56, from which I here quote the following :—

"From the plain, small isolated steep hills rise in a few places to the north of Cuttack and taken in connection with the bases and whaleback ridges which stud the surrounding country present all the features of an up-raised archipelago, and lead to the belief that at no very remote geological period the sea of the western portion of Bay of Bengal dashed against many a rugged cliffand rolled around clusters of islands which studded over what is now the Province of Cuttack; indeed, a comparatively trifling depression of the country might repoduce the same

* Excludes two petty *tanki bahal* estates, tauzi numbers 1852 and 1853, with a revenue of Rs. 22.

† Includes a part of Kanika, situated in Balasore.

‡ See Paragraph 610.

§ A fuller description of the geological formation may be found in Section 2 of Mr. N. N. Banerjee's report on the agriculture of the Cuttack,

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phenomena. Upon entering the hills they are seen to consist not of long continuous ranges, but generally of insulated and rugged ridges seldom than 10 to 15 miles length and having one uniform direction nearly due east and west, parallel with the lamination of the gneiss and with the main faults of the District. This is better seen near the coast than inland. As to the west of Ungul, the hill ridges, though preserving the same general direction are longer than near Cuttack."

"The hills as well as the low country are for the most part well-wooded and present few naked bluffs (even amongst the almost precipitous sandstone escarpments of the Talcher field). Their outline, however abruput, is always more or less rounded, and it is evident that they owe their present form principally to marine action".

"Wherever the sandstone of sedimentary deposits rise into hills it presents a totally different aspect; these hills, though generally appearing flat-topped, being found on ascending them to consist of a series of sharp steep ridges separated by deep precipitous valleys, evidently due to the denuding action of fresh water, of the effects of which upon a considerable scale they afford a fine example".

"Laterite has but little extension in Orissa; it occurs to some extent round Cuttack, and frequently borders the hills between that station and Balasore, besides occurring in small patches upon the plains".

"The alluvium of the District contains, so far as observed, no fossils, and having been investigated over a comparatively small area, it is impossible to specify its age. The surface is probably a fresh water accumulation, since during the rains the greater portion of it is subjected to inundations from the numerous rivers flowing through the district; but to what depth this character extends and whether at greater depths any change takes place in its mineral character and composition, are points remaining for future investigation".

Rivers.

21. Through gorges in the mountain system of the Tributary Estates flow three large rivers * the Mahanadi, the Brahmini and the Baitarani and the greatest of these is the Mahanadi.

The Mahanadi.

(1) The Mahanadi, literally, "the great river" has a catchment basin of 48,200 square miles and flowing down through the Barmul Pass debouches in to the plains just above Naraj, some 7 miles above Cuttack and 70 from the sea; at Naraj it bifurcates the northern branch being known as the Mahanadi and the other as the Katjuri.† The latter appears originally to have been a comparatively small stream but during the present century the volume of water passing down its channel increased very considerably, and to regulate the flow, a weir and a training embankment were constructed at Naraj between the years 1860 and 1865; but in spite of this measure, the volumes of water passing down the Katjuri and the Mahanadi channels in the high flood of 1872 were found to be almost exactly the same, whereas in 1855 the ratio of the discharge of the two rivers was, according to Rhind's calculation, as 8 to 10.

Opposite Cuttack the Katjuri throws off to the south a branch called the Kawakhai (or the crow's pool). Its mouth is closed by a bar so that there was no flow of water in it save in flood time. It supplies the district of Puri and has but little effect on Cuttack.

The Katjuri.

The main stream of the Katjuri gives off a little below Cuttack another branch, the Sirua, which however rejoins it 5 miles lower down. The river then divides again, forming the Sankharisahi island; the main body of water passing down. The Deb and afterwards by the Kundal channel through parganas Sailo, Deogaon and Kate, while the Deb and Tampua, taking a more northerly course, rejoin the Kundal near the Binishpur Hat. The two most northerly branches the Katjuri proper and the Alanka, have been cut off at their head by the Deb left embankment, and the water originally carried by them has been diverted in to the Deb and Tampua.

To retutn to the Mahanadi. This stream passes to the north of Cuttack and opposite the town gives off a branch called the Birupa.

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* See map No. III

† Implying that it could at one time be corossed on a plank "*Kat*" long and "*Jury*" joining.

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The Birupa.

Just below the bifurcation both rivers are dammed by anicuts which control the supply of water to the head sluices of the High Level and Kendrapara Canals. The Birupa about 12 miles farther down throws off a branch called the Bara Ganguti, the two streams enclosing between them the island of Kuhunda Jaipur.

About 18 miles below this bifurcation the Ganguti meets the Kimiria a branch of the Brahmani, and a mile lower down rejoins its parent stream.

The Birupa, thus increased in volume, meets the main stream of the Brahmani a little above Indipur, and the two flow on together, being joined lower down by the Kharsua, and finally debouching in to the Dhamra.

The Mahanadi proper.

The Mahanadi proper, after passing Cuttack, divides into three branchs-to the north the Chitratola, in the centre the Mahanadi, and to the South the Paika. Ten miles further down, the Mahanadi and Paika rejoin, only to separate again into the Sukhpaika and Mahanadi, which meet and pass into the sea near False Point through a number of channels.

The Chitratola throws off one branch, the Nuna, which eventually rejoins it, and the two flow into the Mahanadi, and so down to the sea.

The Brahmini.

The Brahmani has a catchment basin of 13,700 square miles and enters the plains of Orissa near Janapur, where it throws off a branch called the Kharsua which again divides into the Kharsua and the Patia.

The main stream is crossed by an anicut at Janapur, and a little below this gives off the Kimiria river which falls into the Ganguti, and their united waters again join the Brahmani above Indipur.

The Kharsua and Patia.

The head of the Kharsua is dammed by a cross embankment, and there is an anicut across the Patia at Jakadia to keep a supply of water for the second range of the High Level Canal. The two channels unite a little lower down, and the river flowing through parganas Tisania, Beruan, Kalamatia, and Hatimunda falls into the Dhamra.

The Baitarni.

The Baitarni, with a catchment basin of 3,900 square miles, forms the boundary between the Cuttack and Balasore districts, and, passing by Chandbali, falls into the Dhamra. At Jakadia it throws off a branch, the Bura, which joins the Kharsua near Beruan.

All these rivers have broad, shallow, sandy beds, very little below the level of the surrounding country. They have but a very gradual fall, that in the Mahanadi and Baitarni varying from about 2 feet per mile, where they enter the plains, to 9 inches at tidal water that of the Brahmini is still less and does not exeed 14 inches per mile anywhere in the plains.

In the hot weather they are nearly dry, the minimum recorded discharge being 70 cubic feet per second in the Baitarni, 129 cubic feet per second in the Brahmani, and 400 cubic feet per second in the Mahanadi.

In flood time, on the other hand, the channels are not sufficient to carry off the whole discharge, which amounts to a maximum of about 1,600,000 cubic feet per second in the Mahanadi, the average of the rainy season being about a third of this amount. In the Brahmini the maximum flood discharge is about 600,000 cubic feet per second and in the Baitarni 315,000 cubic feet.

From June to October floods are of common occurrence in all three rivers. The source of the Baitarni supply being local, it both rises and falls more rapidly than the other two, the floods in it rarely lasting above three days. Floods in the Brahmini commonly last three to five days, and do, on the whole, more damage than those of the other rivers. The Mahanadi takes longest to rise and remains longer in flood than the others.

Embankments

22. For its protection from inundation a portion of the District has from time immemorial been guarded by embankments, and under British rule this protection has been systematised, and large sums have been expended on the perfecting of the embankments, especially after the disastrous and famines of 1865-66. The law as to the Orissa Embankments is contained in Act III of 1865.

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So much has been written by experts on the subject of protection in Orissa that it would be out of place to attempt in a Settlement report to give a detailed account of the constructing, condition, and effect of each and every embankment; but I propose to describe briefly the protected and unprotected areas and then to place on record the conclusions drawn from my observation as to the conditions of the several parganas according as they are more or less exposed to flood. The map. No. I, will show areas liable to flood, and the embankments are shown in map No. III. For a more detailed account, I would beg to refer to Captain Harris' report on the Orissa inundations, 1858; the report on the inundation of 1866; Mr. Taylor's report of 1870 on the Orissa embankments; the reports on the floods of 1882 and 1896; to Mr. Inglis' report now in course of preparation; and to the pargana reports prepared in this settlement.

Historical Sketch,

Under the Mahratta Government the zamindars were bound to maintain embankments, and for this purpose were allowed certain deductions from their *jama*. This system had, however, proved so unsuccessful in Orissa, that from the time of the conquest the British Government undertook itself the maintenance and repair of the embankments, and very large sums were expended for the purpose; but there was no attempt to systematise and down to 1855 it does not appear that more had been done by the Public Works engineers than to maintain and improve the existing embankments. In that year very destructive floods occured, and Captain Harris, after an elaborate enquiry, pointed to the remarkable coincidence between the rise in the destructive power of the floods since 1831 and the development of the embankment system during the same period, and expressed his opinion that they must be related as cause and effect. In the following years great changes were caused by the protective works in connection with the canals, and it was not until after the disastrous floods of 1866-67 that steps were taken to remodel the system.

In that year the late Mr. W.C. Taylor was deputed to make an accurate record of all existing Government and zamindari embankmets, and of the extent to which Government and the zamindars were respectively bound to maintain them. He reported that there were about 510½ miles of Government embankments and 248 miles of the zamindari embankments in Cuttack District, that most of the latter had been as originally constructed of insufficient height and section to withstand heavy floods, and that they were now disrepair and useless. He considered that another 498 miles were required to complete the system, but that, by regulating some of the rivers and closing others entirely, many of the bunds and sluices proposed in the report could be dispensed with and some of the existing embankments abandoned. His proposals were never given effect to.

In 1881 it was decided that, for the time being, the embankments should be maintained as they were until the expiry of the settlement Proceedings.

In 1894 Mr. C.W. Odling, the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department, prepared a complete list of embankment to be maintained and abandoned. He divided them all into the following five classes :—

Class I— Embankments mostly constructed in connection with the canals which are intended to be kept intact against high or extraordinary floods.

Class II— Embankments, chiefly on large rivers, which are mostly above high flood level, and which it will probably be desirable to maintain permanently at their present height.

Class III— Embankments which it will probably be eventually desirable to abandon, but which it is proposed to retain until the fuel effects of abandoning the embankments shown in Classes IV and V are known.

Class IV— The embankments in this class are maintained simply because they were in the charge of Government in December 1881, and not because they are supposed to be of any real use to the country. In some cases there is no doubt they are actually harmful, though they may afford some partial protection to particular places, and in all their utility is questionable.

Class V— The embankments in this class have already been practically abandoned, as the country they were supposed to protect is now covered by embankments included in Class I.

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The total length of embankments in Orissa is 969 miles, of which it was proposed at the commencement of the new settlement to abandon 372 and to retain 597 miles. Of the 597 miles retained, 141 miles are shown in Class III. These Mr. Odling proposed to abandon gradually after careful enquiries in each case. There would thus remain 456 miles of embankments, which it will probably be possible to maintain in an efficient condition. It was not, in Mr. Odling's opinion, likely that it would be necessary for thirty years at least to abandon any embankment included in Class I or II, but there might be alterations in the rivers which would render it necessary to do so.

In Cuttack alone the embankments * to be maintained measured—

	Miles
Class I	158
Class II	139
Class III	35

Another 50 miles under Class IV have also up to date been maintained, making a total of 382 miles against the 510 found by Mr. Taylor. This would give as abandoned 128 miles against 179 according to Mr. Odling's list, the reason for the difference being that many embankments shown as zamindari by Mr. Taylor were actually on the Government list. I understand that Mr. Odling's list has been considerably altered in consequence of the enquiries made in the year 1896-99.

Expenditure. The expenditure on embnkments has been very large.

From 1803 to 1930 the total expenditure in the Province was Rs. 8,09,986, of which half may be debited to Cuttack.

From 1830 to 1866 Rs. 7,66,777 was spent in Cuttack alone. Since the expenditure has been as follows :—

	Rs.
First ten years	8,83,575
Second ten years	4,88,133
Third ten years	5,39,000

These latter figures include a small expenditure on account of embankments in Balasore and exclude an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1,50,000 in Puri from 1895 to 1897-98.

The average annual expenditure has been at different times :—

For—	Rs.	For—	Rs.
1803-30	17,308	1860-66	59,247
1831-45	10,794	1867-76	88,357
1846-52	13,700	1877-86	48,813
1853-59	40,807	1887-96	53,900

The saving since 1876 may be attributed in part to the policy of abandonment of superfluous embankments, and in part also to the large capital expenditure in the preceding decade on the canal embankments which to a great extent supplanted the existing protective works.

I now proceed to consider the embankments in detail, beginning with those on the south of the district. The numbers quoted refer to Mr. Odling's schedule printed as Appendix G.

Embankments of the Katjuri and its branches.

23. The Kathjuri begins at Naraj and in spite of the anicut, which is built at an angle so as to divert the main body of the stream down the Mahanadi, its channel hardly suffices to carry off all the water it receives in high floods.

The first of its branches, the Baranga *Nala*, has been closed by an embankment (No. 152) at its head, but this has in former years been breached and much damage has been done by deposits of sand, chiefly in the *lakhiraj* estate of Patia. Lower down, the right banks of the Katjuri and Kawakhai are unprotected, and the water spills over the fields of a few villages of Bakhrabad and is steadily encroaching on the land, while the head of the Kawakhai is still widening.

The country between the Katjuri and Kawakhai rivers is protected by embankments maintained above high flood level (Katjuri right No. 153 and Sirua right No. 188). I am very doubtful whether this protection has proved beneficial;

* See appendix (G)

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for there has been little or no increase in the rental and a general falling off in rent rates since the last Settlement, which the people attribute to the more valuable crops grown when there was a regular overflow from the Teljuri river now closed. I find that this part of the embankment was constructed in 1867-68, the floods of 1866 having proved very destructive; the crops now grown appear to be inferior to those of 1842.

Deb Right Embankments.

In continuation of this for some 8 miles the right bank of the Deb is protected by embankments of which a portion (Nos. 162 to 168) belongs to Government, but the most is maintained by the Zamindars, a cess being collected from the tenants for the purpose. The result is that practically the whole of Sailo pargana is protected from the direct rush of water, but the lower end is still covered by the backing up of the floods from below. This embankment was badly breached about thirty years ago and the people of the riparian villages in Bakhrabad and Kodinda still complain of the damage caused by the deposits of sand.

Katjuri Left.

The left bank of the Katjuri is continuously protected by embankments Nos. 90 to 119, and below that by the Machgaon Canal and the Deb left embankments. These embankments were in former years badly breached and much damage was thereby caused. They are now maintained above high flood level as part of the Taldanda-Machgaon irrigation system, and with the Mahanadi right embankments and the Taladanda canal protect from all floods part of parganas Kodinda, and the rich tracts of Hariharpur, Jhankar, Kurania, Gandito, and most of Tiran, Khandi, and Benahar; about 200 square miles.

Kodinda Islands.

Between the Katjuri and the Sirua lies an island partly protected by the Katjuri right and Sirua left embankments, Nos. 188 M. A. or 154 to 161.

These embankments are in bad order, and should, in my opinion, be maintained continuously from Kalpara to Berhampur and from Berhampur to Sarchuan; the lower end of the island will not suffer by being left open, but the rush of water through the gaps and frequent breaches in Govindpur and other villages have caused, and will continue to cause, very serious loss of crops and deterioration of soil unless the embankment is made continuous and kept in repair.

Sankharisahi island.

Sankharisahi island, comprising the western half of pargana Saibir, lies between the Deb, the Katjuri and Biluakhai and is exposed to their floods, the old embankments having been abandoned.

I would not recommend the reconstruction of these embankments, but the breaches in the river bank require to be repaired. Much of the land in the island is very rich and, save where there is an exceptionally strong rush of water through a *ghai* or breach, the benefits of the silt deposit appear to counter-balance the risk of loss of the rice crop by flood.

Deb left embankment.

The Deb left embankment No. 261 A., starting from Balia closes the channels of the Alanka and Katjuri and diverts the water down the Biluakhai, along the left bank of which it runs to its junction with the Deb. From there another embankment, No. 261, follows the course of the river down to the end of pargana Kate, where the Kandal joins it to form the Debi river.

These embankments protect from flood that part of Parganas, Saibir, Deogaon, Kate, and Gandito which lies between the Alanka and Deb rivers, and canal water is now available for irrigation in most villages of this tract, some 50 square miles. There is no doubt that this tract has been greatly benefited, probably at the expense of the villages on the opposite side of the river; I do not, however, consider that it requires irrigation beyond the already existing system of irrigation from tanks and streams.

The branches of the Deb.

The branches of the Deb are so numerous and perplexing that I shall not attempt any detailed account of them.

The Kandal.

The most important of them, indeed of all branches of the Katjuri, is the Kandal river which, starting in pargana Sailo, flows southward through Deogaon and Kate, where

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under the name of the Taunla it again meets the Deb. The left bank is throughout Deogaon unembanked, and the water overflows the whole country but does not generally do much harm. To the right a zamindari *bund* partially protects the villages of pargana Sailo, and lower down there is a Government embankment of the fourth class (Nos. 266 to 283, in Mr. Odling's list) from Anlo to Baharana in pargana Deogaon. It is in very bad order and through, if properly maintained, a valuable protection to a limited number of villages, is, in its present state, productive of more harm than good.

The only other embankment of importance on the Kandal are Nos. 265 and 250, protecting a large area in Kate between the Taunla and the Debi. I have no doubt but that these should be maintained, as the direct rush of water from the Kandal would probably cover the whole of this tract with sand.

Minor channels of the Deb.

Between the Kaldal and the Deb left embankment the whole country is a net work of steams—the Goda, the Biluakhai, the Dahikhai, and many others. Formerly these were all more or less embanked, but the policy of Government has, of late years, been to sacrifice these small *bunds* to the maintenance of the big irrigation embankments intact. Most of the embankments have been abandoned, and only here and there remains one that protects a village site or, for some other reason, has been kept up by the zamindars.

From what I have seen of the country I do not think it would be much, if at all, benefitted by the embanking of all the streams, but embankments which keep off the direct rush of the current or protect village sites should, I think, be preserved, and I particulary recommend the followlng :—

(1) Embankment in Sasanpada, pargana Deogaon, between the Tampua and Deb rivers now abandoned and badly breached, Nos. 225 to 227 in Mr. Odling's list.

(2) Embankment protecting mauzas Balada and Rahamba, in pargana Saibir, from the Deb, No. 260 in Mr. Odling's list.

(3) Gardhua left, No. 257.

In other places embankments are required to close, or sluices to control, the *ghais* or spill channels formed by the floods, as in Palsudha in pargana Deogaon. The zamindars have in parts constructed embankments for such purposes, but they are generally inefficient, and I do not think the Public Works Department would find the cost of keeping the river banks in order prohibitive if they did not attempt to raise the banks above the general level of the country.

It is said that the greater volume of water now passing down the Katjuri, together with the contracting of the waterway due to the closing of the Alanka and Katjuri channels, has caused the loss of crops to be more frequent than it was at the last Settlement. I have myself seen ample evidence of the serious damage done by the deposits of sand, but the *ruidads* * show that inundation was the rule in most of these parganas before 1840 and the country now said to be gradually rising owing to the annual deposits left by rivers.

The numerous channels, too, afford facilities for irrigation which the people avail themselves of freely for the growing of valuable *rabi* crops; and uncertain though the harvest be, it is, in favourable seasons most abundant.

Embankments of the Mahanadi and its branches.

24. Above Cuttack the left bank was formerly partly protected by embankments. The river, has, however, so far encroached on the land that in place the embankment has now disappeared and the water pours over the villages of Panikhand and Atgarh, which are also inundated by a spill from the Sapuanala a tributary of the Mahanadi. Lower down also the villages of Cuttack Haveli and some of those of Tapankhand are heavily inundated, but the total area affected is small and much of the land very inferior; so that I am not sure that to put the embankments in good order would be financially justifiable, though in 1870 Mr Taylor, recommended that the embankments should be made continuous down to Chasapara and the *nalas* sluiced.

(a) Mahanadi right Cuttack Town.

Cuttack town is protected by a high revetted embankment said to have been originally constructed by Markat Keshari in A.D. 1006.

* Vernacular report of the last Settlement.

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