

EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM  
DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

RANGPUR.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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J. A. V.

# PLAN OF CONTENTS.

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CHAPTERS	PAGES
I.—PHYSICAL ASPECTS ... ..	1—18
II.—HISTORY ... ..	19—32
III.—THE PEOPLE ... ..	33—48
IV.—PUBLIC HEALTH... ..	49—53
V.—AGRICULTURE ... ..	54—68
VI.—NATURAL CALAMITIES ... ..	69—78
VII.—RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES... ..	79—88
VIII.—OCCUPATIONS, MANUFACTURES AND TRADE	89—94
IX.—MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS ... ..	95—100
X.—LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION ... ..	101—117
XI.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION ... ..	118—126
XII.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ... ..	127—129
XIII.—EDUCATION ... ..	130—135
XIV.—GAZETTEER ... ..	136—152
APPENDIX ... ..	153
INDEX ... ..	xi—xviii

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

### PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

	PAGES
GENERAL DESCRIPTION—Origin of name—Boundaries—General configuration—RIVER SYSTEM—Brahmaputra—Tista—Dharla—Dūlhkumar—Karatoya—Ghāghāt—Manās—Mūra—Manās—Gujāria—Marshes and Swamps—Canals—GEOLOGY—BOTANY—FAUNA—Mammals—Birds—Reptiles—Fish—CLIMATE—Temperature—Humidity—Winds—Rainfall . . . . .	1—18

## CHAPTER II.

### HISTORY.

EARLY HISTORY—HINDU PERIOD—The Pal kings—The song of Manik Chandra—The Khen kings—MUHAMMADAN PERIOD—The Koch kings—BRITISH PERIOD—ARCHÆOLOGY . . . . .	19—32
--	-------

## CHAPTER III.

### THE PEOPLE.

GROWTH OF POPULATION—Census of 1901—GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS—Density of population—Migration—Towns and villages—Sex—Language—RACES—RELIGIONS—Muhammadans—Hindus—Christians—Animists and others—TRIBES AND CASTES—Muhammadans—Hindu castes—Brāhmans—Kayasths—Sūdras—Lower castes—CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE . . . . .	33—49
--	-------

## CHAPTER IV.

### PUBLIC HEALTH.

CLIMATE—VITAL STATISTICS—PRINCIPAL DISEASES—Malarial fever—Cholera—Other diseases and infirmities—VACCINATION—MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS . . . . .	49—53
--	-------

## CHAPTER V.

## AGRICULTURE.

	PAGE
GENERAL CONDITIONS—Formation of the land—Fertility—Rainfall— —Irrigation—Manures—Blights—Destructive animals—Soils— PRINCIPAL CROPS - Winter rice—Autumn rice—Other cereals— Jute—Rhea—Mustard and Rape-seed—Til—Tobacco—Pulses— Potatoes—Minor tuberous crops—Sugar-cane—Betel—AGRICUL- TURAL STATISTICS—EXTENSION OF CULTIVATION—IMPROVE- MENTS IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE—Fruits and vegetables— Cattle—Poultry—Veterinary Relief ... ..	54—63

## CHAPTER VI.

## NATURAL CALAMITIES.

FLOODS—DROUGHT—Scarcity of 1874—Scarcity of 1908-09—FAMINE —EARTHQUAKES ... ..	69—78
---	-------

## CHAPTER VII.

## RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES.

RENTS—WAGES—PRICES—MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE— Indebtedness—Litigation—Dwellings—Furniture—Food—Dress —Amusements ... ..	79—88
--	-------

## CHAPTER VIII.

## OCCUPATIONS, MANUFACTURES AND TRADE.

OCCUPATIONS — MANUFACTURES—Fisheries — Factories — TRADE— External trade—Internal trade—Fairs ... ..	89—94
---	-------

## CHAPTER IX.

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS.

ROADS—PRINCIPAL ROADS—Bogra road—Dhubri road—Dinājpur road—Jalpaiguri road—Cooch Behar road—Chilmāri road— Gaibanda road—Kaliganj-Bawra road—Fulkumār road—Rest- houses—RAILWAY—WATER COMMUNICATIONS—Boats—POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS ... ..	95—100
---	--------

## CHAPTER X.

## LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

REVENUE HISTORY—MUHAMMADAN REVENUE SYSTEM—BRITISH LAND REVENUE SYSTEM—Early Settlements—The Permanent Settlement—Effects of the Permanent Settlement—Position of	
--	--

	PAGES
the zamindárs—Position of the ryots—SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS — ESTATES — Revenue-paying estates — Revenue-free estates—TENURES— <i>Patni</i> tenures— <i>Upānchāki</i> and other permanent tenures—Rent-free tenures— <i>Jotes</i> — <i>Ijārās</i> — <i>Chukānidārs</i> , <i>Adhiars</i> and other cultivating tenants— <i>Chakrān</i> holdings—LANDLORDS AND TENANTS ... ..	101—117

## CHAPTER XI.

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Administrative charges and staff—REVENUE—Land revenue—Stamps—Cesses—Excise—Income-tax—Registration—Muhammadan Marriage Registration—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—Civil justice—Criminal justice—Crime—POLICE—Origin of the force—Origin of the <i>chaukidari</i> system—Present police organisation—JAILS—VOLUNTEERS—PUBLIC WORKS ... ..	118—126
---	---------

## CHAPTER XII.

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

DISTRICT BOARD—Income—Expenditure—MUNICIPALITY—Income—Expenditure ... ..	127—129
--	---------

## CHAPTER XIII.

### EDUCATION.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION—Literate population—GENERAL STATISTICS—SECONDARY EDUCATION—High schools—Middle English schools—Middle Vernacular schools—PRIMARY SCHOOLS—SPECIAL SCHOOLS—HOSTEL—PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS—FEMALE EDUCATION—MUHAMMADAN EDUCATION—EDUCATION OF ABORIGINAL RACES ... ..	130—135
---	---------

## CHAPTER XIV.

### GAZETTEER.

Bāharband Estate—Bardhankote Estate—Dimla Estate—Domār—Fulchāri—Gaibanda—Gaibanda Sub-division—Kākina Estate—Kurigrām—Kurigrām Sub-division—Mahipur Estate—Nilphamāri—Nilphamāri Sub-division—Rangpur—Rangpur Sub-division—Saidpur—Tajhāt Estate ... ..	136—152
APPENDIX ... ..	153
INDEX ... ..	xi—xviii

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---

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# INDEX.

	PAGE		PAGE
<b>A</b>		<b>B—(contd.)</b>	
Aboriginal tribes...	... 45, 65, 135, 143, 151.	Baikantpur ...	... 19, 27, 30, 107.
<i>Abwābs</i> ...	... 72, 103, 109, 116.	Bairāgi ...	... 47.
Administration, general ...	... 118—126.	Baishnab ...	... 47.
————— land revenue	101—117.	Baitak ...	... 37.
<i>Aḡama Shāstra</i> ...	... 130—1.	Bakhtyār Khilji ...	... 1, 8, 23—4.
Agrarian risings ...	... 30, 103, 105, 120.	Baksiganj ...	... 6.
Agriculture ...	... 54—68.	<i>Bala</i> , soil ...	... 58.
————— statistics ...	... 65.	Bamboo ...	... 12.
————— improvements ...	... 66.	Bāmni, <i>nadi</i> ...	... 77, 143.
————— associations ...	... 66, 147.	Bāmandānga ...	... 97, 115.
<i>Aima-mālguzāri</i> tenures	... 110—11.	Bangāli, <i>nadi</i> ...	... 8, 9, 140.
<i>Ainham</i> ...	... 52.	Bara Bhil ...	... 10, 32.
Akhira, <i>nadi</i> ...	... 77, 140, 150.	Bara Darga ...	... 32.
Alai, <i>nadi</i> ...	... 9, 140.	Bardhankote ...	... 8, 23, 32, 90, 137—8.
Alluvion ...	... 54—5.	Barkandāz ...	... 29, 30, 116, 124.
Alumjāni ...	... 7.	<i>Bārind</i> ...	... 10.
<i>Aman</i> rice ...	... 59.	Barui ...	... 46.
Amusements ...	... 88.	Barūni ...	... 6, 125.
Animals, <i>see Fauna</i> .		<i>Bāstu</i> , land ...	... 58.
Animists ...	... 45.	Batāshan ...	... 53, 81, 115, —6.
Anjumān Islāmīa ...	... 149.	Betel ...	... 65.
Arboriculture ...	... 128.	Betgāri ...	... 8.
Archæology ...	... 31—2.	Bhagadatta, Raja ...	... 9, 53.
Area of district ...	... 1.	Bhagwan, Raja ...	... 32, 138.
— under cultivation ...	... 3, 65.	<i>Bhāng</i> ...	... 13.
— changes in ...	... 31, 101.	Bhātiya ...	... 45, 65.
Atrai, river ...	... 8.	Bhava Chandra, Raja ...	... 21—2, 147.
<i>Aus</i> rice ...	... 59.	Bhils ...	... 10, 13, 78.
<i>Awal</i> , soil ...	... 58.	Bhitarband, <i>pargana</i> ...	... 25, 28, 53, 65, 96, 101, 111, 115, 133, 135—7.
<b>B</b>		Bhogdānga ...	... 6.
Bādarganj, thāna ...	... 34, 36, 43, 81, 125, 150, 151.	Bhuimāli ...	... 47.
————— village ...	... 53, 93, 94, 96, 98.	Bhurungamāri ...	... 7, 13, 94.
Badyakar ...	... 40, 42, 45, 88.	Bhutia ...	... 26, 67, 90.
Bagdwar <i>pargana</i> ..	... 20, 31.	Bhutsāra ...	... 9, 96, 98.
Bagwa ...	... 4, 6.	Bigha ...	... 110.
Bagwāli ...	... 6.	Bijni ...	... 25.
Bāharband, estate and <i>par-</i>		Birāt ...	... 93, 94, 141.
<i>gana</i> ...	... 26—7, 65, 101, 106—7, 113, 115—6, 136—8.	Birds ...	... 14.
		Bisva Singh, Raja ...	... 25, 40, 42, 46.
		Blights ...	... 57.
		Blindness ...	... 52.





D—(contd.)		PAGE	F—(contd.)		PAGE
<i>Dola</i> soil ...	...	58.	Fulchāri ...	...	5, 91, 92, 93 98—9, 139
Dom ...	...	47.	Fulkumār ...	...	97, 125, 143
Domar outpost ...	...	125, 145.	Furniture ...	...	83, 86.
—— town ...	...	37, 53, 92, 93, 98, 99, 139.	<b>G</b>		
<i>Dōne</i> ...	...	110.	<i>Gandhi</i> ...	...	57.
<i>Doyam</i> soil ...	...	58.	Gangādhar river ...	...	7, 96, 143.
Drainage ...	...	10, 34—5, 49, 96, 129.	<i>Gānja</i> ...	...	52, 119.
Dress ...	...	87.	Ganrār ...	...	15.
Drought ...	...	70—3.	Garō Hills ...	...	2, 15, 16, 17, 39, 47, 65, 90, 142.
Dudhikumār river ...	...	7, 96, 143.	<i>Gāta</i> ...	...	59.
Dwellings ...	...	86.	Gazetteer ...	...	136—52.
<b>E</b>			Gaibanda subdivision ...	...	8, 36, 70, 77, 81, 92, 93, 118, 125, 140—1.
Earthquakes ...	...	35, 69, 76—8.	—— thāna ...	...	44, 77, 81, 125.
Education ...	...	128, 129— 35.	—— town ...	...	9, 18, 97, 98, 99, 126, 134, 139—40.
—— early history ...	...	130—1.	Geology ...	...	10.
—— female ...	...	135.	<i>Gerai nadi</i> ...	...	77, 96, 143.
—— Muhammadan ...	...	135.	Ghāghāt river ...	...	9, 77, 140, 146—7, 150.
—— of aborigines ...	...	135.	Ghariaidānga ...	...	115.
—— technical ...	...	134.	Ghoraghāt ...	...	8, 23, 27, 95, 98, 101, 137—8.
Embankments ...	...	70.	Ghoramāra ...	...	6, 92.
Emigration ...	...	36.	Ghose's Canal ...	...	150.
Epidemics ...	...	51, 149.	Gingelly ...	...	46, 58.
Estates ...	...	107, 110—11.	Ginger ...	...	57, 58, 64, 93.
Ethnical controversies ...	...	33—43.	Goāla ...	...	46.
Excise ...	...	119—20.	Gobindganj thāna ...	...	8, 31, 44, 72—3, 77, 79, 81, 94, 125, 140.
<b>F</b>			—— village ...	...	17—18, 32, 93, 95, 96, 98, 141.
Factory ...	...	92.	Goitre ...	...	5.
Fairs, <i>see Mela</i> .	...		Gomnati ...	...	91, 97, 145.
Fakir ...	...	24, 29, 32.	Gopi Chandra, Raja ...	...	21.
Famine ...	...	73—76.	Government Estates ...	...	118.
Farāzi ...	...	44.	Gujāria river ...	...	9.
Farms, agricultural ...	...	66, 147, 149.	<i>Gumāshta</i> ...	...	37, 104, 109.
Fatehpur <i>chakla</i> ...	...	27—8, 115.	<i>Gur</i> ...	...	64, 83, 90, 151.
Fauna ...	...	13, 58, 67, 94.	<b>H</b>		
Female education ...	...	135.	Hail ...	...	17.
Ferries ...	...	94—8, 127.	Hāri ...	...	47.
Fertility of soil ...	...	55, 84.	Haris' Chandra's Pāt ...	...	21, 31.
Fever ...	...	34—5, 50, 51.	<i>Hāt</i> ...	...	93.
Fibres ...	...	60—1.	Himalayas ...	...	15, 16, 17.
Fish ...	...	15, 52, 83, 84, 87, 89, 91, 92.	Hindus, origin ...	...	25, 38—9, 43.
Fish-curing ...	...	92.	—— castes ...	...	45—7.
Fisheries ...	...	91.			
Floods ...	...	69—70.			
Fodder ...	...	13, 67.			
Food ...	...	52, 87.			
Fruit ...	...	66.			



K—(contd.)		PAGE	M—(contd.)		PAGE
Kolita	...	46.	<i>Maddat</i>	...	120.
Krauncha	...	39.	Madrassa	...	134.
<i>Krishān</i>	...	82.	<i>Mahājan</i>	...	84-5.
<i>Krori</i>	...	102.	Mahiganj thāna	...	36, 50, 81,
Knclwāra	...	26-7, 40,	—— town	...	125.
		73, 101, 107.			2, 53, 96, 97,
Kukrul Bhil	...	10, 129, 150.			99, 128-9,
Kulaghāt	...	6, 143.	Mahirpur	...	146-50.
Kulmighāt	...	91.			45, 115, 143
Kumhār	...	47, 89, 115.	<i>Majkuri</i>	...	—4, 151.
Kundi <i>pariyana</i>	...	26-7, 53,	<i>Maktāb</i>	...	112.
		115, 133,			131.
		135, 149.	Malaria, <i>see Fever.</i>		
Kuri (Mayra)	...	46.	Mālo	...	47.
—— (Mech)	...	142.	Mammals	...	13.
Kurigrām Subdivision	...	16, 46, 92, 93	Manās river	...	9, 77.
		—4, 142-3.	<i>Mandal</i>	...	37, 102.
—— thāna	...	36, 125.	Mango	...	57, 66.
—— town	...	6, 17, 18,	Mānik Chandra, Raja	...	20.
		93, 96, 97,	Mānik Chandra's Song	...	20, 38, 81,
		98, 99, 134			153.
		—5, 142.	Manthana	...	115, 151.
			Manufactures	...	90-2, 126,
					145.
			Manure	...	56.
			Market, <i>see Hāt.</i>		
			Marriage Registration	...	122.
			Marshes	...	10.
			Marwāri	...	48, 93.
			Material condition of the		
			people	...	83-8.
			<i>Matiyāl</i> , soil	...	58.
			Maulāna Kerāmat Ali	...	148.
			<i>Maurasi</i>	...	112.
			<i>Mauza</i>	...	1, 37, 109,
					125.
			Mayana Mati, Rani	...	20-1, 31.
			Mech	...	22, 142.
			Medical relief, <i>see Dispensa-</i>		
			ries.		
			<i>Mela</i>	...	67, 94, 141,
					148.
			Migration	...	34, 36, 137,
					143.
			Millet	...	60, 87.
			Mithāpukur thāna	...	34, 35, 36,
					43, 50, 72,
					77, 125,
					150-1.
			—— village	...	53, 96.
			Money orders, postal	...	99-100.
			Monsoon	...	17, 56.
			Muchi	...	47.
			Mughalbachha	...	6, 7.
			Mughalhāt	...	6, 7, 92, 94,
					97-8.
			Mughals	...	26-8, 40,
					41, 101-3.
			Muhammadans, origin	...	40-43.
			—— religion	...	43-4.

M—(contd.)		PAGE *	P		PAGE
Muhammadians, sects	...	44.	<i>Pachwai</i>	...	120.
———— fecundity	...	44.	<i>Paddy, see Rice.</i>		
———— character	...	48.	<i>Pagla river</i>	...	59.
———— material con-			<i>Pakārs</i>	...	45, 93.
———— dition	...	84.	<i>Pairaband</i>	...	1, 19, 25.
———— food	...	87, 94.	<i>Palān, land</i>	...	58.
———— dress	...	88.	<i>Palāshbāri</i>	...	53, 96, 125, 140—141.
———— occupations	...	45, 90, 91.	<i>Pāl kings</i>	...	20—22, 31.
———— status of women	...	48, 123.	<i>Palms</i>	...	12.
———— education	...	130, 132, 135.	<i>Pān</i>	...	56, 65.
Muhammadi	...	44.	<i>Panchāyet</i>	...	37.
<i>Mukarari</i>	...	112.	<i>Panchgāchhi</i>	...	6.
Municipality	...	128—29, 145—50.	<i>Pānga</i>	...	65, 76, 81, 91, 94, 115, 120.
Munshipāra	...	146, 148.	<i>Pānialghāt</i>	...	92—3, 97, 151.
Mura Manās river	...	9, 141.	<i>Paper-making</i>	...	61, 90.
Music	...	88.	<i>Pāra...</i>	...	37.
Mustard	...	61, 83, 93.	<i>Pargana</i>	...	79, 101, 109.
<b>N</b>			<i>Partition of estates</i>	...	110.
Nabasakha	...	46.	<i>Pasture</i>	...	33, 66, 67.
Nageshwari thāna	...	56, 50, 77, 79, 125, 132, 143.	<i>Patamāri</i>	...	6, 96.
———— village	...	94, 97.	<i>Patāni</i>	...	2, 40, 88.
Nahālia <i>nadi</i>	...	77—8, 140.	<i>Pateswari</i>	...	7.
Naib	...	37, 116.	<i>Patgrām chakla</i>	...	26—7, 30, 101, 107.
—— Nazim	...	122.	<i>Pātiladaha pargana</i>	...	31, 101, 115 —16.
Namasudra	...	91.	<i>Pātni</i>	...	47, 82, 111.
Nāpit	...	47, 115.	<i>Patshāla</i>	...	131.
Nasya	...	41—2, 115.	<i>Paṭwāri</i>	...	37, 102.
Nautch	...	88.	<i>Paṇdra desh</i>	...	38.
Nawābganj	...	2, 127—8, 146—7.	<i>Permanent Settlement</i>	...	105—10.
<i>Nazr</i>	...	79, 114.	<i>Physical aspects of the dis-</i>		
Nepal	...	30, 31.	<i>trict</i>	...	1—18.
Newspapers	...	149.	<i>Pig</i>	...	13, 58.
Niladwaj, Raja	...	23.	<i>Piran</i>	...	88.
Nilāambar, Raja	...	23, 24, 95.	<i>Pirganj thāna</i>	...	11, 24, 34, 35—6, 43, 50, 72, 81, 125, 150—1.
Nilkumār river	...	6, 143.	————village	...	17, 18, 31, 53, 96.
Nilphamāri Sub-division	...	35, 92, 93, 145.	<i>Pirpal</i>	...	111.
———— thāna	...	36, 43, 125, 132.	<i>Plantain</i>	...	66.
———— town	...	17, 18, 93, 98, 99, 126, 134, 144—5.	<i>Poli soil</i>	...	10, 56, 58, 78, 81.
Nisbetganj	...	9, 90, 93, 96.	<i>Police</i>	...	124—6.
Nūnkheva	...	7, 91.	————stations	...	125.
Nomenclature of rivers	...	3, 4, 5, 6, 7.	<i>Population, growth</i>	...	33—5.
———— villages	...	7, 27.	————census	...	34—5.
———— persons	...	41, 42.	————density	...	35—6.
<b>O</b>			————urban and rural	...	37.
Occupancy rights	...	115.	————migration	...	36.
Occupations	...	89—94.	————sex	...	37.
Oilseeds	...	61.	<i>Post Office</i>	...	99—100.
Opium	...	90, 119—20.	<i>Potato</i>	...	63, 83, 87, 93.
Oraons	...	45, 65, 143, 151.			





APPENDIX (*vide page 20*).

THE QUEEN'S PRAYER.

FROM MANIK CHANDRA'S SONG, THE "EPIC OF RANGPUR."

[*Rendered from Dr. Grierson's translation.*]

Nay, nay, my king, to distant lands thou shalt not fare  
 Nor desolate the life that breathes for thee alone.  
 Few are my years, no grey yet mingles with my hair :  
 Wilt widow me, my lord, before my bridehood's done ?

In dreams thy face will haunt me, and my arms close pressed  
 Will seek to hold thee. E'en the poorest wife and bride  
 Upon her bosom bends her master's head to rest :  
 Shall sorrow be *my* mate and love unsatisfied ?

The voice of scandal ne'er hath spared a widow's fame ;  
 Therefore, beloved, if thou goest, I go with thee !  
 In hunger and in thirst, oh king, my care thou'lt claim,  
 The night I will beguile with song and poesy.

In summer's heat, a palm-leaf fan shall still thy sighs ;  
 Against thy breast I'll nestle close, when cold winds blow.  
 And holy Indra's joy—the lap of five score wives—  
 Alone I'll give. With thee, beloved, let me go.

Now am I young and comely, worthy of a king ;  
 Will youth and beauty stay or suffer to be tied  
 'Gainst thy return ? My banian tree! to thee I cling,  
 A helpless creeper. Bide with me; my husband, bide!