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**Report on the Industrial Survey of the  
District of Pabna**

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*By*

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## Foreword

Pabna is one of the most enterprising districts in rural Bengal. Its position at the confluence of the great rivers Padma and Brahmaputra gives it a certain degree of isolation. It might be thought, therefore, that an agricultural and rural district in the very centre of Bengal, subjected to heavy flooding annually, would in these circumstances be somewhat backward. This interesting report compiled by Mr. K. D. Guha, now translated to the important post of Technical Adviser on Industries to the Government of Ceylon, shows the case to be otherwise.

Pabna district is not only famous for the qualities of its jute, but Pabna town has made itself famous all over India for the quality of its hosiery. Here is a greater collection of small power-driven hosiery factories situated in rural surroundings in the outskirts of a mofussil town, than exists anywhere else in Bengal. Then again at the "Satsang Ashram", situated on the banks of the river two miles above Pabna town, there is perhaps one of the most enterprising experiments in rural reconstruction, in industrial and agricultural craftsmanship, health culture, etc., to be found in Bengal. This survey also gives detailed information, so far as can be obtained, of the general economic and industrial structure of this typical Bengal district. The object of the survey was to bring up to date the facts already collected in the previous survey of cottage industries in Bengal and published six years ago. It also had the intention of showing the diversity and ubiquity of the large internal trade conducted through the various *hâts* and markets in Bengal, for the reason that in all such places there exist opportunities for the vending of the products of up-to-date small and cottage industries which can be established by the young *bhadralog* of Bengal. Instead of crowding into the city educated young men can find a vocation in these more or less isolated mofussil districts by establishing small industries such as soap-making, umbrella manufacture, glazed pottery manufacture, etc. They can vend their products with suitable publicity and advertisement, in the numerous and regular market centres, such as are here indicated. Out of these small concerns larger and more stable factories will grow. The report also emphasises what has many times previously been mentioned, viz., the ubiquity of the middle-man *bepari* who merely handles to his distinct advantage the products of the craftsmanship of the illiterate and ignorant working people, and who in himself has no practical experience with the industrial processes involved. These circumstances again illustrate the opportunity which lies before enterprising and technically trained young men, to establish small but technically equipped factory industries. In this way and with reliability and enterprise in industry under disciplined control, the more parasitical and less helpful service of the middle-men can be defeated.

Mr. Guha sums up the position by emphasising the three fundamental factors of improvement required through (1) training, (2) financing, and (3) marketing. With regard to (1), the Department of Industries maintain 26 Peripatetic Weaving Schools, 9 District Weaving Schools, 8 Technical Schools and 5 Weaving and Dyeing Demonstration Parties for the purpose of training the young men in the fundamental processes of rural industry.

With regard to (2) and (3), marketing with co-operative organisation, as Mr. Guha suggests, where the co-operative system can be encouraged, the strong position of united organisation will be found to be of unique advantage in this problem of financing and marketing. Where however, owing to difficulties of contact or association or other causes individuals find co-operation impossible, the Department of Industries has now a Marketing and Publicity Officer on its headquarters staff, whose services are available in regard to stuff which could be readily marketed in Calcutta. It is certain, however, that the most advantageous markets for rural cottage industries will be those of their own local *hâts*. And here for any further development the marketing organisation must depend on local enthusiasm and talent.

In these days it is a pleasure to record a considerable awakening of interest in the problem of rural reconstruction particularly with the object of making life in rural Bengal more attractive and self-contained. This survey report is a valuable compendium of basic information on rural economics, compiled by one whose great ambition was to place his talents and experience, and training in India and abroad, at the service of his Motherland for this great and beneficent purpose. The Department of Industries, Bengal, will be glad to consider, as they certainly invite, the careful, constructive criticism and suggestion of the readers of this survey report who are identified with a similar ambition.

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*Director of Industries, Bengal.*

CALCUTTA,

*The 14th September 1935.*

## Introduction.

The present report is the result of a general survey of the main industries of the district of Pabna. An attempt has been made in the report to show the various resources of the district and the different industrial and commercial uses to which they are at present put and to collect materials for the Industrial Directory now under contemplation for the Province of Bengal.

Unlike most of the districts of Bengal, Pabna, although fundamentally an agricultural district, has acquired considerable industrial experiences within the last few decades. Pabna has been famous for centuries for the weaving of cotton-cloths on hand-looms, the products of which have earned a fair reputation on account of their fine texture and have survived the competition of Dacca and other historic seats of weaving industry as well as the competition of mills, both Indian and foreign.

The economic importance of Pabna, however, lies mostly in the production of a superior quality of jute and the financial condition of the district was very much improved with the development of export trade of jute. The various phases of the jute industry and its consequent economic effects on the general condition of the district afford an interesting study. Jute was indeed an old agricultural product and was grown only on a very small scale for local consumption. The growing demand of the fibre in Europe and America opened a new chapter of the export trade of Bengal, a little over half a century ago.

Pabna took advantage of the new position because of the suitability of the local conditions for the cultivation of the best quality of jute and a very important agricultural industry sprang up in the district with Serajganj as the headquarters which at one time used to transact about 50 per cent. of the total jute trade in Bengal and is now second only to Narayangunge of Dacca as a jute exporting station.

Centralised factory system was first introduced by the establishment of indigo factories throughout the district in the middle of the last century by the European industrialists. The cultivation of indigo was carried on very extensively and the revenue map of 1851-52 shows 80 indigo factories and outworks scattered all over the district except the north-western part of it. The factories which were all situated near rivers or channels have long since ceased to work very much because of the organised resistance of the indigo cultivators on the one hand and the success of the synthetic indigo in Germany on the other. Ruins of factory buildings here and a stray tomb-stone there still stand as the witnesses of the contemporary history which unfortunately does not give very happy reading.

Soon after the failure of indigo factories Pabna entered into another phase of industrial experience with the starting of jute press factories at Serajganj. They used to employ about 3,000 hands a few years ago for the pressing of jute into bales before they were exported to foreign countries *via* Calcutta when the trade was good. There is also

a jute-press factory at Bera which is an important part of the district, second only to Serajganj. The jute trade is practically a monopoly of the Europeans and the Marwaris.

The reduced price of jute and the drastic reduction in the volume of jute-trade consequent on the world's economic depression have utterly unbalanced the economic life of the district. The jute-press factories have virtually ceased to operate, the agricultural population have been thrown hopelessly in a state of destitution, their buying capacity being almost reduced to nil. The situation has been rendered more precarious by the damages caused by repeated floods in recent years.

It is interesting to note the present tendency to revive the cultivation of sugar-cane which gave way to the cultivation of jute about half a century ago. The agricultural statistics of the last one hundred years go to show that jute and sugar-cane cultivations vary inversely with one another. A slump in the jute trade on the one hand and the heavy tariff on the imported sugar on the other, have created a condition most favourable for the extensive cultivation of sugar-cane in the district and a few sugar factories have already been contemplated in the northern part of the district, which is more suited for the purpose. At Bera, which is a great centre for *gur*, a small factory for manufacturing sugar from *gur* by open-pan system was recently organised. But unfortunately, the small factory is now lying idle after a very brief period of activity owing to the lack of technical knowledge on the part of the management.

Another industry which has made Pabna well-known even outside Bengal is the hosiery industry, the main products of which are banians, sweaters, socks, etc. Although of recent growth, the industry gave great promise and a number of factories sprang up within a short time. All the factories made very good profits until lately when they have been badly hit by the general depression and, worse than that, by the sinister dumping of the hosiery goods from Japan which has already led four factories of Pabna into liquidation, threatening the rest with the same. Unless more heavy tariff is imposed on Japanese goods, there is little hope of saving the industry from a sure collapse.

Jute weaving is a new industry introduced in the district about two years ago but, unfortunately, it has not been taken seriously yet. I am afraid, the institutions that have taken up the industry, e.g., the Co-operative Society of Serajganj and the Weaving School at Pabna are not serving any useful purpose except perhaps the Noornabi Madrasha of Kazipur. There is absolutely no attempt to popularise the products, yet I have found jute *ashans* and *jayanamas* of Sri Hanuman Mills of Calcutta being sold in remote *hats* and bazars. The statement that there is no market for the products can hardly be justified. The results of the Jute-Weaving Demonstration Party at Bera and Barapangashi are awaited with interest.

Washing soap making is one of the very few chemical industries that have got any attention from the public. A number of small scale factories have lately been started in the different parts of the district. But unfortunately the results are far from encouraging, because of the unsatisfactory management and lack of technical knowledge on the part of the manufacturers. In some cases, factories have been actually started and run by persons with no experience except what little could be gathered from a correspondence-course for a few weeks from a gentleman



of Saidpur. There is no reason why this industry should not pay if run on efficient lines. There are, however, two factories at Serajganj and one factory at Nischintpur near Satbaria all of which are running satisfactorily.

Manufacture of hand-made paper in a small scale has been a very old industry of the district, dating as far back as the Muhammadan period—the main centre being Kandapara, about two miles from Serajganj. The paper is locally used for Zamindari and Mahajan account books and even indented from Assam for the same purpose.

There is an Electric Installation at Serajganj which supplies light and power to the locality. The Company is a limited one and although the prospect of the enterprise is great, the present condition of the concern is not encouraging. It has been involved in certain litigations and the management of the Company is in a state of transition.

There were two refrigerating plants in the district, one at Serajganj and the other at Sara of which the former has long gone into liquidation. The plant at Sara operates from April to December. The ice is mostly used for preserving fish sent to Calcutta from different fish-centres of the district.

There is a number of printing presses at Pabna and Serajganj. A few smaller presses are working in less important places and even in villages. The best of the printing works in the district, however, is working in Satsang Asram in the village of Himayetpur, about three miles from Pabna.

Satsang Asram at Himayetpur is a colony of about 1,000 persons subscribing to a certain form of religion. The Asram, however, attaches much importance to industrial development. There is a power-house in the Asram which supplies power and light to the village. The chemical and pharmaceutical works of the Asram is doing useful work and a big workshop, now under construction, has an ambitious scheme before it. A few visits to the institution have convinced me of its bright future as far as its success in industries is concerned. A corporate life and enthusiasm of the members, both male and female, and above all a general appreciation of the dignity of labour of any description are the assuring factors of its industrial future.

There is a private individual, Dr. Basanta Kumar Chowdhury, at Himayetpur whose name deserves a special mention here in connection with cottage industries. He has a small laboratory and produces varied articles of common use, viz., arrow-root, washing soap, huttons, hair-clips, etc., from mother-of-pearls, ginger syrup, jute *ashams*, etc. The quality of his products is good, specially the arrow-root which is widely used in the district and has been highly certified by several Exhibition authorities.

Cane-basket making, wool-blanket making, bricks and tiles making, pottery, hide-curing and shoe-making, rope, string and bag making, pearl-fishing in the *bils*, oil pressing by *ghany*, black-smithy, carpentry, *biri*-making, etc., are the other important cottage industries of the district.

Fish occupies an important place in the export trade of the district. Fish caught in the *bils* of Kazipur, Faridpur, Taras and Chatmohar police-stations is exported mainly to Calcutta from Bhangura and

**Lahiry-Mohanpur railway stations.** It is rather interesting to watch the brisk loading of wagons at midnight with parcels of fish of all descriptions in the dim light of lanterns. Fish caught in the Jumna is exported to Calcutta from Sthal by steamer. Hilsa fish caught in the Padma is exported by railway from Sara. Dried fish is exported from Padai (Sujanagar police-station) to Calcutta.

Fowls and ducks and their eggs are exported to Calcutta in plenty from almost every station on the Sara-Serajganj railways. Many persons of *bhadralog* class are engaged in the trade.

There is a great possibility of scientific dairying in the district of Pabna. It is said to have been famous for the abundance of milk, ghee and other dairy-products from very early times. The extensive *char* lands on the either sides of the Bural and other rivers afford ideal pasturage for the cattle for a period of ten months in the year. During the rainy season when the *char* lands are submerged in water, the cattle, except the milch ones, are sent to higher lands (viz., Sara) for four months and the milch cows are somehow accommodated in the locality. The dairy activities of the district mainly centre round the villages Rautara and Potazia on the river Bural and control as much as 300 maunds of milk per day during the winter. The quality of the cattle and quantity of milk can be very much improved by careful breeding and selection of cattle.

Although general trade depression of recent years and the reduction of price of jute in particular have disastrously diminished the total trade of the district, an attempt has been made to collect and analyse the import and export statistics with a view to ascertain the course of action to be taken up in connection with the middle class unemployment relief scheme and to incorporate the materials in the proposed Industrial Directory of Bengal.

The active sympathy and co-operation of the commercial community and the public at large are essential in an investigation like this. The District Industrial Advisory Board was, therefore, formed with the most influential officials and non-officials of the district. The purpose of the investigation and the character and scope of the middle-class unemployment relief scheme were explained in the general meetings of the District Board, Mahajan Sabha, Bar-library and of the various other representative bodies of the district and appeals were made for their co-operation and help. But unfortunately all the attempts to elicit informations of statistical nature from the business men proved failure, perhaps, because of the apprehension of any remote chance of the figures being used against their interest.

Closer acquaintance with the mechanism of the import and export trade of the district, however, suggested some useful and effective procedure to collect statistical informations of trade. The railway and steamer stations of the district, Kushtia railway station in the district of Nadia, which is commercially connected with the district of Pabna by boat, Bera which is connected with Dacca, Faridpur and certain other districts by boat, are the points which mainly control the trade of the district. The District Magistrate of Pabna was, therefore, requested to write to the station masters of different railway and steamer stations concerned for the necessary informations. Accordingly the figures in regard to the import and export of certain commodities were

obtained from the different railway stations of the district but no information could be collected from the steamer stations. Besides no arrangement could be made to ascertain the import and export figures of the trade carried by boat which was by no means insignificant. The statistical information thus collected was only a small fraction of the total trade of the district. But with respect to certain commodities, viz., fish, which are exported mainly by train for quick transport, the figures are quite satisfactory.

During my tour, I visited all the controlling centres of trade and industries of the district, viz., Serajganj, Bera, Pabna, Shahzadpur, Bhangura, Ullapara, Ishurdi, etc., and a good number of *hats* and bazars, accounts of which will be given in course of the description.

Serajganj is, indeed, the biggest trade centre of the district, Bera coming next. The main factors for the supremacy of Serajganj are the availability of very good quality of jute in the vicinity, the facilities with which the jute of Mymensingh may be imported to this port and the advantages of both railway and river communications.

Bera, the vertex of the almost isosceles triangle joining Bera, Serajganj and Pabna, has a peculiar position with respect to accessibility and trade in the district. It is almost equidistant from Pabna and Serajganj and the triangle covers within its area and near the base lines most of the important places of the district from commercial and industrial points of view. Bera is situated on the river Hurasagar and commands an extraordinary number of waterways connecting it with almost all parts of the district on the one hand and with neighbouring districts on the other. It may and possibly will claim more attention and prosperity in future when trade will be reorganised under normal conditions.

Another remarkable feature of the district of Pabna is the existence of numerous co-operative banks and credit societies scattered all over the district. The institutions have been very useful ever since their inception in 1906 and have played an important part in the economic life of the peasantry. Unfortunately for the world crisis and reduction of the price of jute which is the primary agricultural produce of the district, the activities of the institutions have been frightfully curtailed and a number of enterprises started by them have gone into liquidation. Whatever might be their present condition due to the extraordinary fall of the price of agricultural produces, the importance of co-operative banking can hardly be over-estimated in any serious attempt for the regeneration of cottage industries.

# Report on the Industrial Survey of the District of Pabna.

## CHAPTER I.

### General features and communication.

The district of Pabna which resembles an irregular triangle lying at the head of the Bengal delta within the angle formed by the convergence of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, occupies the south-east corner of the Rajshahi division. It is a wide alluvial plain comprising an area of 1,818 square miles and containing a population of 1,445,654 persons according to the census of 1931. The district is administratively divided into two subdivisions, Pabna Sadar and Serajganj. Pabna, which is situated on the Ichhamati, is the administrative headquarters of the district but Serajganj, on the western bank of the river Jamuna, is the chief town of the district, both as regards population and commercial importance.

The district is bounded on the east by the river Brahmaputra or Jamuna which separates it from the districts of Mymensingh and Dacca, on the west and north-west by the district of Rajshahi, on the north by the district of Bogra and on the south by the river Padma or Ganges, which separates it from the districts of Faridpur and Nadia. The general slope of the district is from west to east in the Sadar subdivision and from north-west to south-east in the Serajganj subdivision. The drainage of the district is done by the river system constituted by the Padma and Brahmaputra with their inter-lacing offshoots and tributaries most of which are more or less moribund except during the rains when they carry off a large volume of water and have considerable current. A network of minor water courses covers the entire district and renders almost all the parts accessible by water during the four months of the rainy season when the major portion of the district becomes practically submerged in water.

An acquaintance with the river system of the district is essential for a correct knowledge of its physiography as well as of its economic and sanitary conditions. The district is watered, drained and partially changed by constant alluvion and diluvion that are taking place along the courses of its principal rivers, especially the Padma and the Jamuna. The Padma is popularly called "Kirtinasha," destroyer of achievement. It has, indeed, swept away many a fruitful village and a peaceful home with the achievements of generations, by its impetuous and wayward course. The following is the brief account of the principal rivers and channels of the district:—

The Padma forms the natural boundary of the district on the south and a portion of the west for a distance of about 90 miles. The main stream of the Ganges between the off-take of the Bhagirathi in the district of Murshidabad and the south-east corner of the district of Dacca where it joins the Meghna is called the Padma. It is navigable all the year round by steamers and country-boats of all sizes. Near Pabna the river has been spanned at enormous expense by the great Hardinge bridge which carries the main line of the Eastern Bengal

**Railway.** During the rainy season the river assumes a dreadful form and the traffic on country-boats and even on steamers is fraught with grave danger in times of tempest. Although this portion of the Ganges is divorced from religious sanctity, it possesses a peculiar grandeur of its own which never fails to impress as the mighty stream rolls majestically down to the sea perpetually swinging from side to side of its sandy-bed and changing the surface of the countries through which it runs.

The Jamuna flows on the eastern border of the district for a length of about 80 miles. It is the portion of the Brahmaputra from its entrance into the plains of Bengal to its confluence with the Padma. In size, might and behaviour, the Jamuna bears a close resemblance with the Padma. It is navigable at all seasons of the year by country-boats and cargo and passenger steamers that ply between Goalundo and Dibrugarh in Assam. Serajganj, the chief commercial centre of the district, is situated on the western bank of the river.

The Karatoya of the *Puran* fame unites with a river called the Halhalia in the district of Bogra and assumes the name of Phuljhur and enters the district at Chandaikona on the north. It flows in a southerly direction past Raigange, Dhanghara, Bhuyagati, Shahibgunge, Ullapara over a distance of about 40 miles in the district and joins the Hurasagar at Narnia. The united stream is known as the Hurasagar which passes close by Shahzadpur and Bera and joins the Jamuna at Nakalia.

The Hurasagar is an off-shoot of the Jamuna. It is joined by the Phuljhur at Narnia as mentioned above and joins the Jamuna again at Nakalia.

The Atrai or more correctly Atri of Mahabharata fame, enters the district from Rajshahi through the Chalan Bil and falls into the Baral near Nunnagar. The river has utterly lost its importance and has now no trace of its former greatness.

The Baral issues from the Padma in the Rajshahi district and enters the district near Haripur of Chatmohar police-station and flows past Chatmohar, Shalikka, Gunaigachi and some other villages till it receives the water of the Atrai through the channel called the Gumani and continuing its course to the south-east joins the Hurasagar south of Shahzadpur after passing Bhanguria, Banawarinagar, Gopalnagar, Demra, some of the important commercial centres of the district. It covers about 35 miles in the district.

There are two rivers called the Ichhamati in the district: (1) one issues from the Padma near the Pabna town and flows past Ekdanta, Ataikhola, Bhulbaria, Santhia, etc., joining the Hurasagar at Bera; (2) the other issues from the Jamuna on the north of Serajganj and unites with the Phuljhur near Nalka after passing Subhagacha, Bramhagacha, etc. Both of them are navigable only during the rainy seasons.

In addition to the rivers mentioned, there are a number of smaller rivers and channels an account of which is given below:—

The Chiknai rises in the Satail Bil south-west of Chatmohar and falls into the Baral near Faridpur. During the dry season when the

river is not navigable, it forms a fishery and exports fish to many places.

The Ratnai issues from the Padma near the village Tingacha and falls into the Sonapatila Bil after passing through the villages Gosairampur, Muligucha, Aladi, Chadra, etc. They say that the mercantile boats of the famous Chand Sadagar used to ply by this river.

The Durgadaha flows past Dilpashar and joins the Baral.

The Kochia is generally known as the river of Kaidanga. There is a railway bridge over the river between Dilpashar and Mohanpur. It joins the Baral near Faridpur.

The Gohala is the offshoot of the Kochia. It flows by the south of Ramkantapur and Raotara and falls into the Hurasagar.

The Kakian passes through Shahzadpur and joins the Hurasagar.

The Jalka rises in the Barabil and unites with the Chiknai.

The Baleswar flows by Paikarhati and joins the Atrai.

The Hargila falls into the Hurasagar and the Jamuna near Pechakkola.

The Dhanbodhi issues from the Jamuna and joins the Phuljhur, passing through Serajganj.

The river of Kumilli flows past Hat Kumilli and joins the Phuljhur down Shahebgange.

The Atharadah is an off-shoot of the Jamuna near Sthal.

The Kakeshwar issues from Ichhamati and joins the *khāl* of Safulla off Apra-Gopinathpur.

The Bhadai forms the north-west boundary of the district, separating it from the district of Rajshahi.

Besides the rivers there are a number of canals which serve the dual purpose of communication as well as irrigation. The principal canals are described below :—

Names of canals.	From.	Direction.	Up to.	Length in mile.
Dhulauri ..	Demra ..	South ..	Dhulauri ..	5
Santhia ..	Santhia ..	Do. ..	Gopinathpur ..	4
Haludghar ..	Haludghar ..	North ..	Seland ..	6
Barnai ..	Sujanagar ..	Do. ..	Poradanga ..	4
Safulla ..	Safulla ..	West ..	Gopinathpur ..	8
Ghurka ..	Ghurka ..	Do. ..	Salanga ..	6
Dattabari ..	Dattabari ..	Do. ..	Sonamukhi ..	3
Salap ..	Salap ..	East ..	The Phuljhur ..	3
Kishore Khali ..	Chandaikona ..	West ..	The old Karotoya ..	4
Maldah ..	Gajnabil ..	East ..	Maldah ..	8
Phaljana ..	Choukibari ..	North ..	Phaljana ..	4

One of the remarkable features in the configuration of the district is an abundance of swampy water-logged depressions known as *bils*. A number of *bils* of old repute have almost been silted up which completely dry up during the summer. But there are others which are quite deep and cover considerable areas. These *bils* supply most of the fish that are exported to Calcutta in large quantity and are, indeed, sources of wealth to the country.

The inhabitants who live near the *bils* enjoy numerous advantages both in regard to health and prosperity over those who reside in thickly populated villages or on the banks of rivers. Except for three or four months during the rains, they get a number of crops with little or no cultivation and rich and extensive pasturage for their cattle which give them abundant milk at a nominal cost and plenty of fish from the *bil*. With all these advantages it is indeed a pleasure to live by the side of a *bil* where the lotus blooms all the year round.

The names of the principal *bils* with brief description are given below:—

The Chalan *bil* lies on the borders of the Rajshahi and Pabna districts. The total area of the *bil* is about 140 square miles but the portion lying in the district of Pabna is about 22 miles long and 4 miles wide. Formerly it was very deep and dangerous. Nobody was safe to cross this largest *bil* of Bengal for the prevalence of dacoity about a century ago. The exploits of three bandit chiefs, Rama, Shyama and Beni Roy, are still remembered with horror by the villagers. The *bil*, however, is getting shallow every year with the deposition of silt and villages are cropping up where once there was water all the year round. Fish is still plentiful and largely exported from Bhangura station to Calcutta.

The Bara Bil lies on the south of Faridpur and has an area of about 12 square miles.

The Gajna Bil covers an area of about 6 square miles in Suzanagar police-station.

The Sonapatila Bil covers an area of about 6 square miles on the north of Pabna.

The Ghugudah Bil lies in the Santhia police-station and covers an area of about 4 square miles.

The Kaliakair Bil lies in the Ullapara police-station.

The Dikshi Bil lies in the Chatmohur police-station and covers an area of about 4 square miles.

There are a number of *bils* of minor importance lying almost all over the district.

The physical features of the district with its numerous rivers, *bils* and marshes offer great difficulty in the construction of permanent high roads that could be used throughout the year. All the road metal has to be imported from distant places at great expenses, the soil being composed of alluvium. The distance covered by Sara-Serajganj railways, which connect the district with the main line of the Eastern Bengal Railway on one hand and the branch line of the same in the Mymensingh district on the other over the steamer-ferry plying between

Serajganjhat and Jagannathganj, is only about 50 miles. The railways have been raised on embankments which have seriously disturbed the drainage of the district resulting in repeated floods since their construction.

The introduction of motor-buses in recent times has brought about a tremendous change in the road-traffic of the district, except during the rains, with consequent improvement of the roads and tracks all over the district, specially in the Sadar subdivision. The uses of the time-honoured bullock-carts and hackney carriages drawn by horses for distant traffic are becoming obsolete.

At present the District Board maintains about 72 roads and tracks covering a distance of about 730 miles. In addition, the Local Boards of Sadar as well as Serajganj maintain about 130 village tracks extended over 245 miles.

The following is a list of the main roads of the district:—

(1) *The New Pabna-Serajganj Road* has a total length of 56 miles. It passes through Ataikula, Bera, Kaizuri to Serajganj.

(2) *The Pabna-Sara Road* is about 18 miles in length. It passes through Dasuria.

(3) *The Old Pabna-Serajganj Road* is about 40 miles long. It takes off from the New Pabna-Serajganj Road at Ataikula, 12 miles from Pabna. It passes through Ataikula, Ullapara, Rautara, Shahzadpur. There are two ferries, one over the Phuljhur river at Ullapara and another over the Baral river at Rautara.

(4) *The Pabna-Mathura Road* is about 28 miles long. It passes through Tatiband and Dulai.

(5) *The Pabna-Chatmohar Road* branches off on the 6th mile of the Pabna-Sara Road from Ranigram and covers about 40 miles. It passes through Chatmohar, Taras and thence to Ranirhat on the district boundary.

(6) *The Serajganj-Bogra Road* is about 18 miles long, but has wide breaches at several places. It passes through Nalka across the Phuljhur river.

(7) *The Old Serajganj-Bogra Road via Pangashi and Dhangora*, has a length of about 15 miles. It passes through two important marts, Pangashi and Dhangora.

The trade routes of the district, however, are mainly constituted by the rivers. The advantages of the two great river-highways of Bengal, namely, the Padma and the Brahmaputra with numerous interlacing smaller rivers and canals have placed the district of Pabna on a comparatively better position for internal and external trade communication than most of the districts of Bengal. The traders carry on most of the importing and exporting business during the rainy season when even the smaller rivers are navigable and the freight is low. But unfortunately, the water-hyacinth menace in recent years has already cut off communication with many places making the internal trade increasingly difficult.

The following table according to the Census Report of 1931 is quite interesting from the point of view of water-traffic of the district. The



country-boats are generally used during the rains after which they are kept submerged in *bils*, ponds, etc. Big boats are, however, used all the year round for trade purposes in principal rivers:—

Maundage of boats.	Number of boats.
Dingis .. .. .	41,996
Less than 50 maunds .. .. .	13,884
50 to 100 maunds .. .. .	347
100 to 300 maunds .. .. .	722
300 to 500 maunds .. .. .	184
500 to 1,000 maunds .. .. .	93
1,000 to 1,500 maunds .. .. .	4
1,500 to 2,000 maunds .. .. .	1
Maundage not given—	
Big .. .. .	1,214
Small .. .. .	600

## CHAPTER II.

### Resources.

1. *Agricultural produce.*—The deposition of silt by the annual flooding of the land by the rivers renews the fertility of the soil which is rendered suitable for a large variety of crops. A large proportion of cultivated area bears two or even more crops giving security against scarcity, drought or heavy flood and as such plays an important part in the agricultural economy of the district. A statement of the normal area under different crops is given below:—

Food-grains.	Acres.	Acres.
Rice—		
Aman .. .. .	566,000	
Aus .. .. .	140,000	
Boro .. .. .	7,500	
		713,500
Wheat .. .. .	16,000	
Barley .. .. .	16,000	
Gram .. .. .	20,000	
Other food-grains including pulses .. .. .	124,000	
		176,000
Total food-grains .. .. .		889,500

	Acres.	Acres.
<b>Oil seeds—</b>		
Linseed .. ..	7,600	
Til .. ..	40,500	
Rape and mustard .. ..	110,000	158,100
<b>Condiments and spices</b> .. ..		5,500
<b>Crops grown for sugar—</b>		
Sugarcane .. ..	10,000	
Other .. ..	900	10,900
<b>Fibres—</b>		
Jute .. ..	126,000	
Sunn hemp .. ..	29,000	155,000
Tobacco .. ..		7,000
Fodder crops .. ..		3,500
Fruits and vegetables .. ..		2,000
<b>Miscellaneous—</b>		
Food .. ..	30,000	
Non-food .. ..	9,500	39,500
<b>Grand total</b> .. ..		<u>1,271,000</u>

The areas under the cultivation of different crops vary according to their price and demand from year to year. It appears from the agricultural statistics of 1930-31, that the area under the cultivation of jute has increased to 155,000 acres, at the expense of food-grains (other than rice), and oil seeds.

According to the Census Report of 1931, the percentage of gross cultivated area under different crops is given below:—

	Per cent.
Rice .. ..	61·3
Other cereals and pulses .. ..	10·4
Jute .. ..	13·0
Fruits and vegetables including root crops .. ..	0·1
Sugar, drugs and narcotics .. ..	0·8
Oil seeds, fodder and other crops .. ..	14·4
	<u>100·0</u>

Rice forms the greater part of the food-supply and is the staple crop of the district. The different varieties of rice are grown abundantly all over the district according to the nature of the soil and

elevation of the land. As a rule, low land produces coarser variety of heavier out-turn than the land of higher elevation, which has the monopoly of finer variety.

Jute comes next to rice as the crop of great economic importance of the district. Rice and jute have been like two wings of the district for a number of years from economic point of view. The cultivators depend on the rice harvest for food as much as they depend on the sale-proceeds of their jute to pay the rent of zamindars and to buy clothings and other bare necessities of life.

Until 1865 jute cultivation in the district was limited only to the local demand which was also very small. The growing demand of the fibre in Europe and America has been responsible for the present proportion of its cultivation in the district. The district, especially Serajganj subdivision, is suited to the best variety of jute known in trade. Serajganj soon became famous as a jute exporting port which at one time used to transact 50 per cent. of the total jute trade in Bengal and the economic life of the district became intimately associated with this fibre. When the trade was good the cultivators of the district had decent returns of their labour in producing the fibre and signs of comparative prosperity was seen all over the district. The present extraordinary low price of the agricultural produce in general and of jute in particular, however, has seriously affected the agriculturists with the result that jute has been replaced by sugarcane in certain areas and the policy of restricting the cultivation of jute with suitable substitutes is gaining ground every day.

Mustard, Kalai, Mug, Khesari, Musuri Rahar, Peas, Wheat, Barley and Linseed are the *rabi* crops of the district of which Mustard, grown after jute, is more extensively cultivated than the rest. Kalai, Mug and Peas are generally grown on Char land when the water subsides.

Khesari, which yields a cheap pulse, is generally grown for fodder of cattle. Another crop of importance is *til* or gingelly which is raised on newly-formed chars where no other crop can be profitably grown.

Tobacco is not a field crop. The limited cultivation of this crop is done on small plots of homestead land for home consumption only.

The recent introduction of sugarcane cultivation over a wide area of land in the Sadar subdivision adjoining the Rajshahi district with the opening of a sugar factory in the vicinity has been a novel feature in the agriculture of the district. There is a great prospect for the agriculturists in this direction. Serajganj subdivision, however, is precluded from sugarcane cultivation owing to the low level of the country.

Considerable quantity of molasses is made from the juice of the local date-palm which grows spontaneously all over the district, especially in the west of Sadar subdivision. The fermented juice is also used as a cheap liquor.

Of the other plants that grow wild in the district, bamboos and canes are the most important. They are indispensable in the make-up of a village hut and form the principal raw-materials of various cottage industries.

Turmeric is a widely cultivated spice in the district, especially in the Sadar subdivision. It is raised in the shade or in the open but the

place must be dry and free from water-logging. The bulbs are planted in rows in the month of May and the rhizomes are taken up in December or January when the leaves have completely withered. They are then boiled in water with cowdung and dried in the sun for a few days before they are ready for the market.

Chillies are extensively cultivated in the district, generally on small plots of homestead land.

Coriander seed and ginger are also grown in abundance.

2. *Vegetables and fruits*.—Large varieties of vegetables and fruits are grown in the district. The following table will give the details of the different principal vegetables:—

Name.	Sowing time.	Time when ready.
1. Brinjal (Baigun)	Seed bed—May-June. Transplanted—July-August.	October-March.
2. Patol	September-October	March-September.
3. Radish	August-November	September-February.
4. Sweet-potato	September-October	February-March.
5. Country beans	June-August	October-January.
6. Kachu	May-June	August-September.
7. Bottle-gourd (Lau)	(1) January-February (2) July-August	March-May. October-January.
8. Gourd (Mitha Kumra)	(1) March-April (2) July-August	June-July. October-January.
9. Pumpkin	April-May	July-October.
10. Jhinga	(1) March-April (2) May-July	July-September. August-November.
11. Dhundul	April-June	July-September.
12. Bitter gourd (Karala)	February-March	April-August.
13. Bitter gourd small (Uchehe)	December-January	March-July.
14. Lady's finger	May-August	August-December.
15. Kankrol	April-May	August-September.
16. Indian horse-radish (sajna)	April	Pods ready by January-April in the 2nd year.
17. Snake-gourd (chim)	May-June	August-September.
18. Yam (Khamalu)	April-May (raised from tuber cuttings).	December-January.
19. Cucumber	(1) December-January (2) June-July	May-August. September-December.
20. Plantain (Kanch-kala)	Suckers planted—June-August	1 year after planting.
21. Potato	October-November	January-March.
22. Pot herbs (sag), viz., Pulin, Palam, Natia, etc.		

Potato has been comparatively an innovation in the agriculture of the district. Cabbages, cauliflowers, etc., are also finding favour with certain farmers. Besides the District Agricultural Institution at

Pabna, S<sub>j</sub>. Naresh Ch. Chowdhury, B.L., of Serajganj is carrying on improved farming at Muladooli near Ishurdi.

Ordinary fruits of the plains, viz., mangoes, jack-fruits, bananas are produced abundantly all over the district. Coconuts are also grown extensively in Dogachi and in certain other areas in the Sadar subdivision. Litchis, lemons, papayas, melons, Indian blackberries, etc., are the other comon fruits of the district.

3. *Mineral resources.*—The whole district consists of recent alluvium and does not possess mineral resources of any description.

4. *Animal products.*—Pabna has been famous for the wealth of its cattle and dairy products from very early times. Although the spread of cultivation with consequent reduction in the grazing ground and repeated floods in recent times have been serious handicaps in the development of cattle by persons of limited means, certain places, viz., Raotara, Potazia, etc., on the river Baral have developed into good cattle centres because of the ideal pasturage afforded by the *char* lands on either sides of the river. The cattle except the milch cows, are annually removed to high lands for about four months during the rains.

The condition of cattle in the district, as it is almost in all parts of Bengal, is very poor. But fortunately, the quality of the cattle and the quantity of the milk obtained from them have been very much improved in Raotara and Potazia by careful selection and breeding. Babu Gour Chandra Ghose of Raotara and Babu Pran Ballav Ghose of Potazia who own large number of cattle and run profitable dairies in their respective places are taking initiative in the direction of cross-breeding and selection of cattle by improving Multani bulls. In course of the last few years they have raised a quality of cattle which has become a source of handsome income to themselves and object of admiration of all the farmers who graze their *bathan* (herd) in the Raotara *pathar* (*char* lands).

The local people who are engaged in the manufacture of ghee, butter and other dairy products do so in a very primitive manner. A huge narrow-mouthed round-bottomed earthen vessel partially embeded in the ground is generally used as a churn. A bamboo churner called "gholat" (গোলট) is kept in the centre of the churn by a circular rope called "golchi" (গল্‌চি). The "gholat" or the churner is rotated by two persons with the help of a rope wound round it called "carl" (কারল) in an indigenous way. Besides ghee, a good quantity of "chchana" (casein) is regularly exported to Calcutta. For the best quality of "chchana" milk is curdled without separating any cream but for common "chchana" various degree of separation is effected according to different grades of product. The cream or butter thus collected is boiled to prepare ghee which is largely exported to Calcutta. In addition to the above milk products, the district is famous for the excellent curd of Shahzadpur and Betil.

The manufacturing process described above is obviously very primitive and wasteful. No cream separator or modern dairy apparatus of any description is used by anybody except Babu Mati Lal Ghose, B.Sc., of Shahzadpur who has recently bought a small Alfa Laval

Separator and a hand-churner which are giving him excellent service. It is expected, however, that the example of Babu Mati Lal Ghose will emulate others to make a departure from the traditional methods of manufacture.

Milk is plentiful in winter and is amazingly cheap, two seers being sold for one anna in the mufassils. Rautara centre alone can control about 300 maunds of milk every day during the winter and the quantity may be increased with proper organisation.

The following statistics of cattle of the district were collected during the Cattle Census of 1920:—

Bulls	..	..	..	..	36,442
Bullocks	..	..	..	..	201,234
Cows	..	..	..	..	214,658
Young stock	..	..	..	..	175,180
Buffaloes (male)	..	..	..	..	12,363
Buffaloes (female)	..	..	..	..	2,608
Young stock	..	..	..	..	621

No cattle census has been taken after 1920 and it is doubted whether the terrible damage done to the cattle of the district by repeated floods of the recent years has been compensated by breeding and importation.

Bulls and bullocks are the mainstay of cultivation and even milch cows are not always spared, for, the economic conditions of the individual peasants hardly permit them to buy more cattle for the requirement of their cultivation. Buffaloes are exclusively used for drawing carts but bulls and bullocks are also very largely used for the purpose. Even in these days of motor buses the good old carts are the principal means of road-transport in the district.

Cowdung is a valuable manure and is universally used as such but a large quantity of it is dried and burnt as fuel.

Bones and skins are largely exported to Calcutta specially by boats during the rains.

Bones of cattle are generally collected in heaps by the dealers in certain elevated places of the field from October to July. During the rains, boats are loaded with these bones and are exported to Calcutta. A certain portion of the bones are crushed and converted into manures, etc., by Bone Mills of Bengal and the rest finds its way to foreign countries, viz., Japan, Germany, England, etc.

The dead animals are flayed and the skin is partially cured by the local "muchis" before it is finally exported to Calcutta usually by boats during the rains.

5. *Fisheries*.—Fish is one of the most important resources of the district. The general configuration of Pabna with the abundance of *bils* scattered all over the district and the network of rivers of varying magnitude, is responsible for the huge quantity of fish caught every year in the district by the fishermen who are known as Maloes. According to the census of 1931, there are 33,664 Maloes in the district

of Pabna who are mostly engaged in fishing. Maloes are generally quite well off, especially the Maloes of Satberia, Majhipara, Himayetpur, Gopalnagar, etc., who style themselves as Halders.

There are varieties of fish available in the district, viz., Hilsa, Rohit, Mrigel, Katal, Dhali, Boail, Aeer, Pangas, Chithal, Tengra, Shelong, Rayek, Rita, Kai, Shing, Magur, etc., of which Hilsa is exclusively a river fish and Kai, Shing and Magur are only available in stagnant water of *bils* or tanks.

As there are varieties of fish in the district, so also there are varieties of means to catch them. Nets of different kinds are used for different varieties of fish. Besides, hooks, jut (a kind of spear with several points), bamboo traps called doar, palo, etc., are also largely used.

Fish forms an important article of protein-food and is greatly relished by the people of almost all communities. Price of fish in the local markets, however, is not so cheap as could be expected, owing to its exportation to Calcutta in large quantities. The peculiar position of the export trade of fish from this district is that the fishermen themselves who actually catch the fish get a very small fraction of the profit. The lion's share of the profit goes to the local *Nikaris* and Calcutta "Dalals" who virtually dictate the price to the fishermen. An effort was, however, made by Babu Jnanendranath Chowdhuri of the "Sara Ice Factory" to protect the fishermen from the organised tyranny of *Nikaris* and *Dalals* by starting "The Lower Ganges Fishermen's Co-operative Bank, Ltd." which unfortunately is not functioning now.

The following table will show the extent of export trade of fish from different stations of Sara-Serajganj Railway. The fish is packed in ice and is almost entirely booked for Calcutta:—

Names of stations.	Export in maunds.	
	1928-29.	1930-31.
1. Serajganj ghat (E. B. Ry.) .. ..	1,054	630
2. Serajganj bazar .. ..	871	960
3. Salap .. ..	..	459
4. Ullapara .. ..	434	1,669
5. Lahiry-Mohanpur .. ..	19,746	20,326
6. Dilpashar .. ..	2,340	6,527
7. Saratnagar .. ..	..	..
8. Bhangura .. ..	14,896	21,331
9. Gooakhora .. ..	..	5,000
10. Chatmohar .. ..	2,559	1,547
11. Muladooli .. ..	50	200
Upendranagore steamer station .. ..	674	1,669

Pearl-fishing is a special feature of the district on account of its rarity. Pearls are obtained from fresh-water shells in the *bils* of police-stations Chatmohar, Ullapara and Shahzadpur. Bagdis and other low castes of Dahakula, Bhattak and Santala (Ullapara), Gopalnagar and

Idilpur (Chatmohar) and Parkola (Shahzadpur) are engaged in the industry. Pearls are generally of small size and are sold for about Rs. 50 each to purchasers from Calcutta and Bogra.

6. *Labour and Capital*.—Labour may generally be divided into two divisions, viz.—

- (i) Agricultural labour, and
- (ii) Industrial labour.

Agricultural labour consists mainly of local Muhammadans. The imported labour, however, is employed to a small extent chiefly for weeding and harvesting in the villages on the border of thanas Pabna and Sujanagar and also in the villages on the river Jamuna from Kushtia subdivision of Nadia and from Dacca, respectively. These two blocks of villages which import labour also send labourers to other districts, mainly to Mymensingh and Bogra and also to Faridpur and Barisal.

Labour is usually hired and there are comparatively only a few labourers who are farm hands drawing yearly wages of Rs. 48 to 72 with food and clothing. The rate of wages of hired labour varies from three annas to eight annas per day with food, according to the season and the demand. The wages are also paid in kind.

A portion of industrial labour is imported from Behar and the United Provinces for large construction works and for the jute presses at Serajganj. Thousands of up-country labourers were imported in the district in connection with the construction of Sara-Serajganj railway and the great Hardinge Bridge at Paksey and many were employed in the jute presses at Serajganj when the jute trade was in its best with the result that many permanent colonies of up-country people have grown up at Serajganj, Sara and certain other places of the district. A large proportion of industrial labour, however, consists of local labourers who are either employed in hosiery and other factories or engaged in various cottage industries at home, the number of persons engaged in weaving alone being roughly estimated to be about 15,000.

Numerous banks, co-operative credit societies and private Mahajans (money-lenders) used to advance plenty of money on the guarantee of adequate landed property or jewellery at a varying rate of interest during the pre-depression period. But money has become scarce nowadays due to the unusual reduction of price of agricultural produce, and majority of the banks and credit societies have completely collapsed owing to the inability of the creditors to pay off their dues. Capital has become extremely shy but the value of gold being very high at present money may readily be secured from private Mahajans on the guarantee of gold jewellery.

### CHAPTER III.

#### Industries.

Pabna has been famous for its cottage industries, especially, the weaving of cotton cloths on hand-loom, from very early times. Even in the days of Dacca muslins, Pabna fabrics had a reputation which seriously challenged the supremacy of the products of Dacca and other historic seats of weaving industry. Fortunately, however, Pabna enjoys



the same position in regard to weaving industry even in these days of mill competition.

Mass production in factory system was first introduced in the district in the form of indigo factories by the European industrialists about a century ago. Indigo factories, which were scattered all over the district, were subsequently replaced by jute-press factories at Serajganj with European capital and management, the first factory with local capital and management being the Pabna Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd., which was started in 1905 to manufacture hosiery articles. Many hosiery factories have since then been started in Pabna by different names along with certain other factories to produce different products.

The industries of Pabna may, therefore, be divided into two divisions, viz., (i) factory industries and (ii) cottage industries, for a comprehensive treatment of the subject.

### 1. *Factory industries.*

(a) *Jute presses.*—More than thirty concerns of different sizes were engaged in pressing of jute into bales before they were exported when the jute trade was good. Hydraulic presses were largely used for the purpose but steam and oil engines were also used. This industry used to employ about 3,000 hands during the jute season. But the unusual depression of jute trade for the last few years has resulted in the closing down of many jute press factories at Serajganj and also at certain other jute centres of the district. The principal jute presses that are still operating are those of Ralli Brothers, George Henderson, Landale & Clark, Ltd., Chittagong Co., Hari Singh Nihalchand, etc., at Serajganj, Bera and Nakalia.

(b) *Hosiery.*—The most important feature of the hosiery industry lies in the fact that it is entirely financed and managed by local people. Ever since the starting of the Pabna Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd., in 1905, there has been a phenomenal success of the industry for some years yet till 1930 when it was very badly hit by the general trade depression and Japanese competition.

Until recently the hosiery companies of Pabna paid very attractive dividends. The dividends declared by the Pabna Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd., from 1921 to 1926 are given below:—

Year.						Dividend per cent.
						Per year.
1921	..	..	..	..	..	15
1922	..	..	..	..	..	20
1923	..	..	..	..	..	25
1924	..	..	..	..	..	30
1925	..	..	..	..	..	50
1926	..	..	..	..	..	40

In view of the brilliant success of the Pabna Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd., several hosiery factories were started at Pabna within the last

few years. A list of the hosiery companies, both private and limited, is given below:—

1. Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd.
2. Banamali Hosiery Mills, Ltd.
3. Radhakrishna Hosiery Factory.
4. Lakshmi Hosiery, Ltd.
5. Harinath Hosiery Factory.
6. Shaha Brothers' Hosiery.
7. Silpa Samavaya.
8. Bharat Mungal.
9. Textile Factory.
10. Knitting Factory.

Unfortunately, however, many of the factories mentioned have gone into liquidation as rapidly as they came into existence owing to general trade depression and serious Japanese competition. Saha Brothers, Silpa Samavaya, Bharat Mungal and Textile Factory, have already closed their doors and others with more resources to sustain loss for some time yet, are facing a grim fight to survive the overwhelming odds of the present by considerable reduction in their output.

The hosiery products of Pabna, especially those of Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd., have become extremely popular in Bengal and also in certain other provinces, viz., Behar, Bombay, etc., where the company has agencies. The Pabna quality has earned such a reputation for durability and finish that the hosiery factories lately started in Calcutta and other places are endeavouring to turn out products similar to that of Pabna and even Japan is trying to exploit the good name of Pabna by sending out huge quantities of cheap hosiery products with a seal having "Pabna" in big types and below that "Japan" in small types.

Slight improvement of the industry, however, has been evident very recently after the imposition of fresh tariff on Japanese hosiery goods. Certain details of the important hosiery factories at Pabna are given in the following table:—

## Details of the important hosiery factories at Pabna.

(The information was collected in April, 1933.)

Name and address of the firm.	Location of the factory.	When established.	Names of manufactured articles.	Number of operatives employed.	Description of the power used.	Description of the raw material.	Average value of the annual consumption of raw materials.	Average value of annual out-turn.	Average price at which sold.
1. Silpa Sanjibani Co., Ltd.	Pabna	1905 ..	Banians, sweaters, vests, under-wears, etc.	Pre-depression—350 with double shift. Now—100.	Steam ..	Madura, American and British yarn.	Pre-depression—Rs. 2½ lakhs. Now—Rs. 70,000	Pre-depression—Rs. 6 lakhs. Now—Rs. 1 lakh.	Rs. 5 per dozen of banians.
2. Banamali Hosiery Mills, Ltd.	Do. ..	1927 ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—80. Now—30.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—Rs. 1½ lakhs. Now—Rs. 60,000	Pre-depression—Rs. 2½ lakhs. Now—Rs. 75,000.	Ditto.
3. Radha Krishna Hosiery Factory.	Do. ..	1925 ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—45. Now—20.	Oil engine ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—Rs. 75,000. Now—Rs. 15,000	Pre-depression—Rs. 1½ lakhs. Now—Rs. 25,000.	Rs. 4 per dozen of banian.
4. Laksmi Hosiery, Ltd.	Do. ..	1926 ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—60. Now—20.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—Rs. 1 lakh. Now—Rs. 20,000	Pre-depression—Rs. 2 lakhs. Now—Rs. 30,000.	Ditto.
5. Harinath Hosiery Factory.	Do. ..	1923 ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—40. Now—18.	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Pre-depression—Rs. 25,000. Now—Rs. 13,000	Pre-depression—Rs. 40,000. Now—Rs. 20,000.	Ditto.

(c) *Ice factory*.—An ice factory of the capacity of 25 tons was first started at Sara by Babu Narayandas Burman of 55, Olive Street, Calcutta, about 20 years now mainly to meet the ice-requirements of the local export trade of fish. Unfortunately the site of the factory was washed away by the Padma about 15 years ago when the machines were dismantled and a new factory was started at Rajbari, Faridpur, with the same machines. A company called "New Bengal Ice Factory, Ltd." was, however, started with a five-ton machine bought from the dismantled factory. But the limited company subsequently went into liquidation and the factory was re-purchased by Babu Narayandas Burman who was also a director of the company.

The factory, which remained idle for a few years, has resumed operation since 1931, by the name "Sara Ice Factory". It consists of the following equipments:—

1. One 5-ton ammonia compressor (Haslum & Co., Ltd., Derby, England).
2. One 3-ton ammonia compressor (American).
3. One Oil Engine, 62-69 B.H.P.

The 3-ton compressor is kept extra to meet any breakdown. There is also a tube-well for the supply of water.

The factory runs in full load from July to December for the large export of Hilsa and Pona fish. The firm employs about 20 hands including an Engineer.

Ice is also imported in the district of Pabna from Calcutta, the freight being about 15 as. per maund and the firm at Sara, has, therefore, to face keen competition with it. Ice is transported by pilot train from Sara to Ishurdi and delivered free within the distance of 50 miles at the following price:—

- (1) For fish—Re. 1 per maund.
- (2) For purposes other than fish—Re. 1-8.

The ice is produced in blocks weighing 3 maunds each.

There was another ice factory at Serajganj which after a brief existence went into liquidation about 15 years ago.

(d) *Flour mills*.—Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, B.Sc., is the manager-proprietor of a small flour mills at Sara, called "The Ganes Flour Mills", which was started in 1931, to manufacture flour, dal and chchati musuri. The factory employs 10 hands and has the following equipments:—

1. One Oil Engine—6 B.H.P.
2. One Flour Machine.
3. One fanner to remove husks and impurities from dal.
4. Two chchati musur machines.

The flour machine has a capacity of producing 3½ maunds per hour and the two chchati musur machines have an output of about 5 maunds per hour.

Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee is a very energetic youngman and entertains an ambitious scheme to extend his activities.

(e) *Sugar making.*—A small sugar factory of the capacity of about one ton per day was started at Bera about the middle of 1933 to produce sugar from *gur* with the following equipments:—

- (i) One oil engine of 5 B.H.P.
- (ii) Two centrifugal machines.
- (iii) Several iron pans and earthen vessels to refine and crystallise the *gur* before treating it in the centrifugal machines.

The factory manufactured sugar for some time, but is now lying idle for about 6 months for some technical difficulties.

(f) *Printing presses.*—There are many printing presses in the district both big and small. The Nababikash Press at Pabna is the oldest but the best and perhaps the largest press of the district is the Satsung Kshiroda Smriti Press at Himaitpur with about 30 hands working in it. A list of the printing presses working in the district is given below:—

1. The Satsung Kshiroda Smriti Press, Himayetpur.
2. The Nababikash Press, Pabna.
3. The Suraj Press, Pabna.
4. The Pabna-Bogra Hitaishi Press, Pabna.
5. The Sarada Press, Pabna.
6. The Kamala Press, Pabna.
7. The Kohinoor Press, Pabna.
8. The Bhabasundari Press, Pabna.
9. The Shyama Press, Pabna.
10. The Saraswati Press, Pabna.
11. The Banawarinagar Press, Banawarinagar.
12. The Victoria Press, Serajganj.
13. The Lakshi Press, Serajganj.
14. The Kamala Press, Serajganj.
15. The Lahiry Press, Serajganj.
16. The Bharati Press, Serajganj.
17. The Saraswati Press, Serajganj.
18. The Bandhab Press, Shahzadpur.
19. The Salap Sanyal Press, Salap.
20. The Girish Press, Sthal.

(g) *Electric installation.*—At present there are two electric installations in the district, one at Serajganj started by a limited company and the other at Himayetpur near Pabna, started by the Satsang Asram,

mainly for lighting purpose. A limited company was, however, started at Pabna a few years ago for the electrification of the town, but unfortunately the work of the Company has not yet extended beyond erecting a number of posts along certain roads of Pabna town.

### *Cottage industries.*

(a) *Cotton weaving.*—Cotton weaving is by far the most important indigenous industry and constitutes a major factor in the economic life of the district, next only to agriculture. The industry is carried on all over the district either as a main or subsidiary occupation chiefly by the Muhammadan Jolas, commonly called Karikars. There are, however, a small number of Hindu weavers known as 'Tantis' and 'Kapaliks' near Pabna town and certain other places of the district. The main centres of the cotton weaving industry are as follows:—

*Sadar subdivision.*—Aminpur, Sibpur, Mashunda, Manikdia, Chalasa, Gopalpur, Nischintapur, Chithalia, Sadullapur, Tingacha, Daripara, Mulgram, Hariपुर, Singa, Pailanpur, Jagannathpur, Bethor, Baludiar, Raghobpur, Sibrampur, Ekdanta, Khukheri, Dogachi, Chankibari, Santhia, Kuchiamora, Ataikula, Brignakhora, Tarabaria, Lakshipur, Bera, Faridpur, and Sagarkandi.

*Serajganj subdivision.*—Delua, Shohagpur, Enayetpur, Shahzadpur, Tamai, Ajugahra, Manikpur, Sachapur, Randhunibari, Chholadhul, Basantipur, Gaschapri, Dighalkandi, Betil, Daulatour, Amdanga, Sthal, Pachila, Machimpur, Gopalpur, and Lakshikola.

The probable number of hand-looms working in the district will be about 15,000 of which the number of fly-shuttle looms will be about 5,000.

Although the cotton weaving on hand-looms is primarily a cottage industry, enterprising weavers at certain localities, especially at Shahzadpur and Enayetpur, have organised small factories of their own with 20 to 100 fly-shuttle looms which are generally worked by young weavers in contract system. In this connection the names of Md. Hossain Ali of Shahzadpur and Hazi Khadem Ali Munshi and Md. Muzaffaruddin Talukdar of Enayetpur who have started veritable factories of hand-looms at their respective places deserve special mention for the phenomenal success of their work.

Md. Hossain Ali of Shahzadpur who was formerly a student of the Peripatetic Weaving School of the Department of Industries, started his career with a couple of fly-shuttle looms a few years ago. Within a short time he has become the Secretary of the local weaving school and owner of about a hundred looms by sheer initiative and enterprise. He has ideal arrangements for bleaching and dyeing of yarn and has made extraordinary success in turning out excellent shirtings of popular shades of colour which has been his speciality. The example of Md. Hossain Ali has encouraged certain other persons both Hindus and Muhammadans of the locality to start similar small factories which have transformed Shahzadpur considerably within the last three years. The shirtings of popular shades of colour first introduced by Md. Hossain Ali are now widely imitated all over the district.

Hazi Khadem Ali Munshi and Md. Muzaffaruddin Talukdar of Enayetpur have started two small hand-loom weaving factories in their village which is populated entirely by Muhammadan weavers numbering about two thousands and which has already been famous for hand-loom weaving. Both of them derived great advantages from the training of the Peripatetic Weaving School which was stationed in their village for about three years. The special feature of the work of Hazi Khadem Ali Munshi lies in the fact that he is endeavouring for the last few months to introduce silk and wool weaving in his factory.

Formerly the yarn used was mostly English, but owing to cheapness of price Japanese yarn has now captured the market. The English and American yarn is also used in weaving particular kinds of products, viz., shirtings, high quality saris, etc.

Yarn is supplied from Calcutta and sometimes from Kushtia (Nadia), by big yarn dealers mainly Marwaris. It is then distributed all over the district by the middle-men through the famous yarn-hats, i.e., Dehra, Shibpur, etc. A few influential weavers, who carry on mass production in small factories, however, buy their yarn from Calcutta and thus eliminate the profit of the middle-men who get the lion's share of the profit of the industry by organising the supply of raw materials and marketing of finished products which the ordinary weavers are not in a position to do. 20's, 22's, 24's, 26's, 32's and 40's yarns are of great demand but yarn of 60's to 120's is also used to a limited extent for the weaving of fine cloths which is generally done by the Hindu weavers of Sadullapur, Nischintapur, Aminpur within Sadar subdivision and Gachapur, Chhotodhul, Delua, etc., within Serajganj subdivision. It is roughly estimated that yarn worth about 75 lakhs of rupees are annually imported by the district which turns out cotton fabrics to the value of about a crore of rupees.

Common cloths for women and children, gamchas, chadars and lungis are largely manufactured all over the country. Shirtings and saris of up-to-date designs are mainly manufactured at Shahzadpur, Enayetpur, Tamai, etc.

Shirtings and saris of modern design manufactured in the district also find a ready market in Calcutta and in other districts of Bengal. Large quantities of cloths, gamchas, lungis, etc., find their way to different districts from the various cloth hats of Pabna. The following are the chief centres of trade in local cloths.

(i) *Sadar subdivision*.—Ekdanta, Mathura, Sujanagar, Banagram, Dhulauri, Kashinathpur, Shibpur, Pailanpur, Bhanguria and Demra.

(ii) *Serajganj subdivision*.—Delmar Hat, Shohagpur, Shahzadpur, Kaijuri and Ajugacha.

Bleaching and dyeing of yarn are done extensively in the different centres of weaving. The quality of dyes and the technique of dyeing have improved enormously in recent years owing to the door-to-door propaganda and technical assistance of the agents of Haverro Trading Co., Ltd., of Germany, which has the monopoly of dye business of the district.

The average monthly income of an ordinary weaver using country looms varies from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 while a weaver using fly-shuttle

looms earns from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month. Women folks and even children of the families help the weavers in setting up the warp and winding the bobbins and in various other ways. It is estimated that about 10 per cent. of the weavers of the district have agriculture as their subsidiary occupation.

(b) *Jute weaving*.—The weaving of dyed jute yarn in hand-looms for the manufacture of useful articles, viz., ashans, jainamas, bags, mattress, etc., has been rather a new industry in the district. Pabna being famous for its jute it is obvious that the industry should thrive in the locality but unfortunately the persons who have started jute weaving after adequate training under the Jute Weaving Demonstration party at Bera are not doing well in the absence of any demand for their articles. People are not yet accustomed to jute articles and perhaps more propaganda and push should be brought to bear before the industry could be made a success.

(c) *Wool weaving*.—The weaving of coarse wool yarn in crude hand-looms for the manufacture of rough blankets is carried on to a limited extent at Sara by some families who migrated there from Behar. At present only two persons are employed in the industry, viz. :—

(i) Rajendra Nath Chowdhury (read up to I.A.).

(ii) Rambaran Chowdhury.

As far as Sara is concerned, the industry is a dyeing one but good results are expected from Satsang Asram at Himayetpur where a wool weaving party gave demonstration for over a year in the manufacture of woollen wrappers, scarves, vests, shirting, etc., in Jacquard machines.

(d) *Rope and string making*.—Rope and string making industry is commonly carried on by Jalia Kaivartas along the riverside of the Serajganj subdivision and on the Bera-Nakalia side of Sadar subdivision. They are made in large quantities from jute and hemp and also to a very limited extent from cocoanut coir and are put to various domestic and industrial uses. A special kind of hemp-string called "gun" is widely made at Nakalia and is commonly used for towing boats. Another variety of hemp-string is largely used for making fishing nets. The coarse two-ply jute string usually called "taita" is made mainly by the Muhammadans and is universally used in thatching and repairing roofs, etc. Single-ply strings of both hemp and jute are first made by *takko* both by males and females of the families engaged in the industry. Average monthly income of a person engaged in the industry working 7 to 8 hours a day is about Rs. 10.

(e) *Basket making*.—The making of baskets called *dhamas* from the local cane is an important industry among a class of people known as Betua Muchis. The baskets are made of various sizes to hold 3 to 20 kacha seers and are exported mainly to Rajshahi, Calcutta and certain other places of the province. Average monthly income of a person in this industry is about Rs. 8.

(f) *Pati making*.—Pati or rather sital-pati making is an old industry of the district. It is carried on by a class of Hindus known as "Patia" in Jhawal, Tethulia, Kaliaharipur and Atgharia in the subdivision of Serajganj. Both males and females are engaged in the industry and it is interesting to note that the father of a girl highly skilled in "Pati" making gets handsome dowry at the time of her marriage.



(g) *Bamboo industry*.—The bamboo is extensively used in the making of various useful articles. The lower caste Hindus, viz., Doms, Muchis, Basfores, Methars, etc., earn their livelihood by making “dala” “dali” (basket), pakha (fan), chatai, fishing traps, etc., which find ready sale in local hats. Besides, the bamboo is indispensable in fencing and in the building of thatched houses which are common in rural areas.

(h) *Carpentry*.—Carpentry has been an important cottage industry of the district for a very long time. The “Sutradhars” of the district are very skilful in their works and earn their living by building boats and making furniture, viz., doors, windows, chowkis (bedsteads), chairs, tables, benches, etc. In this connection the name of Sj. Umes Chandra Sutradhar of Shahzadpur deserves special mention. He has obtained a first class certificate from the All-India Arts and Crafts Exhibition held in Calcutta for the excellence of his wood works. In addition to high class furniture, he is at present engaged in the manufacture of the semi-automatic type of loom, called the Chittaranjan loom, which has been recently introduced in the district. The import of Chittaranjan looms from Calcutta has been greatly reduced by the good quality and low price of those manufactured at Shahzadpur.

(i) *Smithy*.—The workshops of the blacksmiths are found in almost all hats and bazars of the district. The agricultural and other implements of common use, such as, plough-shares, kodalis (spades), sickles, daos, axes, carpenters’ tools, knives, etc., are generally made for the local requirement. The methods used are very crude and require improvement. The Cutlery Demonstration Party which recently operated at Serajganj for about a year in connection with the middle class unemployment relief scheme, used to give regular instructions to the caste Karmakars in the tempering and annealing of iron in addition to training the *bhadralok* youths. The agricultural implements of Baserbadha in the Sara police-station and the betel-nut cutters and daos of Sutanara in the Kazipur police-station, however, have a special reputation for service and durability. Besides, there are many goldsmiths in the district who are engaged in making ornaments.

(j) *Brass and bell-metal industry*.—Malanchi and certain other villages of the district were once famous for the brass and bell-metal industry which is virtually dead at present owing to the competition of cheap aluminium wares. A few Kansaris at Lakshmipur within the Serajganj subdivision, however, are still engaged in making brass and bell-metal utensils. A young man has recently started a small brass and bell-metal factory at Pabna and is now manufacturing door knobs, hinges, paper weights, ash trays and certain small utensils, etc., as a result of his training in the Brass and Bell-metal Demonstration Party which worked there for about a year. The result of the enterprise is awaited with interest.

(k) *Paper making*.—Hand-made paper is manufactured at Kandapara near Serajganj by the Muhammadans known as Kagazis from the pulp made out of jute with lime. At present about 12 families are engaged in the industry more or less as a subsidiary occupation. The price of the paper is rather high, usually about 10 annas per quire at present. The product is entirely used by the Marwaris and Mahajans for their account books and even exported to Assam for the same purpose. Although it is not possible for hand-made paper to compete

with what is produced in machine, certain demand for the former is bound to exist so long as the prejudices of Marwaris and Mahajans in its favour will endure.

(l) *Pottery*.—Pottery is an important industry and is carried on by the Hindu Kumbhakars mostly in Khukni, Ullapara, Majhipara and Singa in the Serajganj subdivision. Earthen utensils and vessels such as *haris*, *patils*, *kalshis*, *charis* (vats), etc., are made from the local clay and fired in indigenous kilns. *Haris*, *patils* and black *charis* of Astamanisha and Mrijapur of Sadar subdivision have a special reputation for durability. Ishurdi is also famous for its water jugs called "Kujas." In addition to the articles mentioned above, the Kumbhakars of Kola and Gobindapur prepare excellent idols. Earthen toys and dolls are also made at Satentali and are largely sold in different melas. It has been the custom of the Kumbhakars to load their boats with their products during the rainy season and move about in and outside the district for selling them largely in exchange for paddy.

(m) *Brick and tile making*.—The manufacture of bricks and tiles is done in indigenous kilns known as *pajas* and also in Bull's patent kilns. During the winter and early summer the industry employs lot of labour and is paying. For the operation of Bull's patent kiln, moulders and mistries are often imported from Behar.

(n) *Pearl fishing*.—Pearl fishing is a small but interesting industry peculiar to this district. It is carried on by Bagdis and other low castes of Dahakula, Bhattakar and Santala (Ullapara), Gopalnagar and Idilpur (Chatmohar) and Parkola (Shahzadpur) in the *bils* of thanas Chatmohar, Ullapara and Shahzadpur from February till the middle of June. The pearls obtained from fresh water shells are usually of small size and are sold for about Rs. 45 each.

(o) *Hide curing and shoe making*.—Hide curing is done by the butchers and Muchis of the district mostly on behalf of the Muhammadan hide dealers from Dacca on a system of advances. Dhaks, Dhols and certain other musical instruments of leather are made by the locally cured hide.

Shoe-making has been a monopoly of the up-country *chamars* until lately when the industry has engaged the attention of the local people. Jogesh Chandra Das is a good shoe-maker of Pabna who on average makes about 15 pairs of shoes to order. Besides, there are three other educated young men belonging to orthodox Brahmin families who have thrown asunder the popular prejudices against the industry and have jointly started a small shoe factory of their own as a result of their training in the Boot and Shoe-making Demonstration Party which worked at Pabna for about seven months.

(p) *Oil pressing*.—The indigenous oil press called "ghany" is exclusively used for the extraction of oil from mustard and til seeds which are grown abundantly in the district. The local Muhammadan *kulus* mostly in Pangashi and Bhanguria and a few Hindu *tilis* are engaged in the industry. The local *kulus* and *tilis* are up against the cheap, machine-made, adulterated mustard oil which is now imported in the district in large quantities and has been a serious menace to the ghany industry. In view of the adulteration and competitive price

it is becoming increasingly difficult, even in rural areas, to obtain pure oil. The oilcake is generally used as a cattle-feed.

(q) *Soap making*.—The manufacture of washing soap in small scale is comparatively a new industry of the district but unfortunately not altogether a successful one. Many small factories of varying capacities (1 maund to 15 maunds per batch) were started at Pabna, Bera, Serajganj, Nischintapur, Shahzadpur, etc., but only a few of them have survived the severe competition of Dacca soap which has almost the entire monopoly of the market.

The Iswar Soap Factory at Serajganj and the Pabna Soap Factory at Nischintapur which have capacities of producing 70 and 50 maunds of washing soap per month respectively, are perhaps the only two factories of the district which are still selling their soap in competition with Dacca product. Both these factories manufacture their products by semi-boiling process. The Pabna Soap Factory at Nischintapur was started by Dr. Bimal Krishna Saha in September, 1931, and within the two years that followed he managed to sell 600 maunds of soap in the local *hâts* and bazars. Dr. Saha manufactures two qualities of soap, the first and the second, which are called "Bharat Ball" and "Jagat Ball," respectively. Both the balls have become quite popular to the public. Tîl oil which is a cheap local product forms one of the ingredients of the soap made at Nischintapur.

(r) *Umbrella making*.—Bending and marking of umbrella handles and assembling the same with other parts most of which are imported from the foreign countries, viz., Japan, England, Germany, etc., constitute a profitable occupation. There are three small factories in the district engaged in this industry, one at Serajganj and two at Pabna. The factories at Pabna have been started by two persons as the result of the training they received from the Umbrella Demonstration Party which operated at Pabna for about a year.

(s) *Aerated water making*.—Aerated water is manufactured at Pabna and Serajganj on a small scale. But unfortunately the local aerated water is not in much demand owing to its unsatisfactory quality.

(t) *Gur making*.—Gur is made in large quantities in the district, especially in the Sadar Subdivision, from the following sources:—

- (i) The juice of the sugarcane obtained either by mechanical or indigenous crushing.
- (ii) The juice of the date-palm which is obtained by tapping the tree from October to March.

The juice is concentrated in iron pans of varying size according to the dimension of the industry and made into balls or cakes of gur as the case may be. Gur making is a difficult art and the quality depends entirely on the skill and experience brought to bear at the time of boiling. After meeting the local requirements, considerable quantity of *gur* is annually exported to other districts especially from the port of Bera which is a famous *hât* for the product.

### 3. *Industrial Education.*

The Elliott-Banamali Technical School, the Government Weaving School at Pabna and two peripatetic weaving schools working at different weaving centres, are the main institutions for the industrial education in the district.

The Elliott-Banamali Technical School at Pabna was established in 1892. The institution has now four departments, viz., sub-overseer, amin, artisan and motor mechanic classes. The subjects taught in different departments are as follows:—

(i) *Sub-overseer Department.*—Mathematics, surveying, drawing, engineering, mechanics, carpentry, blacksmithy.

(ii) *Amin Department.*—Surveying, mathematics, drawing and engineering.

(iii) *Artisan Department.*—Carpentry, blacksmithy and elementary drawing.

(iv) *Motor Mechanic Department.*—Mathematics, mechanics, engineering with special reference to internal combustion engines, drawing, blacksmithy. Previously practical instruction was given to the B class boys of the local Zilla school which has, however, got its own workshop now.

The Government Weaving School at Pabna was established in 1915. The subjects taught are practical weaving, design and analysis of cloth, yarn calculation and drawing. The weaving school has been serving most useful purpose ever since its establishment by imparting knowledge of improved weaving to the sons of weavers as well as non-weavers of the district.

The two peripatetic weaving schools have also contributed much towards the present improved condition of the weaving industry at Shahzadpur, Enayetpur and various other places of the district.

## CHAPTER IV.

### Trade and Banking.

#### 1. *Import and Export.*

The import and export trade of the district is carried on by three different ways, viz.—

(i) Steamers.

(ii) Country boats.

(iii) Railways.

The import trade of Pabna consists mainly in salt, kerosine oil, foreign yarn, corrugated iron sheets, cloths, tar, sugar, blankets,

stationery goods, paddy (from Rangpur, Dinajpur, etc.), cocoanut (from Barisal), tobacco, potato, rice and mangoes (from Maldah), which are distributed all over the district through the various railway and steamer stations as well as certain other trade centres, Bera being the most important, which control a number of waterways and are accessible by boat from most parts of the district during the greater part of the year. Salt, kerosine oil, cloths and yarn being the indispensable necessities of rural life, are imported in the district in large quantities. The import of corrugated iron sheets which had a great demand for roofing purposes a few years ago, has been substantially reduced owing to the great economic depression in recent years.

Agricultural produces, specially the jute, form the main bulk of the export trade of the district. The following account of the export trade of the district is given in the District Gazetteer of Pahua (1923):—

“Jute is exported mainly from Serajganj, Ullapara, Bhangura, Ishurdi, Sara, Nazirgunge, Satbaria, Sagarkandi, Nakalia and Bera to Calcutta. Cereals, e.g., gram, peas, khesari, etc., as well as mustard, are exported to Bogra and Mymensingh mainly from Ullapara, Serajganj, Ishurdi, Sara, Satbaria, Nakalia and Bera. Tamarind fruit is exported to a certain extent to Calcutta, Mymensingh and Dacca, Jamtoil being the principal exporting centre. Middlemen are said to make large profits over this business buying at 12 annas per maund and selling at Rs. 3 per maund. Ghee is exported mainly to Calcutta from Khamarullapara (Belkuchi police-station), Ballopara (Ullapara police-station), Shahzadpur, Potazia, Panjana, Jamirta (Shahzadpur police-station), Bhangura (Faridpur police-station), Chatmohar, Ishurdi (Sara police-station) and Bharenga (Bera police-station). Fowls and ducks and their eggs are exported to Calcutta from almost every station on the Sara-Serajganj Railway. The trade is especially brisk at Salop where 3 or 4 boxes of eggs are despatched daily. Eggs are collected by middlemen from door-to-door and at the hats at 3 to 5 annas a dozen and fetch double in Calcutta. Owing to this trade it is difficult to procure fowls and eggs in places near the railway stations. Fowls are also exported to Calcutta from Sujanagar *via* Pangsa railway station. Fish caught in the *bils* in Kazipur, Faridpur, Taras and Chatmohar police-stations are exported to Calcutta from Serajganj and from Bhangura and Saratnagar railway stations. Those caught at Jamuna are exported to Calcutta from Sthal by steamer. Hilsa fish caught in the Padma are exported by railway from Sara and from Sagarkandi and Nazirgunge *via* Belgachi railway station. Dried fish is exported from Padai (Sujanagar police-station) to Calcutta.

“Goats and sheep are brought to hats, especially at Ratankandi, in quantities of a few hundred by *beparis* and in lesser quantities of thirties and forties to hats in Chauhali police-station and sent off to Calcutta. Chauhali, Talgach (Shahzadpur police-station) and Arankhola do a considerable trade during the cold weather in cattle, which are mainly exported to Dacca and Mymensingh. Bones are collected all over the district by *muchis* and butchers, mostly in Kazipur police-station and Sara police-station, and exported to Messrs. Ralli Brothers at Calcutta. Hides are also collected by the same class and exported to Calcutta through middlemen from Kalia Khandapara (Serajganj), Shahzadpur, Char Kawak (Ullapara police-station),

Dashiki (Kamarkhanda police-station), Bhanguria (Faridpur police-station), Ishurdi, Chandia, Ekdanta, Nayan Sibpur and Debottar (Atgharia police-station), Satbaria (Sujanagar) and Aralia (Bera police-station).

“Twine is exported to Calcutta from Serajganj; onions from Jorpukhuria (Sujanagar police-station) to Bhairab; turmeric from Chinakhora and Dakshin Birampur (Sujanagar police-station) to Dacca and Mymensingh and molasses from Ahmadpur and Sujanagar to Dacca and Mymensingh. Cane baskets are exported from Chandra, Ekdanta, Atgharia, Debottar (Atgharia police-station) and Pabna to Calcutta and Rajshahi. The vegetables known as patol are sent from Pabna to Dacca and Mymensingh, and earthen pots (surahi) are despatched by rail from Ishurdi to Calcutta and other places on the line, e.g., Nator, Santahar and Dinajpur.”

The above account of the export trade of Pabna given about 10 years ago remains substantially the same to-day except perhaps for a few minor changes. Within the last few years Raotara near Potazia on the river Baral has developed into an excellent dairy centre which exports large quantities of ghee to Calcutta every year and Lahiry Mohanpur exports more fish to Calcutta than any other station in the Sara-Serajganj Railway. *Gur* has become an important product of trade and is mostly exported from Bera, Nakalia and Serajgunge. Bamboos from Pabna, Gayespur, and Kuchiamora are largely exported to Dacca. Besides the earthen pots despatched by rail to other parts of the Province, a large proportion of the trade is carried on by boats which take the products to the neighbouring districts and sell them in exchange for paddy. The products of the hand-loom industry, viz., saris, shirtings, gamchas, lungis, etc., are exported to Calcutta and other places in considerable quantities. The exports of the hosiery products of Pabna to Calcutta and many other places in Bengal and outside Bengal are indeed significant. As a large proportion of the import and export trade of the district is carried on by boats without leaving any accessible record anywhere it is practically impossible to collect faithful statistics of the same. The import and export figures in regard to certain commodities, however, have been obtained from the different railway stations within the district which are given below. Except the two steamer stations, the figures of which are mentioned in this connection, it was not possible to obtain informations in that direction from any other steamer ghats of the district including the Serajgunge ghat which is undoubtedly the most important station of the import and export trade.

## Serajganj Ghat, E.B.Ry. (parcels and goods).

*Imports.*

				1928-29.	1930-31.
				Mds.	Mds.
1.	Sugar	..	..	67,368	32,666
2.	Umbrella	..	..	....	....
3.	Shoe	..	..	....	....
4.	Matches	..	..	....	....
5.	Soap	..	..	2	64
6.	Cutleries	..	..	....	....
7.	Glasswares	..	..	....	4
8.	Cloth	..	..	14	21
9.	Gunny and Hessian	..	..	....	....
10.	Salt	..	..	19,425	9,791
11.	Yarns	..	..	....	....

*Exports.*

				1928-29.	1930-31.
				Mds.	Mds.
1.	Cloth	..	..	....	....
2.	Hosiery	..	..	....	....
3.	Turmeric	..	..	....	....
4.	Fish	..	..	1,054	630
5.	Jute	..	..	94,390	135,857
6.	Pulses	..	..	....	1,380

## Serajganj Bazar, E.B.Ry. (parcels and goods).

*Imports.*

	1928-29.	1930-31.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	116,413	52,457
2. Umbrella .. .. .	224	155
3. Shoe .. .. .	1,174	525
4. Matches .. .. .	715	363
5. Soap .. .. .	1,918	935
6. Cutleries .. .. .	24	22
7. Glassware .. .. .	207	117
8. Cloth .. .. .	102,051	38,835
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	171	148
10. Salt .. .. .	181,299	141,436
11. Yarns .. .. .	97	40

*Exports.*

	1928-29.	1930-31.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	88	45
2. Hosiery .. .. .	212	63
3. Turmeric .. .. .	.....	.....
4. Fish .. .. .	871	960
5. Jute .. .. .	1,194,751	1,108,418
6. Pulses .. .. .	7,592	12,534



## Jamtali Station, E. B. Railway.

*Imports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	708	815	505	892
2. Umbrella .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Matches .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Shoe .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Soap .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Cutleries .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. Glasswares .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Salt .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Yarns .. .. .	Nil	Nil	30	47

*Exports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	2,500	2,232	1,936	2,008
2. Hosiery .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Fish .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Jute .. .. .	25,592	16,346	12,967	8,637
6. Pulses .. .. .	Nil	233	Nil	6,236

## Salap Station, E. B. Railway.

*Imports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	721	330	73	..
2. Umbrella .. .. .	..	..	..	..
3. Matches .. .. .	3	20	6	..
4. Shoe .. .. .	..	..	..	..
5. Soap .. .. .	3	9	3	..
6. Cutleries .. .. .	..	..	..	..
7. Glasswares .. .. .	3	1	6	4
8. Cloth .. .. .	78	172	6	29
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	..	..	..	1
10. Salt .. .. .	331	331	300	..
11. Yarns .. .. .	..	..	..	..

*Exports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	..	..	87	123
2. Hosiery .. .. .	..	..	..	..
3. Turmeric .. .. .	..	..	..	..
4. Fish .. .. .	Nil	..	459	349
5. Jute .. .. .	15,064	7,945	6,211	2,212
6. Pulses .. .. .	..	..	102	1,682

## Statement of Uhapara Ghat Station.

*Imports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	5,360	5,730	6,200	4,291
2. Umbrella .. .. .	10	8	6	Nil
3. Matches .. .. .	50	47	61	45
4. Shoe .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Soap .. .. .	200	145	125	100
6. Cutleries .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. Glasswares .. .. .	97	90	85	71
8. Cloth .. .. .	30	28	10	Nil
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	150	105	125	100
10. Salt .. .. .	10,560	9,795	7,299	8,356
11. Yarns .. .. .	186	149	178	158

*Exports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Hosiery .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Fish .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Jute .. .. .	80,981	76,579	106,523	71,161
6. Pulses .. .. .	8,030	7,748	4,530	3,584

## Statement of Exports and Imports at Ullapara Station.

*Imports.*

Name of commodities.	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	620	526	420	390
2. Umbrella .. .. .	25	17	15	22
3. Matches .. .. .	45	37	28	38
4. Shoe .. .. .	325	337	125	237
5. Cutleries .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Glaswares .. .. .	37	45	25	22
7. Soap .. .. .	226	205	123	126
8. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Salt .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Yarns .. .. .	245	355	125	198

*Exports.*

Name of commodities.	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Hosiery .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Fish .. .. .	128	434	1,669	738
5. Jute .. .. .	42,618	50,535	24,698	3,880
6. Pulses .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## Dilpashar, E. B. Railway.

*Imports.*

				1928-29.	1931-32.
				Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
2. Umbrella	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
3. Matches	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
4. Shoe	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
5. Soap	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
6. Cutleries	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
7. Glasswares	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
8. Cloth	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
9. Gunny and Hessian	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
10. Salt	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
11. Yarns	..	..	..	Nil	Nil

*Exports.*

				1928-29.	1931-32.
				Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
2. Hosiery	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
4. Fish	..	..	..	2,340	6,527
5. Jute	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
6. Pulses	..	..	..	Nil	Nil

**Lahiri-Mohanpur Station.***Imports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	250	150
2. Umbrella .. .. .	Nil	Nil
3. Matches .. .. .	50	50
4. Shoe .. .. .	Nil	Nil
5. Soap .. .. .	39	27
6. Cutleries .. .. .	Nil	Nil
7. Glasswares .. .. .	12	8
8. Cloth .. .. .	25	Nil
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	Nil	Nil
10. Salt .. .. .	1,000	800
11. Yarns .. .. .	Nil	Nil

*Exports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil
2. Hosiery .. .. .	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric .. .. .	Nil	Nil
4. Fish .. .. .	19,746	20,326
5. Jute .. .. .	61,183	26,119
6. Pulses .. .. .	400	300

## Gosakhara Station, E. B. Railway.

*Imports.*

				1928-29.	1931-32.
				Mds.	Mds.
1.	Sugar	..	..	} Old records being disposed of and sent to District Controller of Stores, Calcutta, figures for 1928 and 1929 are not obtainable.	} None of these merchandise were imported here.
2.	Umbrella	..	..		
3.	Matches	..	..		
4.	Shoe	..	..		
5.	Soap	..	..		
6.	Cutleries	..	..		
7.	Glasswares	..	..		
8.	Cloth	..	..		
9.	Gunny and Hessian	..	..		
10.	Salt	..	..		
11.	Yarns	..	..		

*Exports.*

				1928-29.	1931-32.
				Mds.	Mds.
1.	Cloth	..	..	} Old records being disposed of and sent to District Controller of Stores, figures for 1928 and 1929 are not procurable.	} 200 Nil Nil 5,000 Nil Nil
2.	Hosiery	..	..		
3.	Turmeric	..	..		
4.	Fish	..	..		
5.	Jute	..	..		
6.	Pulses	..	..		

**Shanghai Station, F. S. Railway.**

*Imports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	9,357	5,465
2. Umbrella .. .. .	29	18
3. Matches .. .. .	102	47
4. Shoe .. .. .	14	.....
5. Soap .. .. .	47	54
6. Cutleries .. .. .	.....	.....
7. Glasswares .. .. .	56	23
8. Cloth .. .. .	442	302
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	127	59
10. Salt .. .. .	5,694	5,634
11. Yarns .. .. .	.....	.....

*Exports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	.....	.....
2. Hosiery .. .. .	.....	.....
3. Turmeric .. .. .	.....	.....
4. Fish .. .. .	14,896	21,331
5. Jute .. .. .	145,584	62,763
6. Pulses .. .. .	3,793	2,652



## Chaimohar, E. B. Railway.

*Imports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	3,000	2,889
2. Umbrella .. .. .	10	7
3. Matches .. .. .	200	188
4. Shoe .. .. .	20	14
5. Soap .. .. .	200	127
6. Cutleries .. .. .	Nil	Nil
7. Glasswares .. .. .	12	6
8. Cloth .. .. .	4,000	2,364
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	250	169
10. Salt .. .. .	12,000	9,545
11. Yarns .. .. .	250	169

*Exports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil
2. Hosiery .. .. .	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric .. .. .	3,000	1,988
4. Fish .. .. .	2,559	1,547
5. Jute .. .. .	1,500	131
6. Pulses .. .. .	12,509	7,423

## Mooladai Station, E. B. Ry.

*Imports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	200	180
2. Umbrella .. .. .	Nil	Nil
3. Matches .. .. .	20	15
4. Shoe .. .. .	Nil	Nil
5. Soap .. .. .	Nil	Nil
6. Cutleries .. .. .	Nil	Nil
7. Glasswares .. .. .	Nil	Nil
8. Cloth .. .. .	50	30
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	20	10
10. Salt .. .. .	200	150
11. Yarns .. .. .	Nil	Nil

*Exports.*

	1928-29.	1931-32.
	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	Nil	Nil
2. Hosiery .. .. .	Nil	Nil
3. Turmeric .. .. .	Nil	Nil
4. Fish .. .. .	50	200
5. Jute .. .. .	500	2,000
6. Pulses .. .. .	Nil	Nil

## Dilpashar, E. B. Railway.

*Imports.*

				1928-29.	1931.	1932.
				Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1.	Sugar	..	..	....	266	..
2.	Umbrella	..	..	....	..	..
3.	Matches	..	..	....	..	89
4.	Shoe	..	..	....	..	..
5.	Soap	..	..	....	..	..
6.	Cutleries	..	..	....	..	..
7.	Glasswares	..	..	....	..	..
8.	Cloth	..	..	....	12,580	13,513
9.	Gunny and Hessian	..	..	....	..	..
10.	Salt	..	..	....	..	102
11.	Yarns	..	..	....	..	..

*Exports.*

				1928-29.	1931.	1932.
				Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1.	Cloth	..	..	....	..	2,472
2.	Hosiery	..	..	....	..	..
3.	Turmeric	..	..	....	..	..
4.	Fish	..	..	....	..	..
5.	Jute	..	..	....	461	33
6.	Pulses	..	..	....	1,497	1,720

## Upendranigere Steamer Ltd.

*Imports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Sugar .. .. .	54	203	797	301
2. Umbrella .. .. .	5	11	7	5
3. Matches .. .. .	9	16	21	24
4. Shoe .. .. .	..	29	..	..
5. Soap .. .. .	7	12	7	2
6. Cutleries .. .. .	..	..	..	..
7. Glaswares .. .. .	4	13	12	4
8. Cloth .. .. .	205	553	522	419
9. Gunny and Hessian .. .. .	..	19	9	..
10. Salt .. .. .	600	606	1,450	1,100
11. Yarns .. .. .	..	..	..	..

*Exports.*

	1928.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1. Cloth .. .. .	..	8	..	..
2. Hosiery .. .. .	..	..	..	..
3. Turmeric .. .. .	..	..	..	..
4. Fish .. .. .	554	674	1,133	785
5. Jute .. .. .	611	2,400	15,948	5,687
6. Pulses .. .. .	388	5,453	2,662	506

## 2. Trade Centres.

Pabna, Serajganj, Bera, Ullapara on the Hurasagar and certain railway stations within the district, viz., Bhangura, Lahiry Mohanpur, Chatmohar, etc., are the most important trade centres of the district which command the internal and external trade of Pabna by focusing its agricultural produce for export and distributing its imports of salt, piece-goods, kerosine oil and other manufactured products through a good number of *hâts* and bazars which are in direct touch with the actual producers and consumers.

There are about 80 permanent market places with a daily bazar in each for the sale of milk, fish, vegetables and other local produces. Usually there are a few grocers' shops, stationery shops, dealers in piece-goods, etc., in every permanent market place and the people of the locality get their supply of salt, kerosine oil, *gur*, sugar, rice, *dal*, spices, soap, umbrellas, cloths and other necessaries of life from them. There are also about 215 *hats* or temporary markets which are generally attended by large number of villagers and are usually held twice a week in open space. Good volume of business is done in these *hâts* where the villagers sell their jute, rice, *dal*, vegetables, eggs, fowls, fish and the products of the cottage industries, viz., country cloths, gamchas, lungis, earthen pots, baskets, bamboo traps for catching fish, etc., in great quantities and buy their common necessaries of life already mentioned and raw materials for their indigenous crafts, such as yarn, dyes, etc. Vendors and petty traders are the special feature of *hâts*, who either sit on the ground with their goods set out before them or occupy open shades on booths, peculiar to all *hâts*, for the transaction of their business. Attendance of these *hâts* varies from 200 to 10,000 according to their importance and the time of the year when they are held. Besides, bazars and *hâts* there are about 58 *melās* or fairs which are held periodically on special occasions of the year and continue for a number of days and often weeks. A large amount of business is done in these *melas*, especially in sweetmeats, spices, fruits, earthenwares, toys, trinkets, etc. The most striking feature of the *melas* now-a-days is the overwhelming varieties of Japanese goods, especially toys, with which they are flooded.

There are, however, *hâts* and *melās* which are famous for the speciality of particular trade and often attended by many merchants of different districts. In the Delua hat, for instance, yarn worth about Rs. 50,000 is sold within a few hours on every Wednesday morning. The famous cattle *hat* of Arankola is an instance of the seasonal *hâts*. It is held on every Tuesday from November to May when about 4,000 cattle including cows, bulls, buffaloes, horses change hands on every *hât* day. Cattle merchants from Mymensingh, Dacca, Faridpur, Barisal and even from Tippera attend this *hât* which is reported to be one of the biggest cattle hat of the Province.

Lists of important daily bazars, *hâts* and *melās* under different police-stations are as follows:—

### A list of permanent bazars which meet daily.

#### PABNA SADAR.

##### *Pabna police-station.*

1. Pabna.
2. Malanchi.

3. Ekdanta.
4. Pakshi.
5. Sara bazar.
6. Ishurdi.
7. Ganga bazar.
8. Dasuria.

*Chatmohar police-station.*

9. Chatmohar.
10. Bhanguria.
11. Banawarinagar.
12. Gopalnagar.
13. Domra.

*Santhia (and Sujanagar) police-station.*

14. Santhia.
15. Banagram.
16. Sujnagar.
17. Satbaria.
18. Nazirganj.

*Bera police-station.*

19. Bera.
20. Nakalia.
21. Nagarbari.
22. Mathura.

SERAJGANJ SUBDIVISION.

*Serajganj police-station.*

23. Serajganj (Kalibari).
24. Manaharipati (Gangi).
25. Kolebandar.
26. Bagbari.
27. Delua.
28. Sohagpur.
29. Makimpur.

*Raiganj police-station.*

30. Chandaikona.
31. Raiganj.
32. Bhuyagati.
33. Pangashi.
34. Ghurka.
35. Dhanghara.

*Ullapara police-station.*

36. Ullapara.
37. Jhaul.
38. Bhadraghat.
39. Salap.
40. Salanga.

*Shahzadpur police-station.*

41. Shahzadpur.
42. Jamirta.
43. Porzana.
44. Beltail.
45. Potazia.
46. Sonatani.
47. Chaukali.
48. Betil.
49. Chandpur.
50. Kandapara.

**A list of the important hats and the days on which they meet.**

## PABNA SADAR

*Pabna police-station.*

1. Dogachi—Monday and Thursday.
2. Singa—Sunday and Thursday.
3. Garespur—Sunday and Thursday.
4. Dapunia—Monday and Thursday.
5. Maligacha—Monday and Thursday.

6. Malanchi—Thursday and Friday.
7. Nazirpur—Sunday and Wednesday.
8. Dubila—Monday and Friday.
9. Khurda-Chandpur—Saturday and Tuesday.

*Sara police-station.*

10. Pakuria—Monday and Friday.
11. Silimpur—Sunday and Wednesday.
12. Bilbaghani—Sunday and Thursday.
13. Muladuli—Monday and Thursday.
14. Dasuria—Saturday and Tuesday.
15. Ishurdi—Monday and Friday.

*Atgharia police-station.*

16. Bebattar—Tuesday and Friday.
17. Chandbha—Saturday and Wednesday.
18. Bhabanipur—Wednesday and Saturday.
19. Phailjana—Tuesday and Friday.
20. Ekdanta—Monday and Thursday.
21. Shibpur—Sunday and Wednesday.
22. Idilpur—Tuesday and Friday.
23. Sripur—Saturday and Tuesday.

*Chatmohar police-station.*

24. Haripur—Sunday and Thursday.
25. Mathurapur—Sunday and Thursday.
26. Ashtamanisha—Sunday and Thursday.
27. Handial—Monday and Friday.
28. Bhangura—Tuesday and Friday.
29. Saratnagar—Monday and Thursday.

*Faridpur police-station.*

30. Faridpur—Tuesday and Friday.
31. Gopalnagar—Sunday and Wednesday.
32. Domra—Sunday and Thursday.



*Santhia police-station.*

33. Santhia—Wednesday and Saturday.
34. Madpura—Saturday and Thursday.
35. Dhulauri—Monday and Friday.
36. Kashinathpur—Saturday and Thursday.
37. Dulai—Monday and Thursday.
38. Banagram—Saturday and Tuesday.
39. Ataikola—Sunday and Wednesday.
40. Gopinathpur.

*Bera police-station.*

41. Bera—Saturday and Tuesday.
42. Nakalia—Sunday and Wednesday.
43. Ratanganj—Tuesday and Friday.
44. Aminpur—Saturday and Wednesday.
45. Benupur—Thursday and Saturday.
46. Kazirhat—Saturday and Wednesday.
47. Badai—Monday and Friday.

*Sujanagar police-station.*

48. Sujanagar—Sunday and Wednesday.
49. Nischintapur—Monday and Friday.
50. Raipur—Saturday and Tuesday.
51. Khalilpur—Sunday and Thursday.
52. Nazirganj—Monday and Friday.
53. Santipur—Sunday and Wednesday.
54. Shyamganj—Sunday and Wednesday.

## SERAJGANJ SUBDIVISION.

*Serajganj police-station.*

55. Khokshabari—Saturday and Wednesday.
56. Songacha—Saturday and Wednesday.
57. Brahmangacha—Saturday and Tuesday.
58. Ratankandi—Wednesday.
59. Supgacha—Saturday and Tuesday.

- 60. Mechhara—Sunday and Thursday.
- 61. Bhadrghat—Monday and Friday.
- 62. Saydabad—Sunday and Wednesday.

*Kazipur police-stations.*

- 63. Kazipur—Monday and Friday.
- 64. Natuarpara—Sunday and Thursday.
- 65. Sonamukhi—Sunday and Wednesday.
- 66. Bhanudanga—Tuesday and Thursday.
- 67. Gandhail—Sunday.

*Raiganj police-station.*

- 68. Pangashi—Saturday and Tuesday.
- 69. Atgharia—Tuesday and Friday.
- 70. Raiganj—Monday and Thursday.
- 71. Chandaikona—Saturday and Tuesday.
- 72. Dhanghara—Sunday and Wednesday.
- 73. Bhuiagati—Saturday and Tuesday.
- 74. Deobhog—Sunday and Wednesday.
- 75. Nimgachi—Monday and Thursday.

*Tarash police-station.*

- 76. Protap—Sunday and Thursday.
- 77. Amsara—Sunday and Wednesday.
- 78. Baruhash—Monday and Friday.
- 79. Ulipur—Saturday and Tuesday.

*Ullapara police-station.*

- 80. Ullapara—Monday and Friday.
- 81. Kaliganj—Saturday and Tuesday.
- 82. Chaubila—Sunday and Thursday.
- 83. Salanga—Monday and Friday.
- 84. Salap—Sunday and Thursday.
- 85. Daulatpur—Sunday and Thursday.
- 86. Boalia—Sunday and Thursday.
- 87. Dashaola—Monday and Thursday.
- 88. Mohanpur—Sunday and Wednesday.
- 89. Ballapara—Saturday and Tuesday.

*Kamarkhanda police-station.*

- 90. Kamarkhanda—Sunday and Thursday.
- 91. Tamai—Monday and Friday.

*Belkuchi police-station.*

- 92. Delua—Wednesday and Saturday.
- 93. Mokimpur—Sunday and Thursday.

*Chauhali police-station.*

- 94. Chauhali—Monday and Thursday.
- 95. Sthalanhata—Saturday and Tuesday.

*Shahzadpur police-station.*

- 96. Shahzadpur—Monday and Thursday.
- 97. Dariapur—Monday and Thursday.
- 98. Kaizuri—Friday.
- 99. Porzana—Sunday and Wednesday.
- 100. Bhirakhola—Monday and Thursday.
- 101. Talgachi—Sunday.
- 102. Garadaha—Wednesday and Sunday.

**Famous hats for particular trade.***Yarn and country-cloths.*

- 1. Delua—Wednesday.
- 2. Shibpur—Sunday.
- 3. Banagram—Tuesday.
- 4. Kaizuri—Friday.
- 5. Sujanagar—Sunday.
- 6. Kashinathpur—Sunday.

*Gur.*

- 1. Kaizuri.
- 2. Bera.

*Boats.*

- 1. Chaubila—Thursday.
- 2. Puthia.

**Cattle.**

1. Dogachi—Thursday.
2. Debottar—Friday.
3. Ekdanta—Thursday.
4. Arankola—Tuesday.
5. Dulauri—Friday.
6. Kashinathpur—Thursday.
7. Mathurapur—Thursday.
8. Talgachi—Sunday.
9. Salanga—Friday.
10. Kamarkhanda.
11. Ghorjan.
12. Pratap—Thursday.

A brief account of the important melas of the district which are held once a year is as follows:—

*Shahzadpur.*—Formerly the mela used to be held for a month commencing from the day of “Basanti Astami” within the premises of the famous mosque of Mokhdum Shaheb. About ten years now the time of the mela has been changed and it is now held one month earlier and continues only for a week. Previously, it was famous for cattle, especially horses, but at present there is no special feature of the business done except sweetmeats, spices, toys, etc., which are typical commodities in every mela.

*Betil.*—The mela is held in connection with the worship of goddess Siddheswari in the Bengali month of Jaista (May-June). There is no special feature of trade.

*Chauhali.*—The mela at Chauhali is held in the Bengali month of Paus (December-January) in connection with the worship of goddess Siddheswari and continues for a month. There is no special feature of business.

*Taras.*—Two melas are held at Taras every year, one on the occasion of Jhulan Jatra in the Bengali month of Bhadra (August-September) and the other on the occasion of the Saraswati Puja in the month of Magh (January-February). The former continues for a month and is attended by many thousand people, the especial feature of the articles sold being the brass and bell-metal utensil.

*Ullapara.*—The mela is held in the Bengali month of Paus (December-January) on the occasion of the worship of goddess Kali and continues for a month. It is famous for earthenwares.

*Sonamukhi.*—The mela is held on the occasion of Durga Puja and continues for a month. Wooden articles of various description are sold in the melā.

*Salango.*—The mela is held in the Bengali month of Kartik (October-November) on the occasion of Kali Puja and lasts for a week. Large quantities of wooden articles are sold.

*Rajnagar.*—The mela is held on the occasion of the worship of goddess Joy-Kali.

*Astamanisa.*—The mela is held on the occasion of Kali Puja and continues for a fortnight.

*Bothar.*—The mela is held on the occasion of “Charak Puja” and continues for several days. Large quantities of the brass and bell-metal utensils are sold in the mela.

*Khetupara.*—The mela is held on the occasion of “Dool” and continues for several days.

*Satbaria.*—The mela is held on the occasion of Kali Puja and lasts for a few days.

*Sapur.*—The mela is held for a few days in the Bengali month of Baisak (April-May).

*Idilpur.*—The mela is held for a week in the Bengali month of Kartik on the occasion of Kali Puja.

### 3.—Middlemen.

Both the import and export trade of the district are almost entirely in the hands of middlemen called paiker, faria, bepari and mahajan. The actual producers and consumers can hardly meet in the field of business and a major portion of the profit generally goes to the middlemen. The farias collect the different commodities of trade from the actual producers (or in the case of fish from the fishermen) either from their house or from different hâts and bazars and sell them to paikers or beparis who have, usually, their establishments in the principal centres of trade. After collecting large quantities of commodities, the paikers or the beparis dispose them off in big lots to the mahajans conveniently when the price is good. The mahajans in their turn store the goods and export them to Calcutta and various other places according to the condition of the market. Those who negotiate the terms with the beparis and the mahajans are called “dalals.” They too, have their fingers in the pie of profit. Thus the poor producers get about half the price of what the actual consumers pay for their products—a condition which is utterly inconsistent with the healthy growth of the economic life of the country.

Generally, the middlemen work on a system of advances called dadan to ensure the price and volume of their trade. The poor producers, however, cannot help taking the advances of the middlemen which become very handy in time of dire need and thus become absolutely helpless against the dictation of price by the middlemen. The state of affairs is more or less the same with the agriculturists as well as with those who are engaged in cottage industries. The ordinary hand-loom weavers, for instance, are very much handicapped in matters of their raw materials, viz., yarn, dyes, etc., which the middlemen would readily advance on the condition of giving them only a wage, and

usually very low wages too, for their work. Their relationship with the middlemen is very much the same as what exists between the factory labourers and the capitalists with this difference that the factory labourers earn their wages working in the factories of others and with the tools which are not their own, while the unfortunate weavers become veritable slaves of the middlemen under their own shed and working on their own looms.

Ignorance, lack of organisation, and above all, extreme poverty of the producers are the factors which have contributed to the parasitical growth of the middlemen to the extent as it exists in this country. The prevailing state of affairs has to be changed no doubt, and the sooner it is done by co-operative organisations the better for the country; but it must be remembered that unless those institutions can bring to bear the same, if not better, standard of business efficiency and shrewdness of the middlemen any departure from the existing condition would mean more distress to the producers. It must be recorded to the credit of the middlemen, however, that their organisations, however exacting and exploiting they might be, have saved many valuable cottage industries from being utterly ruined and forgotten.

#### 4. *The Co-operative banking.*

Ever since the inception of the Bharenga Co-operative Urban Bank, Ltd., in 1906, which was the first of its kind in the district, Pabna has achieved a series of phenomenal success in co-operative banking. The Pabna Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd., which was started in 1912, soon became the largest co-operative bank in Bengal. A few other Central Co-operative Banks subsequently came into existence, the functions of all these banks being the financing of affiliated rural credit societies which sprang up all over the district in hundreds. Following are the names of the places where Central Co-operative Banks, Ltd., were organised:—

1. Pabna.
2. Serajganj.
3. Shahzadpur.
4. Ullapara.
5. Bhangura.

In addition to the above Central Co-operative Banks, Ltd., numerous other banks were organised, a list of which is given below:—

#### *Sadar subdivision.*

1. The Pabna Bank, Ltd.
2. The Pabna Model Co.
3. The Pabna Union Bank.
4. The Nakalia Banking and Trading Co.
5. The Commercial Bank.
6. The Urban Bank.
7. The Pabna Dhanabhandar.

### *Serajganj Subdivision.*

1. The Imperial Bank.
2. The Loan Office.
3. The Urban Bank.

There were many other smaller banks which were started in different villages, viz., Barapangashi, Lahiry-Mohanpur, Astamonisha, Udhunia, Chatmohar, etc.

Unfortunately, the promising state of affairs in co-operative and other forms of banking came to a close owing to the extraordinarily low price of the agricultural produce, especially jute, consequent on the economic depression of the world since 1930. Most of the banks in the district are now defunct and the others are in a moribund condition.

Although co-operative activities in this district mainly centred round co-operative credit, several attempts were made to extend them in the direction of co-operative production and distribution of agricultural as well as industrial (chiefly of the cottage type) commodities with a view to improve the economic condition of the actual producers by eliminating middlemen from trade transactions. The milk and the weaving societies at Shahzadpur, jute societies at Serajganj and other important centres of trade, fishermen's societies at Sara, etc., were organised to achieve results similar to what countries like Denmark, Holland, Ireland, etc., had attained in the line of co-operative production and distribution. The move was, indeed, in the right direction but unfortunately, all these societies collapsed after a very short period of existence owing to the inefficiency and dishonesty of the management, the lack of education in co-operative activities on the part of the members of the societies and above all, owing to the general economic depression of recent years which has dislocated the normal economic condition of the district by reducing the price of agricultural produce beyond all proportions.

It is expected, however, that in spite of the failure for the time being, the principle of co-operative production and distribution will ultimately triumph over the existing state of affairs in bringing about a healthy and normal growth of the economic life of the district by emancipating the producers of wealth of the land from the parasitical system of the middlemen.

## CHAPTER V.

### Trade Directory.

Names of the chief wholesale dealers of different commodities of trade in the important commercial centres, which almost entirely control the trade of the district, are given in this chapter. A stationer generally combines in himself the function of a grocer also and usually deals with all sorts of articles, viz., aluminium wares, glasswares, corrugated iron buckets, oils (kerosine, mustard, cocconut, etc.), spices, sugar, *gur*, salt, soap (both washing and toilet), paper, writing slates, match boxes, cutlery, articles, steel trunks, umbrellas, patent

medicines, etc., in varied quantities. Attempts were made to collect statistical informations about the volume of business done by individual dealers in particular articles, viz., umbrellas, cutlery articles, etc., but without any success owing mainly to the lurking fear of the income-tax officer making use of them for purposes of assessment. The following are the names of the wholesale dealers of the important centres of trade:—

### Sadar Subdivision.

#### 1. PABNA TOWN.

##### *Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Makhan Lal Dutt.
2. Kshirode Lal Dutt.
3. Pyarilal Saha.
4. Sanyal Brothers.
5. Gour Gopal and Krishna Gopal Roy.
6. Narendra Nath Saha.
7. Pulin Bhandar.
8. Kamala Bhandar.
9. Naimuddin (tobacco and washing soap).
10. Gangabandhu and Behari Lal Saha.
11. Monomohini Stores.
12. Radha Krishna Bhandar.
13. Bata Behari Basak.
14. Akshaya Kumar Basak.
15. Robindra Mohan Lahiry.

##### *Umbrella.*

1. Pyarilal Saha.
2. Kanai Lal Dutt.
3. Panchu Khalifa.
4. Kamala Bhandar.
5. Gour Gopal and Krishna Gopal Roy.
6. Akshaya Kumar Basak.

##### *Brass and Bell-metal wares.*

1. Radha Madhab Saha.
2. Kanai Lal Dutt.
3. Radharaman Das.
4. Raman Krishna Saha.



*Manufacturers and dealers of cutleries.*

1. Wasimuddin Karmaker.
2. Apal Karmaker.

*Shoe.*

1. Taleb Hossain Mia.
2. Nazimuddin Mia.
3. Satis Chandra Pal.
4. Adarsha Shoe Factories.

*Cloth.*

1. Hem Chandra Saha.
2. Jugal Kishore Basak.
3. Abhaya Bastralaya.
4. Ram Dulal Basak.
5. Balaram Basak.
6. Kedarnath Roy.
7. Fate Chand.
8. Ramder Agarwalla.
9. Pulin Bhandar.
10. Binapani Graduate Friends (khaddar dealer).
11. Hari Charan Paramanik.

*Yarn.*

1. Gobinda Lal Saha.
2. Nafar Chandra Paramanik.
3. Kanai Lal Saha.

*Rice.*

1. Kali Krishna Chaki.
2. Gour Radharam Saha.
3. Gour Krishna Behari Saha.
4. Prasanna Kumar Chaki.
5. Panchanan Saha.

*Jute.*

1. Ram Sundar Saha.
2. Pran Krishna Saha.

## 2. BERA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Bagchi & Co.
2. Harinath Dutt & Sons.
3. Gopinath Manmothnath Dutt.
4. Balaram Gopeswar Das.
5. Tarak Chandra Dutt.
6. Durganath Jatindranath Dutt.
7. Tarini Charan Bhawani Charan Dutt.
8. Swadeshi Bhandar Co., Ltd.

*Shoe.*

1. Abdul Karim.
2. Karim Bux Khalifa.
3. Habibar Rahaman.

*Cloth.*

1. Swadeshi Bhandar.
2. Kartic Chandra Muthuranath Das.
3. Rajani Kumar Halder.
4. Nephazuddin Ahmed.
5. Balchand Jhalim Chand.
6. Champa Lal Golap Chand.

*Grocers (salt, gur, kerosine, mustard and cocoanut oil, soda, grains, rice, etc.).*

1. Jaladhar Upendra Narayan Saha.
2. Banamali Mahendra Kumar Saha.
3. Janakinath Harendra Kumar Saha.
4. Purna Chandra Dutt.
5. Harish Chandra Kedarnath Saha.
6. Ram Chandra Sasi Bhusan Poddar.

*Rice.*

1. Purna Chandra Dutt.
2. Jagneswar Birendra Kumar Paramanik.

*Jute.*

1. Ralli Brothers.
2. Kishan Gopal Chuni Lal.
3. Ram Pratapmall Sarara.
4. Dhansukh Jaganath Sarara.
5. Beni Madhab Pramanik.

## 3. NAKALIA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Joges Kundu.
2. Dwarkanath Makhannath Kundu.
3. Tarani Charan Bhawani Charan.
4. Brojabasi Bhuya.
5. Haladhar Kunda.
6. Tarani Kunda.
7. Sashadhar Kunda.
8. Sitanath Chowdhury.
9. Jogendra Kunda.
10. Satis Kunda.
11. Arjun Mandal.
12. Sarbeswar Das.

*Gur.*

1. Ram Lal Bairagi.

*Grains.*

1. Pir Bux Paramanik.

*Jute.*

1. David & Co.
2. Landale & Clark Co.

## 4. SUJANAGAR.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Amarnath Kunda.
2. Mohan Chandra Kunda.

3. Pratap Chandra Saha.
4. Makhan Lal Saha.
5. Saila Kundu.
6. Md. Baburali.

*Cloth.*

1. Hazi Piyaruddin.
2. Basanta Lal Agarwal.
3. Mulchand Agarwal.
4. Dinuram Agarwal.
5. Onkerlal Agarwal.

*Jute.*

1. Mahendra Nath Kundu.
2. Majibar Paramanik.
3. Basanta Agarwal.

## 5. CHATMOHAR.

*Stationers and general dealers.***Old bazar—**

1. Srish Chandra Kundu & Jagat Chandra Kundu.
2. Bani Chandra & Akshaya Chandra Kundu.
3. Devendra Nath Kundu.
4. Adhar Chandra Kundu.

**New bazar—**

5. Gouri Chandra Kundu.
6. Ram & Sasadhar Dutt.
7. Krishna Chandra Kundu.
8. Adhar Chandra Datta.
9. Jaladhar Kundu.

*Cloth.***Old bazar—**

1. Madhu Kundu.
2. Sarat Chandra Kundu.
3. Devendra Kundu.

## New bazar—

4. Rajani Kundu.
- b. Jaladhar Kundu.

*Grains.*

1. Makhan Kundu.
2. Purna Chandra Kundu.

## 6. ISHURDI.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Maulabux Mia.
2. Nazu Mia.
3. Nabadwip Pal.
4. Kalipada.
5. Jhunjhunwalla Brothers, Ltd.
6. Devidatt Gajanand.
7. Rati Kanta Saha.

*Cloth.*

1. Jhunjhunwalla Brothers, Ltd.
2. Devidatt Gajananda.
3. Rati Kanta Saha.

*Jute.*

1. Bilas Roy.

## 7. SATBARIA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Jyotis Chandra Abani Mohan Saha.
2. Prannath Surendranath Saha.
3. Atul Krishna Jatindranath Saha.
4. Jadunath Saha.
5. Bindalal Matilal Saha.

*Jute, rice, grains, etc.*

1. Jyotis Chandra Saha.
2. Sarat Chandra Brindaban Saha.
3. Surendranath Saha.
4. Sakir Paramanik.
5. Brojalal Saha Chowdhuri.

## 8. DASURIA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Beni Madhab Saha.
2. Rasik Lal Kundu.
3. Rajabali Sarker.
4. Sisir Kumar Saha.

*Jute.*

1. Gopal Chandra Saha.
2. Bijoy Gobinda Pal.
3. Chainuddin Sardar.
4. Fate Agarwalla.
5. Dr. Satya Charan Sanyal.
6. Rajani Kanta Kundu.

**Serajganj Subdivision.**

## 1. SERAJGANJ.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Nitai Lal Rajendra Lal Chowdhury.
2. Ramlal Hiralal Singh.
3. Abdulgani Saodagar.
4. Chandranath Ananda Mohan Saha.
5. Dhananjoy Madhusudan Bose.
6. Mohim Chandra Seal.
7. Rakhal Chandra Saha.
8. Popular Stores.
9. Mangal Basak.

*Cloth.*

1. Jadab Bastralaya.
2. Uma Bastralaya.
3. Pitambar Mahim.
4. Lultan Chand Chaitmall.
5. Rauth Mall.
6. Khaddar Bhandar.

*Jute.*

1. Ralli Brothers.
2. Landale & Clark, Ltd.
3. David & Co.
4. George Henderson.
5. Hari Singh Nihal Chand.
6. Bhut Singh Bal Chand.
7. Jnan Chand Manik.
8. Ganesh Lal Dalchand.
9. Rekap Chand.
10. Pratap Mall.
11. Dhanraj Harek Chand.
12. Mukum Chand Chaitmall.
13. Dullaram Vikam Chand.
14. Sridam Chandra Radhaballav.
15. Taikan Chand Dan Singh.

*Paddy and grains.*

1. Rekap Chand.
2. Mukum Chand.
3. Pratap Mall.
4. Jnan Chand Manik.
5. Ganesh Lal Dal Chand.
6. Taikan Chand Dan Singh.
7. Dhanraj Harek Chand.

## 2. ULLAPARA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Debendra Nath Gopendra Krishna Saha.
2. Upendra Nath Harendra Kumar Saha.
3. Kripasundari Dinamayee Dasya.
4. Chandranath Srish Chandra Saha.
5. Kokan Chandra Gour Gopal Kundu.
6. Basanta Kumar Dutt.
7. Balaram Jagannath Surendranath Kundu.
8. Jadunath Kanailal Kundu.
9. Hem Chandra Dinabandhu Saha.

*Cloth.*

1. Debnath Radhaballav Saha.
2. Hiralal Satish Narayan Pramanik.
3. Krishna Lal Radhika Lal Pal.
4. Kshetranath Pranballav Pal.
5. Thakurdas Saha.

*Jute, paddy, rice, grains, etc.*

1. Debendranath Gopendra Krishna Saha.
2. Debnath Radha Ballab Saha.
3. Jadunath Saha.
4. Banamali Binoya Krishna Saha.
5. Jatindra Mohan Chowdhuri.
6. Jaharmall Agarwalla.
7. Bholaram Agarwalla.
8. Maliram Agarwalla.

*Shoe, soap, umbrella, shirts, coats, etc.*

1. Haranuddin Mia.
2. Mailatuddin Mia.
3. Jamurat Ali Mia.



## 3. BHANGURA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Hazi Jamaluddin Pramanik.
2. Umes Chandra Dutt.
3. Gopeswar Kundu.
4. Bholanath Sutradhar.

*Jute.*

1. Chittagong Co., Ltd.
2. Duli Chand Thanmall.
3. Jiban Mall Sardar Mall.
4. Balchand Bhumrilal.
5. Jagannath Ramkissen.
6. Sristidhar Kundu.

*Cloth.*

1. Sristidhar Kundu.

## 4. SHAHZADPUR.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Nadia Binode Basak.
2. Bhabani Charan Pal.
3. Abdul Rahaman Master.
4. Jagabandhu Poddar.
5. Binoy Dutt.

*Cloth.*

1. Md. Hossain Ali.
2. Tarapada Jayder.

*Shoe.*

1. Rabbani Sheikh.

*Dairy products (ghee and cassia).*

1. Mati Lal Ghosh.
2. Nafar Ghosh.

## 5. RAUTARA.

*Dairy products (ghee, chhana).*

1. Jogesh Chandra Gour Chandra Ghosh.

## 6. POTAZIA.

*Dairy products (ghee, chhana).*

1. Pran Ballav Ghose.

## 7. LAHIRY MOHANPUR.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Kokan Chandra Dutt.
2. Sridhar Chandra Pal.
3. Priyanath Saha.
4. Tarapada Kundu.

*Jute.*

1. Prannath Saha.
2. Mati Lal Saha.
3. Juran Talukdar.
4. Baser Paramanik.
5. Baburali Paramanik.

*Rice.*

1. Pramath Saha.
2. Rasik Kundu.
3. Achchutananda Saha.

*Hide.*

1. Kshepunath Ruhidas Risi.

## 8. CHANDAIIKONA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Purna Chandra Dutt.
2. Hem Chandra Dutt.
3. Srish Chandra Saha.
4. Rakhai Chandra Dutt.

*Cloth.*

1. Bail Chand Mongal Chand Asnal.
2. Hridayanath Digendra Nath Basak.
3. Jamhar Mal Taluram.

*Paddy (grains).*

1. Debnath Kalidas Chowdhuri.

*Jute.*

1. Jisraj Mongal Chand.
2. Bail Chand Mongal Chand Asnal.

## 9. DHANGARA.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Nabadwip Chandra Saha.
2. Kartik Chandra Saha.
3. Hamid Ali Hazi.
4. Pran Chandra Modak.

*Jute.*

1. Digendranath Modak.
2. Nabadwip Chandra Saha.

*Rice and grains.*

1. Samir Khalifa.

## 10. HAT-PANGASHI.

*Stationers and general dealers.*

1. Nasimuddin Osman Gani.
2. Alimuddin Kalimuddin.

*Jute and rice.*

1. Sribas Chandra Saha.

## 11. SALANGA.

*Stationers and general dealer.*

1. Mathuranath Bhowmic.

*Cloth.*

1. Lakshmi Chand.
2. Kaluram.

*Jute.*

1. Sanlak Chand.

## CHAPTER VI.

**Conclusion.**

In conclusion, a few words may be added in connection with the possibilities of cottage industries in this district.

The success of any industry depends entirely on the soundness of the three fundamental factors, viz., (1) Training, (2) Financing and (3) Marketing.

As far as the training in cottage industries is concerned, it is an unfortunate fact that only the most ignorant and less socially advanced portions of the population are engaged in cottage industries as caste workers hardly get any opportunity of training other than what they get at home from their own folks, in the traditionally antique methods with the cheapest possible primitive tools and implements. In spite of these handicaps the natural dexterity and artistic ability of the cottage workers, especially the hand-loom workers, are responsible for the survival of hand-loom weaving even in these days of mass-production and centralisation. The natural skill of the cottage workers, however, is capable of immense improvement by the introduction of better technique and up-to-date tools and implements.

Hand-loom weaving is by far the most important cottage industry of the district. Until lately a fly-shuttle loom was more or less a rarity to a village weaver. Sustained efforts of the Pabna Weaving School and two other peripatetic weaving schools have, however, brought home to the orthodox weavers the superior advantages of the fly-shuttle looms and the Jacquard apparatus and the labour and time-saving value of a warping frame, which are rapidly replacing the primitive implements with amazing results. The same principle of peripatetic instructions and demonstrations should also be pursued among the caste workers of other cottage industries, viz., cutlery, brass and bell-metal, etc., with a view to introduce small power-apparatus and scientific processes for better quality and increased efficiency of their

work which alone can ensure the survival and prosperity of the industries during these days of cut-throat competition. In short, up-to-date technical and scientific knowledge should be mobilised to modernise the cottage industries of good old days to suit the requirements of modern conditions. Absence of standardisation has been a lamentable feature of the products of the cottage industries which should also be remedied by proper training in manufacture. This will ensure better marketing facilities.

Financing and marketing of the products of cottage industries are as important, if not more, as the training for their efficient manufacture. With the exception of a few well-to-do weavers in the case of the weaving industry the ordinary weavers are bound hand and foot to the middlemen for the financing and marketing of their products, with the result that the poor weavers earn only a miserable wage at the dictation of the middlemen who supply yarn, dyes, etc., or advance money for the same and get the cream of the business for themselves.

In the interest of the cottage industries in general and the weaving industry in particular, it has become imperative to replace the parasitical organisation of the middlemen by an efficient and wholesome organisation for financing and marketing. The organisation should be regarded as an integral part of our rural economy and should naturally be formed on the co-operative basis which will provide a healthy economic cycle for the circulation of wealth amongst the agriculturists, industrial producers, consumers as well as the depositors. To begin with, several co-operative industrial societies should be started in the district without delay to take advantage of the recent grant of the Central Government, to be spread over a period of five years at the first instance, for the development of hand-loom industry in Bengal. The period of grant is expected to be extended if the scheme works out satisfactorily and there is no reason why Pabna, with its huge army of expert weavers, will not play an important part in making the scheme a success and thereby improve and organise its famous hand-loom industry on more efficient lines.

Lastly, it seems that the successful operation of a cottage industry generally lies in its harmonious co-relation to agriculture, one supplementing the other. Both agriculture and industries should, therefore, be treated inseparably in any serious endeavour for the better organisation of our cottage industries.