

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1901.

VOLUME XIX.

CENTRAL INDIA.

PART I.

REPORT

BY

CAPTAIN C. ECKFORD LUARD, M. A. (Oxon.)

SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS.



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FROM

CAPTAIN C. E. LUARD, I. S. C.,
Superintendent of Census Operations, Central India.

TO

CAPTAIN C. J. WINDHAM, I. S. C.,
*First Assistant to the Honorable the Agent to the
Governor-General in Central India.*

Dated, Central India Agency, Indore the 24th May 1902.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith the report on the Census of Central India for 1901, for submission to the Honorable the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.

The work was commenced by the late Captain A. MacIver Campbell on 2nd June 1900, afterwards taken up by me on 26th November 1900.

2. This is the first occasion on which the Census for Central India has been carried out on exactly the same lines as in British India. The same schedule was used in recording the figures, and all Tables, obligatory and optional, have been compiled. Unfortunately the destruction of all *pergana* figures after the Census of 1891 has, in certain cases, made comparison impossible and robbed the results of some of their value.

The abstraction of the records commenced in March 1901, the report appearing in May 1902, or 14 months after, which compares favourably with the time taken on the last occasion.

3. The report is divided into four volumes. The two first volumes, XIX and XIX—A, contain the letter-press of the report and the Imperial Tables, which give results by political charges. The third volume, XIX—B, contains statistics by states, and is known as the Provincial Part. The fourth volume is the Administrative volume and describes the working of the Census.

The third volume will be of most importance to Darbars. I could not in this volume give everything that had been recorded, as space would not allow of it, but I think that everything that is likely to be required administratively, has been included. If any information is wanted on special points it can always be obtained from the Tabulation Registers preserved in the office. I have also in this volume given some short notes on the Census of the more important states in each charge, and also a few subsidiary tables. Besides this a note on the effect of famine, and on overcrowding in the Agent to the Governor-General's Camp has been added.

The fourth volume gives a detailed account of the carrying out [of the Census. Only a few copies are printed, as practically it will only concern the officer in charge of the next Census.

4. It will be noticed that no mention is made of Gwalior State in any volume. As a special report has been written for that State by Mr. Johnstone it was not necessary to deal with it.

5. The report is divided into ten Chapters dealing with the usual subjects. I have in each case begun the Chapter with an introductory paragraph giving, as far as possible, a résumé of the results. This will, I hope, be of use to those who are sufficiently interested in Central India to want to know something of the conditions obtaining there without being obliged to wade about in a sea of figures. I had hoped to have given in Chapter III a full account of the special forms of worship (they can scarcely be called sects), which are met with in Bundelkhand. Unfortunately the supineness of a single Darbar so delayed the collection of the necessary information that I have been reluctantly obliged to abandon this scheme, and content myself with a brief sketch only.

6. Chapter VIII deals with a difficult subject of which I do not profess to have any special knowledge. All that is intended is to give local examples illustrating, certain caste institutions which regulate inter-marriage and social intercourse. I had also intended, originally, to give a fuller account of certain tribal characteristics, but when the Ethnographic Survey was sanctioned I cut the matter out.

A good deal of information was collected on miscellaneous subjects, such as tattooing, curious sect marks, etc., but I found that without many diagrams it would be impossible to deal with it properly, and therefore I have not touched on it.

7. As to the conduct of the work I think all Darbars and Native State Officials may fairly be congratulated on the carrying out of the enumeration.

The Provisional Totals were all sent in on March 6th—no inconsiderable achievement in a country where elaborate arrangements are often required to ensure rapid communication owing to the broken nature of State areas in Central India, and the lack of telegraphs. In spite of the haste used in getting in results these totals only differed by 0·02 from the final results arrived at after abstraction.

Where all have done their best it may be invidious to draw comparison, but the clearest and best written up books among the large States were those from Riwa, among the small from the Petty States of Bhopawar.

8. Besides the figures the Census has entailed endless queries on endless subjects. I can only tender my grateful thanks to all Political Agents and State Officials, to whom, I fear, I have been a wearisome burden, for the able and ready way in which they have supported me. In conclusion, I must offer my special thanks to Rai Sahib Kashi Pershad of Charkhari, who besides supplying me with numerous interesting notes has in truth done everything for the Bundelkhand Census. Also to Mr. D. F., Vakil of Ratlam, Khan Bahadur N. M. Khory of Dhar, Lala Raushan Lal, Superintendent of Narsingarh, and Rao Bahadur Narayan Rao Bhikaji, late Diwan of Jhabua for their admirable monographs on various subjects, which have done much in adding interest to the pages of the report and in assisting me in my endeavour to give some life to the very dry bones of Census. To Bhau Shastri of Indore my thanks are due for information on castes and local groups.

The Gwalior Census was carried out entirely by Mr. Johnstone, who had this burden added to his ordinary duties—no light task. My sincerest thanks are due to him for the help he has given me, and for the way he put up with and adopted my methods. A pleasanter colleague to work with I could not have wished for. To Rai Sahib Pandit Dwarka Nath, his Personal Assistant, I would also convey my thanks.

For the care with which the work has been done at the head-quarter office I am deeply indebted to the untiring energy displayed by my Head Clerk Shridhar Pant, than whom I could wish for no better assistant in work of this kind, and also by Gopal Rao Khanwalkar who did all the work of preparing subsidiary tables and the various calculations which were necessary. S. M. Chunekar, who was deputed by the Indore Darbar to look after their portion of the Census and who has been at head-quarters throughout has done first class work and relieved the Imperial staff of much trouble.

It is impossible to mention by name all who have worked with me. The following who had charge of Agencies, Messrs. K. M. Pusalkar, B. A., Maneckji Jamshedji, R. G. Natu, B. A., C. M. Tembe, Uttam Narayan, Dinshaw Bazonji and Shiva Pratap deserve all praise. I trust that the many others who have worked with me and done good service will accept my thanks for their exertions.

I must also thank the Darbars of Dhar and Ratlam, and Seth Chand Mal of Ratlam for kindly placing houses at my disposal during the abstraction.

9. Sir Lepel Griffin said in regard to the Census of Central India in 1881 :—

“It must be understood that the returns of Central India are only approxi-”
“mate and only approaching the truth in that they concern areas so large and”
“populations so varied, that the average percentage of error being the same and”
“the excess in one direction counterbalancing the deficiency in the other, a rea-”
“sonably correct result may be assumed to have been obtained. But to accept”
“these figures for purposes of more minute and precise analysis, to assume the”
“figures supplied by the States to be data from which correct and useful con-”
“clusions may be drawn would be altogether to mistake their character, and if”
“these conclusions purely fanciful and fictitious were incorporated with the ac-”
“curate reports and irrefragible deductions of the Census of British India an”
“element of error would be introduced which would vitiate the whole proceed-”
“ings of the Census.”

“The Census returns of Central India are for comparative and deductive”
“purposes not worth the paper on which they are written.”

I think the Census may on this occasion lay claims to greater accuracy and be held worthy of incorporation with those of the rest of India, and that the experience now gained will materially increase the accuracy of the next enumeration.

I have the honor to be,

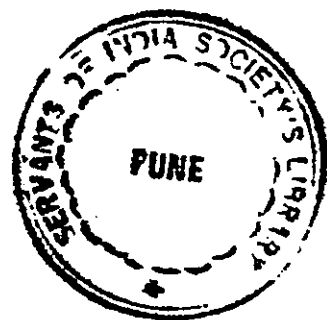
SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. E. LUARD, CAPTAIN,

*Superintendent of Census Operations,
Central India.*

S. V. D.



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