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GWALIOR.

PART I.
REPORT

BY
J. W. D. JOHNSTONE,
CENSUS COMMISSIONER, GWALIOR STATE.



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INTRODUCTION.

SECTION I.

The Operations of the Census.

1. *Introductory.*—The Census involves the following operations :—

- (1). Preliminary operations.
- (2). Enumeration which includes the preliminary filling in of the Schedules, the final Census and the submission of provisional totals.
- (3). Abstracting the figures by means of slips.
- (4). Tabulation of the figures by parganas and towns.
- (5). Compilation of the results for the whole State.

On previous occasions in 1881 and 1891 only operations (1) and (2) were carried out by State Agency, while for the remainder Gwalior was treated as part of Central India and no separate tables for the State were prepared.

2. *Preliminary operations.*—Census operations began by parcelling out the State into blocks of about 50 houses, each being placed in charge of an Enumerator. These were grouped into circles each consisting of 10 to 15 blocks, over which were appointed officers called Supervisors. A collection of circles constituted a charge, which is the sphere of duty of a charge Superintendent. As it was deemed convenient to make charges correspond with administrative, revenue or other existing divisions, they varied largely in size, the smallest containing 464 houses and the largest 25,181. For the most part, a pargana or sub-division of a district was a charge under the Kamavisdar (Tahsildar), but large towns were formed into separate charges under the Kotwal or Police Magistrate. Supervisors were as a rule State employees of various Departments, and the Enumerators were literate persons of all classes whether State servants or private individuals. A Census Act issued by the Darbar made it incumbent on all persons to assist in the operations if called upon to do so by the Census authorities. The necessary facts were recorded by each Charge Superintendent in a register, which contained the names of each town or village, the number of houses, blocks and circles, and the names of the proposed Supervisors and Enumerators, and a copy of this was sent to the Head Office for inspection and sanction. The whole of the Agency employed up to the taking of the Census was unpaid, and though some difficulty was experienced here and there in finding qualified Enumerators, the task was achieved with a very fair measure of success.

The village registers having been compiled, and the Census Agency appointed, house-numbering was next undertaken. The numbers were consecutive throughout each town or village, except in the case of large towns where the different Mohallas or divisions were numbered in a separate series to avoid the use of very high figures. This operation can be completed in a month or six weeks and should be put off to as late a date as possible, since otherwise the numbers are apt to be defaced. Special provision had to be made for the enumeration of jails, and hospitals, which was generally carried out by the staff of those institutions, for fairs and other gatherings, and for wandering tribes.

These arrangements being complete, and each class of Census Officer having received a course of instruction from the officer immediately above him, all was ready for the actual enumeration.

To facilitate the demarcation of the Census divisions, maps were prepared of each charge on which the Circles were marked—a very useful provision.

3. *Enumeration.*—The schedules on which the particulars of each individual are recorded were despatched to Charge Superintendents in time to admit of their being distributed to the subordinate officers before the commencement of the preliminary enumeration. This operation began 6 weeks before the night fixed for the taking of the Census, and was generally finished in about 3 weeks, the remaining interval being utilised for checking entries and making corrections. The 1st of March was fixed for the great event, hence the preliminary enumeration began on 15th January.

The final Census, which was carried out between the hours of 7 and 12 on the night fixed, and was synchronous throughout the State, this consists of the checking by the enumerators of the entries already made in the schedules, cutting out absentees, and adding new comers, travellers and others not previously included. One or two days are then spent in compiling abstracts of the schedules for each block, circle and charge, the result, namely, number of houses, and of males and females, being immediately thereafter despatched to head quarters by telegram or other expeditious means according to circumstances. These are called the first totals, and the different provinces vie with each other for the honour of placing these earliest in the hands of the Census Commissioner for India. It is a further object of ambition to ensure such accuracy in the first totals that there shall be as little variation as possible between them and the final totals as subsequently tabulated. The variation in Gwalior was :—

		TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES.
First total	...	2,931,490	1,537,955	1,393,535
Final "	...	2,929,621	1,536,663	1,392,958

giving a decrease in the latter equal to .06 of the population. Nearly the whole of this error occurred in one charge, where the work was, I afterwards found, carelessly supervised by the Superintendent.

Contrary to the practice on previous occasions, identical schedules were prescribed for British Provinces and Native States, the particulars to be recorded being :—

- (1) House Number.
- (2) Serial Number.
- (3) Name.
- (4) Religion.
- (5) Sex.
- (6) Civil Condition.
- (7) Age.
- (8) Caste, Tribe or Race.
- (9) Principal Occupation.
- (10) Subsidiary Occupation.
- (11) Dependency.
- (12) Birth-Place.
- (13) Language.
- (14) Literacy.
- (15) English.
- (16) Infirmity.

After the despatch of the first totals, the Charge Superintendents were required to pack and send off without delay all the books of schedules (each block having a separate book) to Head Quarters at Lashkar, where the subsequent operations were to be conducted in a single office.

The Attitude of the people.—The population universally accepted the Census in a highly philosophical and satisfactory manner, and practically no difficulties were experienced. It is evident that the people are becoming accustomed to the regularly recurring event, and finding it does them no harm raise no objections and feel little or no apprehension. Formerly the idea generally was that enumeration was a preliminary to new taxation and that the numbers placed on houses had a sinister purpose, but these imaginations seem now to be things of the past. Even the timid and primitive animistic tribes appear to have showed no uneasiness, and to have been scheduled with as little friction as the rest of the population. During my inspections I invariably made inquiries on the subject from the Census Staff and from district Officers, and one and all declared that they had not found, nor did they anticipate, any opposition or obstruction. It is true that one or two reports were received of persons declining to act as Enumerators, and a few others to the effect that house numbers had been intentionally defaced, but the provisions of the Census Act were sufficient to deal with these cases. One solitary instance occurred of a man, an official of the State, refusing to tell his wife's age, but a little persuasion overcame his reluctance. Some mild bewilderment was caused by the proclamation about not going to bed or putting out lights till the Enumerator had passed, and I was told of some servants in Morar Contonment sitting on their doorsteps with trembling limbs and lighted lamps awaiting they knew not what. But these cases of whatever kind were few and isolated and are the exceptions which prove the rule that the Census is now regarded as a harmless event.

As to the treatment of the people by the Census Agency, strict orders were issued that the real object of the Census should be explained to all, and that no one should be treated with harshness. No complaints reached my office of the conduct of the Census Officers in this respect.

5. *Abstraction, Tabulation and Compilation*—These three processes transform the raw materials of the schedules into the finished articles, the final tables.

Abstraction consists in the grouping of the individual entries of the books by classes, such as, sexes, religions, castes, occupations, and the like, and in giving the totals of these classes for small territorial units, such as villages; tabulation combines these totals by large units, such as Tahsils, while Compilation arranges the tabulation totals by Districts, Provinces or States.

6. *Abstraction by Slips*.—The great distinguishing feature of this, the first census of the 20th Century, is the introduction of the slip system for abstraction in place of the old "ticking" system, which had previously been always used in India. I have never seen the old system at work, but there can be no doubt that it is incomparably inferior to the new one in speed and accuracy.

Shortly, the system is as follows :—

The particulars recorded in the schedules are extracted on one or two slips, according to the method adopted, for each individual. To save labour in writing, certain particulars are denoted by the colour and others by the shape of the slips. When all particulars have been thus extracted, the slips can be sorted in any number required for the various tables in turn, e. g., by ages

birth-place, caste or so on. Two slips were used in the Gwalior Office for each person, marked respectively A and B, but otherwise identical in size and shape.

On A slip were entered:—

1. Sect.
2. Age.
3. Caste.
4. Literacy.
5. English.
6. Infirmities.

On B slip were entered:—

1. Caste.
2. Principal Occupation.
3. Subsidiary Occupation.
4. Dependency.
5. Birth-place.
6. Mother tongue.

The colour of the slips indicated religion and were selected as follows :—

- Brown for Hindus.
- Half bleached for Mahommedans.
- Magenta for Jains.
- Green for Animists.
- Telegraphic red for others.

The shape of the slips denoted sex and civil condition. A rectangular slip signified a married male; a slip with the right hand top corner cut off, a married female. For the unmarried both lower corners were cut off and for the widowed a wedge-shaped piece was cut out at the lower end. There would thus be with religion, sex and civil condition combined, 30 different kinds of slips.

7. To work the system, gangs of copyists were engaged corresponding to the number of districts in the State, with one Supervisor and five Checkers to each gang. Each copyist had a set of 30 pigeon-holes in which were arranged a supply of every different kind of slips. The unit of abstraction being the village, the book or books for one village at a time were served out to each copyist who then proceeded to select one A and one B slip of the correct sort and to copy the requisite particulars on them from the books. When one village was finished, the slips were compared with the books by checkers, tied in bundles of 100, wrapped in the books to which they belonged and returned to the Supervisor. Thus village by village the district was finished. The average number of persons (2 slips per person) abstracted per day by one copyist was during the first month 158, in the second month 257, and a few smart men did as many as 450. The time occupied by abstraction was from 12th March 1901, to 1st June 1901, or nearly 12 weeks. The system is extremely simple and can be worked by men of very slender educational qualification, but checking at every stage is essential. As compared with the "ticking" system, it is quicker, and errors are more readily detected and capable of being corrected without the aid of fudging.

8. *Slip Sorting and Tabulation.*—The unit of tabulation was the pergana, (tahsil) or the town. To tabulate the figures, it is first necessary to sort slips for each table, the result being entered by the Sorters in Tabulation Registers, which are afterwards combined for the pergana by the Supervisor. Sorting by sex and religion was done in the abstraction office, so that when the

slips came to the tabulation section, 2 Sorters took charge of the A slip (one of males and the other of females) and 2 more of the B slips. The first piece of sorting to be begun by the tabulation office was for civil condition, a plan which formed a final check on the correctness of the abstraction.

From the A slip the following tables were prepared :—

- VII. Age, sex and civil condition.
- VIII. Education.
- IX. Education by Selected castes, Tribes or Races.
- XII. Infirmities.
- XII A. Infirmities by Selected Castes, Tribes or Races.
- XIV. Civil condition by Age for Selected Castes.
- XVII. Territorial Distribution of the Christian population by Sects and Race.
- XVIII. Europeans, Armenians and Eurasians by Age.

From the B slips the following Tables were prepared :—

- X. Language.
- XI. Birth-place.
- XIII. Caste, Tribe, Race or Nationality.
- XV. Occupation or means of livelihood.
- XV A. Subsidiary occupations combined with selected principal occupation.
- XVI. Caste, Tribe and Race by Traditional and Actual Occupation.

Table VI. Religion was made up from Register No. I, kept in the Abstraction office.

Tabulation by slips is a rapid process and only requires careful supervision to check carelessness or scamping of work. It was commenced after the abstraction work was well in hand, and both were carried on concurrently, until the latter was complete, after which tabulation proceeded alone. The tabulation office was opened on 1st of May 1901 and the process was finished on the 10th of August 1901. The average speed of work in slip sorting was 2,712 per man per day all round, but certain tables are much more difficult and laborious than others.

9. *Compilation.*—This is a very laborious process, and requires much care and patience, but it is not necessary to describe it here in detail, as the present Census did not introduce any essentially new features into it, so far as I know.

10. *Cost of the Census.*—No complete accounts are forthcoming for the Census of 1891, and none of any kind for that of 1881. In the former year only the operations ending with the enumeration of the people were performed by State Agency, the remaining work having been carried out either by the Political Agencies or in the Central Office at Indore. I may, however, give the cost of the present Census and compare it as far as possible with 1891. The cost up to the Enumeration stage was Rs. 11,681-5-0 or a small fraction under Rs. 4 per thousand of the population. This expenditure alone can be compared with 1891, when the amount of expenditure was over Rs. 67,000. This great excess is largely due to the employment of paid Agency at the last Census, a large sum having been spent on Supervisors and Enumerators.

Abstraction cost nearly the same, Rs. 11,553, which must be, in my opinion, far less than the corresponding expenditure in 1891, for the work has been done with much greater speed. This again gives a rate of nearly Rs. 4 per thousand. Tabulation cost Rs. 6,751 or about Rs. 2/3 per thousand and compilation up to the end of January 1902 Rs. 6,428-14-6 or about Rs. 2-3 per thousand. It is estimated that about Rs. 2,500 more will be required to complete this operation, a total of say Rs. 10,000, which gives a rate of about Rs. 3/6. Allowing a sum of Rs. 15,000 for the printing of the Report, we have a total of about Rs. 55,000, or a little over Rs. 18/12 per thousand. This result is probably higher than the rate of large provinces will be, for in a small population many charges must work out to a higher ratio than where the people are counted by tens of millions. I may mention also that the indent for schedules and other Enumeration forms as well as for slips was calculated for a possible population of four millions, whereas the actual number proved to be under three millions. On the other hand, it should be noted that I, as Census Commissioner, and the Assistant Census Commissioner for Malwa who was in charge of the early operations in that division, worked without remuneration and in addition to our ordinary duties, and further that the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Central Office received only a deputation allowance from the Census Department, their salaries being paid by the Educational Department to which they belonged, while for the Supervisors of the Abstraction office, who were chiefly officials of the Land Records and Revenue Departments a similar provision was made. Had special officers been employed for all these duties a considerably larger expenditure would have been incurred. The Travelling allowance is a small item, because while on tour I combined School with Census inspection, the expense being borne by the Education Budget.

SECTION II.

THE GWALIOR STATE.

1. *Area of the State.*—The Gwalior State, the dominion of the Sindhia family, is situated in Central India and is by far the largest of the numerous principalities comprised in this area. It consists of two well defined parts which may roughly be called the Northern and the Southern. The former is a compact mass of territory, 16,019·96 square miles in extent, bounded on the North and North-west by the Chambal river, which separates it from the British districts of Agra and Etawah, and the Native States of Dholpur, Karauli, and Jaipur of Rajputana; on the East by the British districts of Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Saugor; on the South by the States of Bhopal, Tonk, Khilchipur and Rajgarh, and on the West by those of Jhalawar, Tonk, and Kotah of Rajputana. The southern or Malwa portion, on the other hand, is made up of detached or semi-detached districts, between each of which are interposed parts of other States, which again are mixed up with each other in the most bewildering intricacy. The area of these districts taken together is 8,021·12 square miles. This gives a total for the State of 25,041·08 square miles. To this figure, ought to be added the areas of a number of Estates, situated within the limits of Gwalior and tributary to it, but guaranteed by the British Government; but the Census Operations for these were carried out under the Census Superintendent for Central India, and the figures have not been supplied to me, nor do I expect them to be supplied in time to be used for this report. Still another complication should be noted. The Chiefs of some of the petty States hold of the

Gwalior Darbar villages which are not guaranteed but leased by them on a *patta* or settlement. The figures for these, an almost negligible quantity, are included in the area of the whole State. Again I have included in the figures given above the areas of the Jagirs, which are an integral part of the State. Most of these are comparatively small, but a few were considered large enough to be constituted separate census divisions, the enumeration of which was carried out by the Jagirdars themselves.

On previous occasions the area of the State appears to have been considerably exaggerated, for in Hunter's Imperial Gazetteer it is given as over 29,000 square miles. The figures used in this Report are according to the latest survey by the Land Records Department and are without doubt accurate.

2. *Administrative and Political Divisions.*—With an area, then, somewhat less than Scotland, the Gwalior State is divided for administrative purposes into 3 Prants or divisions each administered by a Sar Subah or Commissioner. Two of these divisions, called the Gwalior and Isagarh Prants, make up what I have described as the Northern part of the State, while the third or Malwa Prant includes all the Gwalior districts situated in Malwa.

The Gwalior Prant contains nominally 7 districts or Subats, but as one of these consists only of 8 villages and was formed for the purpose of instructing young men in State work, it need not be counted separately. The other two Prants are each divided into six districts. The chief district officer is called the Subah. The Subat again is sub-divided into 3 or 4 Perganas or Tahsils, under the jurisdiction of Kamavisdars or Tahsildars. These are the Revenue units.

Large towns are few and far between. Lashkar and Ujjain alone have any claim to be so described, the former being the largest in Central India.

Nothing will illustrate better the variety and complexity of jurisdiction in Central India generally as well as in Gwalior, than the fact that the territory of the State is distributed over no less than six Political Agencies, as marginally noted.*

* Gwalior Agency.	
Malwa	"
Bhopal	"
Bhopawar	"
Indore	"
Mewar	"

Politically Gwalior forms part of the Central India Agency or area under the political charge of the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India. The 2 Prants of Gwalior and Isagarh come wholly under the Resident at Gwalior, and the greater part of Malwa Prant under the Political Agent for Malwa, but small portions are also included in the Bhopal, (comprising the perganas of Shujalpur, Sonkach, and Tappa Sundarsi, District Shajapur), Bhopawar (comprising Amjhera District) and Indore (comprising the Jagirs of Neori and Bhonrasa District Shajapur). Agencies of Central India, and one pergana (Gangapur, District Nimach) in the Mewar Agency of Rajputana.

3. *Natural Divisions.*—Since many of the subsidiary tables in this report will be prepared by natural divisions, it will be convenient to particularise them in this place. According to the schemes issued by the Census Commissioner for India the whole of the State is included in the Central Indian Plateau. This, though accurate enough when dealing with such an enormous area as the entire Indian Continent, does not give a strictly true idea of the State as a separate unit of population. I therefore venture to employ a scheme of natural divisions somewhat more in detail. These divisions correspond so closely to the administrative divisions that by a very slight

re-arrangement of the latter a good idea of the former will be obtained. There being no high mountains in the State, natural divisions may be classified into Plain, Plateau and Hilly country. The plain country extends from the line of the Chambal River in the extreme North of the State southwards about 80 miles with a maximum width from East to West of about 120 miles, and to all intents and purposes coincides with the Gwalior Prant already mentioned, the area of which is 5,884 square miles. This plain, though sprinkled in its Southern portion with low hills, has generally an elevation of only a few hundred feet above the sea level. For instance, the height of Gwalior Railway Station is 697† feet above sea level. In the summer season, the climate is very hot, the shade temperature rising frequently to 112° F, but in the winter months from November to February inclusive it is usually temperate and for short periods extremely cold. Unfortunately no regular record of temperature has been kept in any part of the State. The average rainfall of this region was said to be about 30 inches, but the last decade has been a period on the whole of short rainfall, and distress on account of famine. Hence the yearly average since 1896, the first year in which a regular district record was kept, has been only about 21 inches.

South of this tract there is a gradual ascent to the Central India Plateau, and by the time Sipri, the head quarters of Isagarh Prant is reached, we are 1,515 feet above the sea. On this Plateau lies the remainder of Gwalior State namely, the entire prants of Isagarh and Malwa, with the exception of the small district of Amjhera in the extreme South. The area of this division is 17,855.64 square miles and its general elevation about 1,500 feet above the sea. The principal points are Sipri 1,515 feet, Bajrangarh 1,869, Bhilsa 1,546, Ujjain 1,745, Agar 1,723, Mandasaur 1,516, Nimach 1,616, and Shajapur 1,999. The Isagarh Prant with a maximum breadth of about 100 miles extends southwards about 160 miles towards the southern districts of the Malwa Prant, which stretches thence to the North-West about 190 miles in a broken series of districts. The map will show more clearly than a verbal description how the territory lies.

The effect of the elevation of this region is most evident in its moderate climate as compared with the plain country during the summer, while the winter is warmer and more equable. The average rainfall recorded for this division since 1895 is 28 inches, which appears to be nearly equal to the previous average, though owing to the absence of regular registration it is difficult to speak with certainty. But it may be noted that in one year, *viz.*, 1899 there was an almost complete failure of rain in the Malwa portion of the plateau, and in 1900 there was an excessive fall in most districts.

The remaining portion of the State, classed as hilly, comprises only the small district of Amjhera with an area of 1301.44 square miles. This is known as the Bhil country, and lies among the Vindhya mountains with a mean elevation of about 1,808 feet above sea level. The rainfall of this tract was first regularly recorded in 1897, and since then shows an average of 23 inches. In the two years 1899 and 1900 the monsoon was very weak, the result being a severe famine which is hardly yet at an end and which has caused great distress among the unfortunate Bhil population.

Of the three natural divisions the plateau possesses the most fertile soil, the prevailing class being what is known as black cotton, but the low-lying plain has the densest population.

† The elevation given in the survey map of 1,039 feet must be that of a hill in the neighbourhood.

4. *Historical.*—The Sindhia family, in whose possession the territories just described now are, belongs to the Mahratta nation and hailed from the neighbourhood of Poona. Their first appearance in Central India was early in the 18th century in the person of Ranoji, the whilom commander of the first Peshwa's bodyguard, who held part of Malwa in fief and fixed his capital at the famous town of Ujjain; but the real founder of the State of Gwalior was Ranoji's son and successor, Madhoji or Madhava Rao. This remarkable man after narrowly escaping with his life from the terrible slaughter of Panipat in 1761 obtained from the Peshwa, though with some difficulty, a re-grant of his father's possessions in Central India. From this time forward his rise was steady and rapid. He abandoned the irregular method of warfare associated with the Mahratta name, formed regular brigades and battalions and proceeded to consolidate as well as extend his power. Though nominally a deputy of the Peshwa, he became eventually ruler of a vast territory including the greater part of Central India and the districts North-west of the Chambal as far as Delhi, while his lieutenants exacted tribute from the high born chiefs of Rajputana. His occupation of Delhi gave him possession of the person of the Emperor and the authority of his name. There can be no doubt that he looked with suspicion and apprehension on the growing power of the British, but Madho Rao was a born Statesman as well as a military commander; and he therefore wisely avoided any serious collision with them. The consequence of his prudence was that at his death in 1794 he was master of a vast dominion, and though still in name a deputy, he in reality wielded all the prestige contained in the name of the Great Moghal. The best justification of his policy is to be found in the fate of his successor, Daulat Rao. This young chief entered into a confederation against the British power with the result that his forces were utterly defeated in a series of battles ending with Laswari, and he was compelled to sign the treaty of Sarji Anjangaom in 1804, which stripped him of his territories north of the Chambal and South of the Ajanta Hills. By a number of subsequent treaties the State was fixed at its present dimensions.

Thus the Sindhias and their followers were a conquering race who established themselves by force of arms in the country they now govern, their occupation being confirmed by the British Government when it became the paramount power. The year 1818 may be taken as the date at which this result was brought about. The Peshwa's kingdom came to an end, as did that of Nagpur, while Holkar and Sindhia were bound by definitive treaties. But during the years preceding 1818, Central India was in a state of utter anarchy and chaos. The contest between the various Mahratta chiefs and the indifference shown to the sufferings of the native inhabitants must have caused a terrible depopulation of the country and may partly account for the sparseness of its population at the present day.

Since the turbulent days of the Pindaris, order and good government have been gradually established under the aegis of British rule. The late Maharaja Jiyaji Rao Sindhia remained staunch during the Mutiny of 1857, and was rewarded with the districts of Nimach and Amjhera, while he left to his son a prosperous dominion, and ample resources. Since the present chief, His Highness Colonel Sir Madho Rao Sindhia, G.C.S.I., attained his majority, the administration has been brought more and more into line with modern require-

metns, the country has been opened up by roads and railways, and every year sees the inauguration of new schemes for improvement and progress, interrupted or retarded, it is true, by the periodical famines which scourge the country, but steadily pursued in spite of these calamities.

6. *The Mediatized States.*—At the close of the Pindari war the districts of Malwa and Central India were in so disorganised a state as to be unsafe even for troops to pass through. It had been the policy of the chief Mahratta powers during the preceding years of anarchy to reduce to subjection the petty Rajput chiefs within their influence. The Mahratta leaders parcelled out the districts among themselves, and thus at the introduction of the British Power, the smallest States were found under tributary obligations to Sindhia or other Mahratta chiefs. The tributary claims were in some cases well defined, but generally varied with the power to exact them. Many of the smaller chiefs, who had been driven from their possessions, found refuge in the hill fastnesses and jungles and avenged themselves by levying contributions from, or destroying the detached villages which had been seized by, the stronger powers. Their example was followed by men, who, having no claims to territory, had influence enough to gather round them a sufficient body of robber followers to make themselves feared. Unable to suppress such outrages, the larger States were obliged to purchase the good will of the plundering leaders by allowing them a share of the revenues of their districts as black-mail or *tankha* on condition of their abstaining from aggressions. In the midst of this confusion, all parties called in the interference of the British Government who undertook the task of bringing order out of chaos. The policy it pursued was to declare the permanency of the rights existing at the time on condition of the maintenance of order ; to adjust and guarantee the relation of such chiefs as owed mere subordination or tribute, so as to deprive the stronger powers of all pretext for interference in their affairs ; and to induce the plundering leaders to betake themselves to peaceful pursuits either by requiring their superiors to grant them lands under British guarantee, or by guaranteeing to them payments equivalent to the *tankhas* which they levied.

Such was the origin of the " Mediatized " or guaranteed States mentioned in para. 1 of this section of chapter I.

7. *Explanatory.*—The present is the first Census report for the Gwalior State except one on the operations of the Census left on record by Rao Raja Raghu Nath Rao Dinkar, Census Commissioner in 1891. On that occasion the figures for Gwalior were abstracted and tabulated under the orders of the Political Officers of the different Agencies in which the State lies, and were finally compiled by Political Agencies at Indore under the superintendence of the Census Superintendent for Central India. Thus though the total population of the state in 1891 can be ascertained and compared with 1901, complete comparison is not possible in other respects.* It should further be noticed that the schedule for native States in 1891 contained only the following particulars:—Sex,

*It is true that among the records of the last Census the population of the state by parganas was found but the total of the sub-divisions does not agree with the total given in the Census Report, and I have therefore decided not to use the pargana population in Table No 11.

The population of nearly all the towns for 1891 and of a number for 1881 is extant and is shown in Table IV so far as possible.

Age, Religion, Caste, Birth-place, Occupation, while the British India schedule which contained other particulars such as, Education, Civil Condition, Infirmities, etc., was only used for the enumeration of Cantonments and Agency Headquarters, of the Railway population and of European residents in Native States. At the present Census a uniform schedule was adopted throughout. The Census of 1881 which was the first taken for Central India gives still fewer materials for comparison than that of 1891, and was admittedly unreliable and inaccurate. It will be evident then that the report which follows will be rather a basis of comparison for future occasions than a record of progress and change in the past.

After the work of Compilation had made considerable progress, figures for the Railway population resident in stations in Gwalior territory were received from Indore. This was a complete surprise as no previous intimation was given on this point, and several tables had to be revised, but the Superintendent for Central India consented that the railway figures should only be included in the first 6 tables, and that in the others a note should be added to the effect that these figures were excluded. It would have been more convenient had this railway population been completely censused in the Gwalior office.

It will be observed that in most of the subsidiary tables I have not given percentages by districts but by Natural Divisions. My reasons are that the population of the State districts is in most cases small and that the preparation of these tables by Districts threatened to take more time than could be spared.

Gwalior, in common with Central India, labours under the great disadvantage that no Gazetteer of the state exists, and the articles in *Hunters' Imperial Gazetteer* are generally meagre, as is inevitable in a work dealing with the whole of India. Malcolm's account of Central India is, of course, excellent, but not up-to-date.

Moreover, Gwalior State from its situation presents few points of speciality in respect of population. In the North and East it borders on the North-Western Provinces and has affinities with them, in the South and West with the North-Western Provinces, Central Provinces and many Native States; and it is besides mingled with the other States of Central India, so that its interest tends to be absorbed in that of the larger area.

I may be allowed to mention here that the whole of the Census work was carried out concurrently with my ordinary duties and hence it was not possible for me to give my undivided attention to it; the result being that within the time allowed barely the fringe of the wide subjects included in the Tables could be touched, and that I could not exercise the amount of personal supervision that I should have wished. I consider the various Census operations to have been on the whole carried out with creditable accuracy when the inexperience of the entire Agency is considered, but here and there want of care has undoubtedly resulted in mistakes. In this connection I would specially mention the case of the Amjhera district, the figures for which are in some cases so extraordinary that I shrink from attempting to draw any conclusions from them. Even, however, with all allowances, I am fully conscious of the defects in the following pages due not to anything in the nature of the subject or to the deficiencies of the instruments employed but to the imperfections of the writer.

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