



**CENSUS OF INDIA, 1921**

**VOLUME V**

**BENGAL.**

**PART I.**

**REPORT**

**BY**

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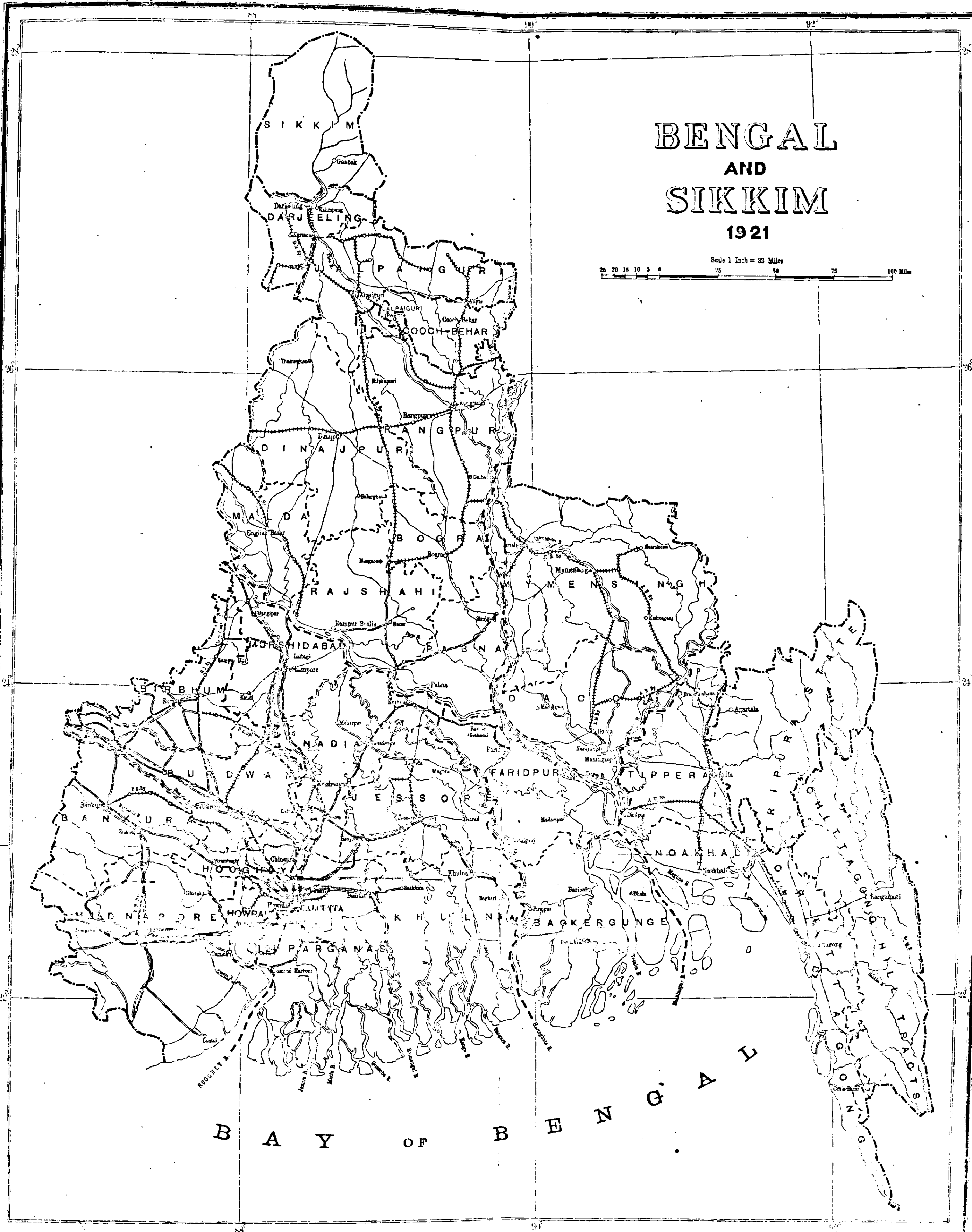
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**CALCUTTA :**  
**BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.**

**1923.**

# BENGAL AND SIKKIM 1921

Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles



B A Y O F B E N G A L

## PREFACE.

The sixth Census of the Bengal Presidency was taken on the night of the 18th March, 1921. Details of the procedure followed are set forth at length in the Administrative Report, Volume V, Part III, of the series published in connection with the Census of India, but that volume is intended primarily for those in whose hands the arrangements for the Census of 1931 will be placed, and is not likely to reach the general reader. Assuming that this report will find a general reader, such a person may wish for some brief account of how the thing was done.

The vast majority of the population of Bengal does not live in towns, and in rural areas the type of village generally found in other parts of India hardly exists. Still less does the aspect of the countryside resemble that met with in Europe. Instead of orderly rows of fairly substantial houses ranged along some well used thoroughfare, one finds the homesteads of the rural population scattered over the whole face of the countryside, each consisting of mat-walled huts ranged round a courtyard and buried under a thick growth of shady trees. At first glance it would seem well nigh impossible to account for every homestead, much less to complete a census of all the inhabitants. The task is, however, not as impossible as it appears, and the solution of the difficulty lies in the employment of local men, to whom the task of dealing with circumscribed areas, with which they have been familiar from their childhood, is a very different problem to that with which a stranger would be faced. The Province is divided into districts and districts are parcelled out under police stations. For a smaller unit a well established survey unit is available, the *mauza*, which the landlords now use and with which, from their use of it, the cultivators have also become familiar. The whole area of a district is accounted for in terms of the *mauzas* under each police station, and the responsibility for the census of the *mauzas* can be handed over to locally appointed enumerators and supervisors. Each enumerator was given some 40 or 50 houses to deal with, and some 10 enumerators were placed under each supervisor. But in point of fact the supervisors were appointed first, the *tahsil pançhayats*, those who collect the *chaukidari* tax and pay the village watchmen (*chaukidars*) being roped in to assist, and themselves to fill up as many of the posts of supervisor as possible, and the enumerators were selected afterwards with their assistance.

The first work of the supervisors and enumerators was to number the inhabited houses, using tar or some other suitable material for marking them, and to write up complete lists of houses for each *mauza*. While this was going on, instructions how to fill up the schedules were disseminated, and in the early part of February the Preliminary Enumeration commenced. The enumerators wrote up the schedules for all those ordinarily resident in each house, and the entries were carefully checked by the supervisors and others who were available to assist.

The final Census came on the night of March 18th, when the enumerators made a round of their blocks, struck off from the schedules the names of those who had died or had gone away, and entered particulars for

new-comers and new-born infants. Elaborate arrangements were also made so that travellers should not escape being counted. Whether in point of fact the Census gains in accuracy through there being a final Census to an extent commensurable with the trouble which the final Census involves, is a matter of doubt. In the United States of America a final Census is not considered worth while; but in India it is certain that the large volunteer agency which is employed gains much inspirations from the knowledge that each enumerator has, that what he is doing on the Census night is being done by others throughout the length and breadth of the Indian Empire. Not only does this inspiration carry him along in his own work, but it gives his work an importance in the eyes of the public which it would not otherwise obtain.

As soon as the Census was completed, the enumerators set to work that same night, or very early next morning, ascertaining the totals for their blocks, and the supervisors for their circles, and within the next few days the final totals were completed and published. These were, of course, not always the exactly correct figures, and they only gave the total numbers of males and females. The Census statistics published in the companion to this volume, part II of volume V of the Census series, took a great deal longer to prepare.

Slips were made out for each individual, giving either by means of the colours of the slips symbols printed on the top, or details written in pencil, the full contents (except names) of the original schedule for each. The slips were prepared by clerks working on piece-rates, generally at each district headquarters, and in order that the copying might be finished with as little delay as possible, the total number of copyists employed ran into thousands. The slips, when completed, were sent to five central Census offices located at Burdwan, Rajshahi, Dacca, Barisal and Comilla, and in these the process of sorting was undertaken. The slips were sorted in pigeon-holes successively according to the entries of age, caste, etc., to obtain the statistics required for publication. Each sorter dealt with some 30,000 slips and entered his results in a series of forms of "sorter's tickets." The process was by no means as simple as it may appear from this brief description, but these are the essential features of it. Compilation followed, the process by which the results shown in the sorter's tickets were brought together to give statistics for the population under police-stations, in towns and in districts, required for publication. Compilation was carried out in the Central offices as far as to obtain the district totals, and the compilation registers with the sorter's tickets were then forwarded to an office in charge of my personal assistant in Dacca, where the compilation was checked and the final tables prepared. Each final table was sent to the office of the Census Commissioner in Simla for a final check before publication.

This report will be found to differ from the reports of previous Censuses of Bengal, in that it sticks much more closely to the Census statistics themselves. Indeed, it contains nothing that is not statistical and only makes use of statistics other than those obtained from this and former Censuses, in order to amplify the conclusions and make use of the results which the Census statistics supply. It has not been permitted to digress on ethnological and kindred subjects, but on the other hand it goes somewhat more fully than its predecessors in its commentary upon the Census statistics of age, sex, civil

conditions and other purely statistical matters, and upon the relationship between the statistics, for example, of agriculture and vital occurrences, and the Census figures.

I cannot acknowledge too fully the services of the great body of private individuals and Government officials who conducted the Census and brought it to a satisfactory conclusion. My special thanks are due to the five Deputy Collectors who were in charge of the Census offices at Burdwan, Rajshahi, Dacca, Barisal and Comilla, and especially to Babu Romesh Chandra Sen, who was in charge of Rajshahi, and to my personal assistant, Khan Sahib Abdul Jail Khan. Much useful work was also done by my head assistant, Babu Harendra Krishna Mitra, who has done for me the same work that he has done for two of my predecessors.

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## APPENDIX TO CHAPTER XII.

## Alphabetical list of commonest and most typical returns of occupation.

	Group No.		Group No.
Acrobat	179	Button maker	79
Actor	178	Buyer and seller	152
Aerated water maker	59	Cabinet maker	88
Agent to Zamindar	3	Cane stool maker	45
Agricultural Expert	3	Carpet seller	141
Agricultural instrument maker	48	Cardboard maker	63
Aimadari	1	Cartman	114
Almanac maker	177	Cart maker	91
Amin (Surveyor)	176	Cart seller	145
Areca-nut seller	135	Cattle doctor	171
Army	155	Carpenter	44
Artizan	187	Carriage maker	91
Artizan school clerk	174	Castrator	172
Artizan school servant	174	Camphor seller	123
Artist	177	Castor oil presser	61
Assistant—& Co	185	Cake maker	66
Astrologer	177	Chaprasai (District Board)	163
Attorney's clerk	170	Charcoal burner	9
Ayah	181	Charcoal dealer	147
Bag (gunny) maker	28	Chairman	176
Baker	65	Chartered Accountant	185
Barber	81	Chauffeur	119
Bar Library servant	101	Chaukidar (village)	100
Bamboo seller	125	Chilli seller	135
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Betel leaf seller	100	Cloth seller	123
Billiard marker	82	Cloth bleacher	37
Blanket weaver	82	Cloth dyer	37
Blanket seller	129	Cloth merchant	123
Blacksmith	48	Clog maker	78
Boat builder	93	Club servant	101
Boiler maker	48	Clown	179
Book Binder	95	Cobbler	78
Book keeper	185	Coal seller	147
Book seller	150	Coal depot clerk	147
Boot maker	78	Coal depot cooly	147
Boot seller	140	Coal miner	19
Bone mill worker	42	Coal mine manager	19
Bottle seller	142	Coal mine clerk	19
Boat man	110	Coffee seller	135
Box trick worker	179	Collector	161
Bone setter	171	Collectorate accountant	161
Boy dancer	178	Collectorate clerk	161
Braid maker	38	Collectorate nazir	161
Brass worker	49	Colliery manager	19
Brass seller	142	Commission agent	122
Brick maker	56	Commission office clerk	161
Brick contractor	127	Comb maker	79
Brick burner	156	Compositor	94
Broom maker	45	Compounder	172
Buffalo keeper	11	Congress officer	101
"    hires	146	Constable	169
"    seller	114	Contractor	184
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Bugler	68	Contractor's clerk	184
Butcher	181	Contractor's servant	184
Butler	133	Convict	186
Butter seller	89	Conjuror	179
Building contractor	169	Cotton weaving	27
Burial ground servant	169	Cook	181
Burning ghat attendant	169	Cooly (tea garden)	6

## APPENDIX TO CHAPTER XII.

## Alphabetical list of commonest and most typical returns of occupation.

	Group No.		Group No.
Acrobat	179	Button maker	79
Actor	178	Buyer and seller	152
Aerated water maker	59	Cabinet maker	83
Agent to Zamindar	3	Cane stool maker	45
Agricultural Expert	3	Carpet seller	141
Agricultural instrument maker	48	Cardboard maker	63
Amadari	1	Cartman	114
Almanac maker	177	Cart maker	91
Amis (Surveyor)	176	Cart seller	145
Areca nut seller	135	Cattle doctor	171
Army	155	Carpenter	44
Artizan	187	Carriage maker	91
Artizan school clerk	174	Castrator	172
Artizan school servant	174	Camphor seller	128
Artist	177	Castor oil presser	61
Assistant—& Co	185	Cake maker	66
Astronomer	177	Chaprasa (District Board)	163
Attorney's clerk	170	Charcoal burner	9
Ayali	181	Charcoal dealer	147
Baz (gunny) maker	28	Chairman	176
Baker	66	Chartered Accountant	183
Barber	81	Chauffeur	113
Bar Library servant	101	Chaukidar (village)	100
Bamboo seller	125	Chilli seller	135
Banjar	121	Chemical works	64
Bandar	2	Church work	167
Bandmaster	169	Circumciser	172
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Basket maker	45	Chinchona plantation worker	6
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Biggar	189	Clay figure maker	100
Birer	181	Clerk, Government Estate	3
Birer (Palki)	115	Clerk, in a newspaper office	177
Bird dancer	179	Clerkships	185
Betel leaf grower	7	Clerk	185
Betel leaf seller	135	Cloth seller	123
Biard marker	100	Cloth bleacher	37
Basket weaver	32	Cloth dyer	37
Basket seller	123	Cloth merchant	123
Bekemith	48	Clog maker	78
Bit builder	92	Club servant	101
Blender maker	48	Clown	179
Book Binder	95	Cobbler	78
Book keeper	185	Coal seller	147
Book seller	150	Coal depot clerk	147
Book maker	78	Coal depot cooly	147
Book seller	140	Coal miner	19
Boat mill worker	42	Coal mine manager	19
Boat seller	142	Coal mine clerk	19
Boat man	110	Coffee seller	135
Boat trick worker	179	Collector	161
Boat setter	171	Collectorate accountant	161
Boat dancer	178	Collectorate clerk	161
Boat maker	38	Collectorate nazir	161
Boat worker	49	Colliery manager	19
Boat seller	142	Commission agent	122
Book maker	56	Commission office clerk	161
Boat contractor	127	Comb maker	79
Book burner	156	Compositor	94
Book maker	45	Compounder	172
Book keeper	11	Congress officer	101
Book hirer	146	Constable	159
Book seller	146	Contractor	184
Book cart driver	114	Contractor (Railway)	118
Book	178	Contractor's clerk	184
Book	68	Contractor's servant	184
Book	181	Convict	188
Book seller	133	Conjuror	179
Boat making contractor	89	Cotton weaving	27
Boat ground servant	168	Cook	181
Boat ghat attendant	168	Cooly (tea garden)	6

	Group No.	
Cooly (unspecified)	187	Garland seller
Cooch Behar clerk	162	Gardener
Co-operative Audit Society's clerk	121	Gas works
Co-operative clerk	163	German silver ornament seller
Co-operative store-keeper	185	German silver article seller
Cork maker	9	German silver worker
Court of Wards' servant	3	Glassware seller
Cow keeper	11	Glass factory worker
Cow dung seller	129	Glass bangle maker
Crab seller	131	Glass bangle seller
Cultivators of another's land (Bogra)	2	Gold dealer
Cultivator of service holding (chakra)	2	Goldsmith's dust washer
Cultivator	2	Government Surveyor
Cultivator (Jhum)	2	Government Engineer
Dafadar, police	159	Grain dealer
Dak bungalow chankidar	181	Grain parcher
Dancer	178	Gramophone seller
Dancing girl	178	Grass cutter
Darji	77	Grindstone seller
Date sugar maker	71	Grocer
Day labourer	187	Groom
Dentist	171	Guard (Railway)
Dentist's clerk	172	Guard (Forest)
Diviner	179	Gunny broker
Doctor	171	Gur maker
Dockyard workman	105	Gur seller
Dog-boy	182	Guru
Domestic service	181	Hair seller
Door seller	46	Hakim (physician)
Draper	140	Hammer man
Draughtsman	176	Haulloom worker
Drawing master	173	Hanger ou
Drug seller	178	Harmonium repairer
Drum maker	96	Hawker of cloth
Drummer	178	Health officer
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Dye seller	128	Hide dealer
Earth worker	86	Hinge seller
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Elephant driver	182	Honey collector
Electric fitter	93	Honey seller
Electric light worker	93	Horn dealer
Embroiderer	77	Horn comb maker
Embroiderer in gold and silver	98	Horoscope maker
Engine driver (Railway)	118	Horse dealer
Engine driver (unspecified)	186	Hospital nurse
Engineer and surveyor	176	Hospital clerk
Estimator	176	Hospital cooly
Exorcist	179	Hospital servant
Eye doctor	171	Hotel keeper
Eye powder maker	60	Hukka maker
Farmer of fishing wrights	154	Hukka seller
Farm servant on monthly pay	4	Hunter
Farmer (cultivator)	2	Ice factory worker
Farrier	48	Idol dancer
Ferry man	110	Idol maker and seller
Fire wood collector	9	Indoor servant
Fire wood seller	147	Ink man (press)
Firework maker	58	Inspector of schools
Field labourer	5	Iron foundry worker
Fisherman	17	Iron founder
Fish broker	122	Iron monger
Fish curer	69	Iron work mistry
Flatterer	191	Ironware factory
Flour seller	136	Ironing
Flour grinder	65	Jailor
Flute master	178	Jail warder
Fodder shop	139	Jatra party
Forest Banger	8	Jatra party pfbprietor
Founder (iron)	46	Jetty sarkar
Fortune-teller	179	Jetty cooly
Fried rice maker	67	Jewellery maker
Fried rice seller	136	Jewellery seller
Fruit seller	135	Jhum cultivator
Fruiterer	135	Judge
Furniture seller	141	Judge's court peon
Gambler	191	Judge's bearer
Ganja seller	137	Jungle cutter
Ganja society clerk	137	Jute broker
Ganja preparer	75	Jute dealer
Garland maker	99	Jute weaver

	Group No.		Group No.
Jute presser . . . . .	28A	Music master . . . . .	178
Kaciraj (physician) . . . . .	171	Musical instrument maker . . . . .	96
Kaji . . . . .	169	"    "    seller . . . . .	150
Kaji's clerk . . . . .	170	Musical instrument player . . . . .	178
Kanungo . . . . .	161	Mustard oil dealer . . . . .	132
Kellner & Co., servant . . . . .	129	Necklace seller . . . . .	149
Koroene seller . . . . .	128	Net maker . . . . .	29
Khansama (private) . . . . .	181	Net seller . . . . .	123
Khansama (dak bungalow) . . . . .	130	Newspaper proprietor . . . . .	177
Knife maker . . . . .	48	Newspaper editor . . . . .	177
Koran reader . . . . .	167	Newspaper reporter . . . . .	177
Lac maker . . . . .	38	Night watchman (private) . . . . .	181
Lac collector . . . . .	10	Oculist . . . . .	171
Lace maker . . . . .	38	Oil presser . . . . .	62
Lamp lighter (Municipal) . . . . .	163	Opium seller . . . . .	137
Lamp lighter (Railway) . . . . .	118	Orange seller . . . . .	135
Lamp maker . . . . .	83	Order supplier . . . . .	122
Lamp seller . . . . .	142	Organ seller . . . . .	150
Laskar . . . . .	107	Out-door servant . . . . .	182
Lathial . . . . .	191	Overseer . . . . .	185
Lawyer . . . . .	169	Orphan . . . . .	188
Lawyers' clerk . . . . .	170	Painter . . . . .	177
Leather dresser . . . . .	39	Palmist . . . . .	177
Lemonade seller . . . . .	129	Palki bearer . . . . .	115
Lessee of trees for lac . . . . .	10	Pandit . . . . .	173
Library clerk . . . . .	101	Paper bag maker . . . . .	63
Light man . . . . .	163	Paper seller . . . . .	150
Linotypist . . . . .	94	Paper mill worker . . . . .	63
Lithographer . . . . .	94	Parched grain seller . . . . .	136
Lime dealer . . . . .	143	Patnidar . . . . .	1
Loan office clerk . . . . .	121	Pensioner . . . . .	180
Local board clerk . . . . .	163	Perfume seller . . . . .	140
Locksmith . . . . .	89	Pepper seller . . . . .	132
Lunatic Asylum (inmate) . . . . .	188	Photographer . . . . .	177
Magistrate . . . . .	161	Piece-goods dealer . . . . .	123
Magician . . . . .	189	Pilgrim conductor . . . . .	158
Mahanta (temple) . . . . .	168	Pilot . . . . .	105
Mahut (elephant) . . . . .	182	Pimp . . . . .	190
Maid servant . . . . .	181	Pipe bowel maker (earthen) . . . . .	55
Mail sorter . . . . .	120	Plantain seller . . . . .	135
Manager of Government Estate . . . . .	3	Plantain leaf seller . . . . .	125
Manager (Bank) . . . . .	121	Pleader . . . . .	169
Map maker . . . . .	176	Pleader's clerk . . . . .	170
Marine Engineer . . . . .	107A	Plough maker . . . . .	48
Marriage Registrar . . . . .	161	Plough seller . . . . .	126
Mat seller . . . . .	141	Plough tip maker . . . . .	48
Mat maker . . . . .	45	Plough man . . . . .	4
Mattress maker . . . . .	84	Poet . . . . .	177
Mattress seller . . . . .	141	Potter . . . . .	55
Matchmaker (Ghatak) . . . . .	177	Pound keeper . . . . .	154
Match Factory . . . . .	58	Pottery shop . . . . .	142
Maulvi . . . . .	165	Press man . . . . .	94
Maulana . . . . .	165	Press mistry . . . . .	94
Meat seller . . . . .	68	Press machine man . . . . .	94
Medicine seller . . . . .	128	Prescriber of prayer (Mantradata) . . . . .	165
Medicine . . . . .	171	Priest . . . . .	165
Mendicant (religious) . . . . .	160	Printers' clerk . . . . .	94
Mendicant (otherwise) . . . . .	187	Printers' servant . . . . .	94
Messenger . . . . .	117	Printers' inkman . . . . .	94
Midwife . . . . .	172	Prisoner . . . . .	188
Military office clerk . . . . .	155	Professor . . . . .	173
Milker . . . . .	11	Prostitute . . . . .	190
Milk man . . . . .	11	Public works overseer . . . . .	776
Mill worker . . . . .	185	Pulse dealer . . . . .	136
Mill mistry . . . . .	186	Pankha puller . . . . .	181
Miner (coal) . . . . .	19	Quack doctor (Abadhoutic) . . . . .	171
Mission worker . . . . .	167	Quick change artist . . . . .	179
Missionary . . . . .	165	Quilt maker . . . . .	84
Mission school servant . . . . .	174	Railway servant . . . . .	118
Money-lender . . . . .	121	Railway doctor . . . . .	171
Money-lender's clerk . . . . .	121	Ranger (Forest) . . . . .	8
Monkey dancer . . . . .	179	Reading the Koran . . . . .	167
Monthly paid labourer . . . . .	4	Reader of sacred book (Hindu) . . . . .	179
Mosque attendant . . . . .	168	Receipt of produce rent . . . . .	1
Motor driver . . . . .	183	Reciter . . . . .	179
Motor worker . . . . .	90	Rent collector . . . . .	3
Mud hut builder . . . . .	89	Rent receiver . . . . .	1
Mudi shop . . . . .	132	Rent payer . . . . .	2
Mukhtiar . . . . .	169	Rice pounder . . . . .	65
Munsif . . . . .	161	Rich man . . . . .	180
Municipal tax collector . . . . .	163	Road metal contractor . . . . .	143
Municipal water-works man . . . . .	163	Rope maker . . . . .	29

	Group No.		
Salt seller	132	Tanner	
Salt contractor	132	Tassar weaver	
Salt godown cooly	122	Taxi driver	
Saw mill worker	43	Tea garden cooly	
Sawyer	43	Tenant	
Scented tobacco seller	137	Thatcher	
School master	173	Theatre performer	
Sericulturist	15	Theatre manager	
Servant on monthly pay	181	Timber merchant	
Scholarship holder	180	Tobacco seller	
Shell button maker	42	Toddy drawer	
Shell worker	42	Torch bearer	
Shell seller	131	Tram driver	
Shell collector	17	Trunk maker (steel)	
Shorthand typist	175	Turtle catcher	
Shoe maker	78	Turtle seller	
Shoe seller	140	Turmeric seller	
Shoe mender	78	Umbrella maker	
Silk weaving	35	Umbrella mender	
Singer of Ramayan	178	Umbrella stick maker	
Singing master	178	Umbrella maker and seller	
Singer	178	Umbrella coverer	
Skinner of dead cattle	39	University clerk	
Slave	131	Upholsterer	
Small pox curer	171	Under-trial prisoner	
Snake charmer	178	Vegetable seller	
Socks seller	140	Vermillion seller	
Spade worker	5	Veterinary surgeon	
Spice seller	132	Village watchman	
Spirit seller	129	Violin player	
Stationer	159	Vulcanizer	
Stamp vendor	154	Walking stick maker	
Steamer boiler man	107	Watchman (private)	
Steamer inspector	107	Watchman (village)	
Steamer agent	107	Watcher in the fields	
Steamer khalasi	107	Watch repairer	
Steamer serang	107	Waterworks mistry	
Steamer cooly	106	Waterman	
Steamer office clerk	107	Water carrier	
Steamer peon	107	Washerman	
Steamer booking clerk	107	Waste paper dealer	
Steamer fireman	107	Weighman	
Steamer fitter	107	Well sinker	
String maker	29	Wheelwrights	
Straw seller	136	Wine seller	
Sugar factory worker	71	Witch	
Sugarcane press maker	48	Wizard	
Surgeon	171	Wood cutter	
Sweeper	103	Wooden plough maker	
Sweetmeat hawker	134	Wrestler	
Sweetmeat maker	72	Writer	
Sycophant (Blhattagiri)	177	Yearly servant	
Tailor	77	Zamindar	
Tank excavator	86	Zamindar's Ainla	

# GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

### Jurisdiction.

CALCUTTA, THE 8TH AUGUST 1923.

### RESOLUTION—No. 6241Jur.

#### READ—

The Report on the Census of Bengal and Sikkim, 1921, by Mr. W. H. Thompson, I.C.S., Superintendent of Census Operations, Bengal.

THE census operations of the sixth census of Bengal, which was taken on the 18th March 1921, were conducted by Mr. W. H. Thompson, I.C.S.; and separate reports have been prepared by him on Bengal and Sikkim and on the city of Calcutta. These reports have been perused with much interest by the Governor in Council, who desires to place on record the following observations regarding the operations and their results.

2. The results of the census show that the population of the province has increased from 46,305,170 in the year 1911 to 47,592,462 in the year 1921. The area of the province, exclusive of the largest rivers, is 82,244 square miles and is practically the same as it stood on the 1st April 1912, when the provinces of Bengal, Assam, and Bihar and Orissa were reconstituted. The population is now larger than that of any other province of the Indian Empire; ten years ago it was rather less than that of the United Provinces, but Bengal has now just over a million more inhabitants than that province. Between each successive census from 1872 to 1911, the population grew in an increasing proportion, which rose from 6·7 per cent. in 1872-81 to 8 per cent. in 1901-11. This increase has now fallen to 2·8 per cent., and all parts of the province have felt the disabilities of the past decade, amongst the chief of which were the phenomenal rise in prices caused by the war and the advent of influenza in disastrous epidemic form. With the exception of Howrah, Calcutta, the 24-Parganas and Khulna, the districts of Western and Central Bengal have lost population. In Northern and Eastern Bengal the districts have gained, except Pabna and Malda; as in the previous decade the Chittagong Division has been the most progressive locality in the province. The two districts which have done better in the present than in the previous decade are Jessore and Bakarganj, though Jessore still shows a small decline in population.

3. **Density.**—The average density of population is 579 persons per square mile compared with England and Wales 649, Belgium 662, the United Provinces 414, Bihar and Orissa 340, Madras 279, the Punjab 184, and Bombay 143. There are however great inequalities ranging from the sparsely populated hill tracts of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Tripura State to the thickly populated industrial area of which Calcutta is the centre and to the centre of Eastern Bengal which supports a population of no less than 1,050 persons to the square mile. It is remarkable that the population is growing most rapidly in parts where the density is already great; but the statistics of agriculture analysed in chapter I of the report would indicate that one reason for the difference in the growth in the population to the east and to the west is to be found in the fact that the soil on the east can support considerably more persons than it can on the west.

4. **Urban population.**—The urban population of Bengal, which is dealt with in chapter II of the Report, has increased by 8·2 per cent. during the decade 1911-1921 to 3,211,304, which is 67 per thousand of the whole population. Whilst, however, the average country town has grown only 2 per cent., the average industrial and commercial town outside Calcutta has increased by 16·9 per cent. As might be expected from the results given in the preceding

paragraph, the towns of Western and Central Bengal which are not industrial centres have generally lost population during the decade, but such places as Bhadreswar, Baidyabati and Champdani have together increased by more than 40 per cent. Certain towns in Northern Bengal have grown considerably, notably Bogra by 35 per cent. and the railway centre of Saidpur by 63 per cent. Dacca has increased by 10 per cent. and has now a population of 119,450 inhabitants, within 500 of that of Patna and not quite half of that of Lucknow. The jute centres in Eastern Bengal have also grown fast. Calcutta with its five suburbs, Cossipore-Chitpur, Manicktola, Tollygunge, the South Suburban Municipality and Garden Reach, and Howrah now has a population of 1,327,547 or 4·3 per cent. more than in 1911. Growth has been slower than in previous decades, but on the other hand there has been a great development in suburban passenger traffic on the railways.

5. **Migration.**—The statistics of migration in and out of the province are discussed by Mr. Thompson in chapter III of the Report. Bengal has 1,839,016 immigrants against 686,195 emigrants. These figures are however somewhat illusory, for on the whole the majority of the immigrants do not come to settle and make their homes permanently in Bengal. They come to Bengal, take up the lion's share of the employment which industrial development has thrown open, earn a little money and then go home again. There has been a remarkable development of permanent Muhammadan emigration from the district of Mymensingh up the Brahmaputra Valley into Assam.

6. **Religion.**—Muhammadans now form 53·55 per cent. of the population, Hindus 43·72 per cent., Animists 1·79 per cent., and others 0·94 per cent. Even as far back as 1881 Muhammadans were slightly more numerous than Hindus, but from decade to decade they have increased faster mainly because they predominate on the more rapidly increasing healthier and wealthier Eastern Bengal districts. Animists now number over three-quarters of a million, Buddhists a little over a quarter of a million, and Christians some 150,000.

7. **Age, Sex and Civil Condition.**—Mr. Thompson has given more space in his reports than his predecessors did to the statistics of age, sex and civil condition and has set forth in chapters V, VI and VII some valuable figures and interesting conclusions. The vast majority of the population can only guess at their ages, a failing which is by no means confined to the illiterate classes. Nevertheless, Mr. Thompson has been able to show how the statistics can be adjusted and analysed for practical purposes. Some of the characteristics of the statistics of sex are unusual as compared with those obtaining in European countries. There are only 932 females per 1,000 males as compared with 1,101 in England, and there is a higher proportion of males at birth in urban than in rural areas. It is interesting to note that the proportion of females born per 1,000 males fell from 939 to 930 in the year 1914, and this was the average for the next five years. A similar phenomenal fall has been observed in almost all countries during the war, both in countries actually at war and in other non-belligerent countries. The universality of marriage in Bengal continues to be the most remarkable feature of the statistics of civil condition; thus, whilst only 55 females per 1,000 of the female population between the ages of 15 to 20 are unmarried in Bengal, the proportion in England and Wales is 988. The average age of a bride in Bengal is 12 years and that of the bridegroom 20 years. It is however a significant fact that the age of marriage, especially of males, is rising. The other remarkable feature of these statistics is the large proportion of widows: more than one-third of the Hindu females between 30 and 35 are widows, and the proportion rises to two-thirds between 45 and 50.

8. **Infirmities.**—The numbers afflicted with insanity (41 per 100,000), deaf-mutes (67 per 100,000) and lepers (33 per 100,000) are all less numerous than in 1911, but the number totally blind (72 per 100,000) is slightly more. Leprosy is very much less prevalent than it was 40 years ago, when it was



as common in the Rajshahi and Presidency Divisions as it is now in the Burdwan Division; the greatest improvement has been in the Presidency Division where the proportion of lepers to the total population is now only 29 per cent. of what it was in 1881.

9. **Language.**—Though 80 different languages are found spoken in Bengal, there is not another province in India which presents the same homogeneity in the matter of language, except the United Provinces in which 99 per cent. speak some form of Hindi. Bengali is the mother-tongue of 92 per cent. of the total population of Bengal. The other languages most frequently spoken are Hindi and Urdu spoken by 3·8 per cent. The other languages are mainly Kherwari, Oriya, Tipra (Mrung), Eastern Paharia (Khaskura), Arakanese (Maghi), but there are many varieties of the Tibeto-Himalayan, Assam-Burmese and Dravidian languages.

10. **Education.**—Anyone who could write a letter to a friend and read an answer to it was returned as literate in the census schedules. In Bengal only 104 per mille of the population of the age of 5 and over have reached this standard—181 per mille in the case of males and 21 per mille in the case of females. There has been considerable progress since 1911 when the corresponding proportion for males was 161 and for females only 13; and Bengal stands next to Burma, which leads the rest of India in this respect. The rate of literacy is highest in the Presidency Division.

11. **Caste.**—There was no sign of revolt against the caste system. As usual, the entry of caste in the census schedules created some disturbance in the public mind. Those who belong to Hindu castes low down in the social scale who have begun to share in the privilege of education put forward various extravagant claims to caste distinction by means of the adoption of a new caste name. In ancient times the king was the last appellate authority on the question of caste, and at the census attempts were made to thrust the Census Superintendent into a similar position—a position which he rightly refused to accept. These attempts however at changing caste render the statistics of caste less reliable than they were formerly and certainly make their comparison with the results of any previous census less valuable. It is not uninteresting to note that the Census Superintendent estimates that the numbers of the depressed classes in Bengal amount to 11,250.

12. **Occupation.**—Pasture and agriculture support some four-fifths of the population, including those who depend upon agricultural rents and their agents. About two-thirds of the total are ordinary cultivators. Industry supports only 7½ per cent. of the population, transport 1½ per cent., and trade a little more than 5 per cent. of the total. The professions and liberal arts support a little over 1½ per cent. Domestic servants (less than 1½ per cent.) are comparatively few. Along with the census a special count of handlooms was made, which shows that though hand-spinning has almost disappeared, hand-weaving with machine-made thread is still an important industry. The statistics of the industrial census obtained by means of returns which were filled up by the owners and managers of all factories with ten or more employees have been carefully tabulated and should prove valuable.

13. **Costs of the operations.**—The total additional expenditure incurred by Government and the Corporation of Calcutta on account of the census operations amounted to Rs. 3,85,771 as compared with Rs. 3,02,781 in 1911. The increase is almost entirely due to the increased rates of pay which had to be given to the clerks and others engaged in tabulation and compilation. As usual, the bulk of the work of the actual census was performed by a large host of unpaid workers who deserve great praise for the efficient performance of their duties.

14. **General.**—In conclusion His Excellency in Council desires to express his appreciation of the excellence of the organisation of the operations and the accuracy and care with which they were carried out. In particular, he wishes to thank Mr. W. H. Thompson for his services in organising and conducting the operations and for his eminently valuable and interesting report. He also desires to thank the District Officers and the numerous officials and non-officials who helped to bring the operations to a successful conclusion for their valuable services. The names of the officers commended by Mr. W. H. Thompson for their good work will be recorded in the Appointment Department.

By order of the Governor in Council,

M. C. McALPIN,

*Secretary to the Government of Bengal.*

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