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# SLIPS USED IN THE ABSTRACTION OF THE CENSUS SCHEDULES

(Vide Introduction P. III.)

		<i>Hindus</i>	<i>Musalmans</i>	<i>Jains</i>	<i>Animists.</i>	<i>Christians and Others</i>
<i>Males</i>	<i>Married</i>					
	<i>Unmarried</i>					
	<i>Widowed</i>					
<i>Females</i>	<i>Married</i>					
	<i>Unmarried</i>					
	<i>Widowed</i>					

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1901.

VOLUME XXV.

---

RAJPUTANA.

---

PART I.

REPORT.

BY

CAPTAIN A. D. BANNERMAN, I.S.C.,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS



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## INTRODUCTION.

(The Census of Rajputana was taken on the night of the 1st March 1901. The operations embraced for the first time the Bhils of Mewar, Banswara and Kusalgarh, Dungarpur and Partabgarh, and the Grassias of Sirohi. The Census of 1901 was therefore the first complete Census of Rajputana that has been taken.)

In the Bhil country, where the tribes live in large straggling villages extending often for miles through dense forest, and where counting by night is impracticable the regular procedure was modified. The enumeration was taken during the day in the last fortnight of February. The *Gamethis* or headmen of the villages mustered the entire population of their villages at a spot close to one of the police thanas and gave particulars of all persons who through sickness or other unavoidable cause were unable to attend. (Like all wild tribes, the Bhils are very shy of being counted and object to strangers approaching their homesteads. In 1881 many wild stories of the object of the Census were circulated in the Bhil Country and such excitement and unrest were caused that the Maharana of Udaipur thought it necessary to give the Bhils in his territory an undertaking that "they should never suffer by the counting of men and houses." In 1891 it was also deemed advisable not to enumerate the Bhils but an approximate estimate was formed on the basis of the number of huts which each village was believed to contain. From information given by the State officials it appears, however, that the houses were never properly counted. The enumerating staff did not venture to enter many of the more inaccessible villages but were content to record any number told them by the first inhabitant of the village whom they were able to question. (On the present occasion it was decided to dispense with a regular count of the houses but to endeavour to have the people mustered by the headmen and enumerated on the general schedule form. It was believed that the famine relief measures undertaken for their preservation, and the large grants of clothing, seed, and cattle unstintingly given to them by the Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund had rubbed off a great deal of their shyness, savagery and distrust, and the result proved the correctness of this view. At the suggestion of the Census Commissioner it was explained to them that one object of the counting was to ascertain how many people might require food in the next famine, and this *argumentum ad ventrem*, assiduously applied by the supervisors, appears to have been most effective.) Except the Bhils, all the other races in Rajputana were enumerated between 7 P. M. and midnight on the 1st March.

Subject to the modification permitted in the case of the Bhils, all the towns and villages were divided in the preliminary organisation into a number of blocks, each of which contained on an average from 30 to 50 houses and was in charge of an enumerator. Above the block came the circle, a compact group of from 10 to 15 blocks or about 500 houses, under a supervisor who was responsible for the work of all the enumerators in his circle. Circles were grouped, according to the recognised administrative division of the various States such as tahsils, parganas, large jagirs, etc., into charges under Charge Superintendents who exercised general supervision over the Census operations and tested a large proportion of the work of their subordinates. During January and February—the precise period varied in different States—the enumerator wrote up the Census schedules for all persons residing in his block; and this record was checked and corrected by the supervisors and Charge Superintendents. On the night of the 1st March the enumerator went round his block and brought his record up to date by striking out the names of the people who had died or left the block, and filling in entries for fresh arrivals or newly born infants.

On the morning of the 2nd March the enumerators of the various blocks met the Circle Supervisor at a place previously arranged, and prepared the first totals of their blocks showing the number of occupied houses, males, females and total population for each block. The Supervisor then combined the block totals into a circle total and sent this on to the Charge Superintendent who repeated the operation for his charge and reported the charge total to the

Census Superintendent at the State head-quarters. This officer, with the assistance of other officials combined the charge totals into a State total which was telegraphed to the Superintendent Census Operations Rajputana and to the Census Commissioner for India.

In spite of the great distances of some of the charges from the State head-quarters in the desert portions of Marwar, Bikaner and Jaisalmer—more especially in Jaisalmer whose principal town is situated over 90 miles from the nearest telegraph station on the railway—in the forest tracts of Mewar, and in the widely scattered Tonk State, all the totals of the Native States in Rajputana were reported by the afternoon of the 9th March. At each stage of the operations the figures were added up independently by two and sometimes three persons and special precautions were taken to guard against error in the first totals, with the result that the finally corrected returns only differed from the first totals—allowance being made for the population of the Tonk districts situated in Central India which is included in the Imperial Tables of Central India, and for the population of the detached districts of Gwalior and Indore situated in Mewar which has been included in the Rajputana totals—by 1,938, which is equivalent to .02 per cent. or two persons in every 10,000 of the population.)

The result of the Census shows that there has been a decrease of roughly 2,267,000 on the population actually enumerated in 1891, and of 2,497,000 on the enumerated and estimated population of 1891. The chief causes of this large decrease are shown in chapter II of this report to be the several bad seasons ending with the great famine of 1899-1900, and the terrible ravages of malarial fever which followed.

The Census instructions and procedure are recorded elsewhere and it is sufficient to mention here that the general schedule prescribed for British India was adopted in full for the Native States of Rajputana and this has resulted in the collection of statistics for the first time of the civil condition, literacy, and languages of the people.)

In the preparation of the Census statistics a very important change was effected by the new process of abstraction by means of "slips" which was introduced by the Census Commissioner. Under the old system abstraction was carried out by large working sheets which practically reproduced the final tables on a greatly enlarged scale, and in which entries were made in complex compartments by means of strokes each representing an individual. The unit of abstraction was the block, and for each block there were as many abstraction sheets as there were tables.)

Complete details of the working of the new system are given in the Administrative volume and I will only briefly remark that on this occasion each schedule entry was copied on two slips of paper of a particular shape and colour. Slips of various shapes and colours were used so that the religion, sex, and civil condition of a person could be told at a glance. These slips were arranged in bundles in serial order by villages—all the villages of one tahsil being dealt with before the slips for the villages of another tahsil were written up—and after careful check were passed on to the tabulating branch. Here they were sorted for the first table which was prepared, namely Table VI—Religion—by villages, but after that had been tabulated, the slips were worked for tahsils which were the units of tabulation for all other tables. Each town was also treated as a unit of tabulation. As the unit for the Provincial statistics was the tahsil or town the new method furnished in one operation data which under the old system could only be obtained by a laborious process of compilation from the many different working sheets. The "slip" system worked admirably. The abstractors were without exception untrained hands, many of whom had only just left school but they soon mastered the simple process and were able to write up the slips quickly and accurately. The number of slips which were daily written up improved with practice; the average number of persons correctly abstracted daily on both slips in the different abstraction offices was 240 for the first month and 323 for the second month. The actual average rate attained by the clerks employed by the various States differed considerably. Slips in which the entries were made in Urdu were prepared more rapidly than those in which Hindi was used.

A sketch of the slips used showing particulars of each shape and colour is given on the frontispiece to this report.

Another point which deserves notice is the attempt which has been made to classify the castes by social precedence as recognised by native public opinion at the present day. The methods adopted for arriving at a classification on this basis are fully described in chapter IX and it will suffice to remark that although the great difference of opinion which was found to exist regarding certain castes, as well as the local conditions which affect so considerably the status of others, indicate that the classification arrived at is probably far from perfect, it is hoped that it may prove of some use for the purposes of the Ethnographic Survey which is shortly to be undertaken.

(The reports received from the States show that the educated people as a rule took an intelligent interest in the taking of the Census, and that the bulk of the people remained indifferent. In only a few of the more remote portions of some of the States, where communications are few and where the people seldom come in contact with anyone outside their own narrow village circle, was any dislike to the Census shown. In these parts the people—more especially the women—are said to attribute the famine and other ills from which they have suffered during the last decade to the taking of the Census in 1891 and as a consequence the enumerators who were sent there came in for a certain amount of abuse. The following incident which occurred in one of the Bhil States, however, illustrates how kindness and practical sympathy in their troubles can break down the barriers of suspicion of even the wildest tribes whose repugnance to being counted has in the past led to disturbances of the peace:—

(As none of the Bhils could read or write it was necessary to send men—who were usually of the Bania caste—accompanied by a few police to conduct the enumeration. A party of young bloods belonging to one of the *pals*, which had in the previous year acquired an unenviable notoriety for raiding and other acts of lawlessness, when returning to their homes from the place where they had been mustered and enumerated, espied in the distance what appeared to be a small party of Banias going along one of the jungle paths. The old hereditary instinct was too strong to be resisted even though they had as it were just returned from contact with the representatives of the law. They forthwith pursued the party, who, hearing them coming, threw down the bundles they were carrying or had on pack animals and incontinently fled. The Bhils seized the bundles and on examining them found that they contained packets of paper which they recognised to be precisely similar to the papers on which their own names had just been recorded. The Census they regarded as a work specially undertaken on the orders of the British Government and they therefore carefully collected all the papers, carried them several miles and finally deposited them in the centre of a track near to one of the police posts, placing stones on and around the bundles to prevent any papers being blown away. Word was then sent to the police who went and recovered the schedules, not one of which was missing.)

While the famine tamed the untutored spirit of the wilder forest tribes the marvellous patient endurance exhibited by the mass of the poorer classes and the uncomplaining silence with which they bore the terrible vicissitudes which they had to suffer excited the admiration and won the warmest sympathy of all who were employed in the administration of relief. The measures adopted and the help given to the famine-stricken have undoubtedly drawn the people and their rulers closer together and we can but hope that the lean years will be succeeded by favourable harvests and that the next Census will demonstrate that the people retain the wonderful recuperative power for which they have been famed in the past.

Before bringing these remarks to a close I would add that the Darbars showed their keen desire to co-operate heartily in the Imperial Scheme, and their interest in the work by appointing some of their most capable officials to conduct the Census operations, and by giving, for the purposes of abstraction and tabulation, the most suitable and commodious buildings in the cities where abstraction offices were established; and that whatever success or improvement



may have been attained in the taking of the Census is due to their practical help and prompt action in ordering the immediate adoption of all suggestions regarding procedure, etc., which were made by the officer in charge of the Census operations in Rajputana.

In conclusion I need hardly say how largely I am indebted to others for both facts and ideas. A great part of the information regarding religions and caste has been taken from various publications or furnished to me by correspondents. I owe much to Mr. Risley's *Castes and Tribes of Bengal*, to Mr. Ibbetson's account of the castes of the Punjab in his *Census Report of 1881*, and to M. Barth's *Religions of India*. I have also obtained various items of information from the volume on the *Castes of Marwar* published by the *Marwar Darbar* in 1894.

Among the many persons whom I consulted I am especially indebted for much useful information on the castes, religions, and customs of the people, and other subjects on which their valuable help was requested, to the learned Pundits of the *Maj Mundir* and to *Munshi Govind Saran*, *Tewari Deen Dyal* and *Pundit Gopi Nath* of Jaipur; to *Sayad Mahmud-ul-Hassan* of Bharatpur; *Rao Bahadur Sukhdeo Pershad* and *Kavi Raja Murar Dan* of Jodhpur; *Lala Ranjit Singh* of Alwar; *Lala Tribhowan Lal* of Udaipur; *Munshi Umrao Singh* of Bikaner; *Lala Magan Lal* of Partabgarh; *Munshis Sheo Partab* and *Dhani Ram* of Kotah; *Members of the State Council Bundi*; *Sahibzada Mahomed Abdul Wahab Khan* and *Munshi Mahomed Saddik* of Tonk; *Pundit Parmanand Chatarvedi* of Jhalawar; *Kazi Niaz Ali Khan* of Jaisalmer; and *Munshi Jogi Das Kamdar* of Shahpura. I would also express my grateful sense of the courtesy and consideration which I experienced at the hands of all the Political officers who afforded me every assistance.

Finally my warmest acknowledgments are due to Mr. Risley the Census Commissioner for India for his ever ready help and counsel, for the patient consideration with which he has listened to my difficulties and suggestions, and for his kind solicitude to do all he could, consistent with the unity of the Imperial Scheme, to make matters as easy as possible for me.

A. D. BANNERMAN.

DELHI:

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