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INTRODUCTION.

THE fifth regular Census of the Bombay Presidency was taken on the 10th of March 1911. In 1854 an estimate of the population had been made, but it was not until 1872 that the first enumeration was attempted. Its accuracy is extremely doubtful. It was the first organized effort and the procedure was not so well known and the available staff not so educated as it is at the present day. In 1877-78 came the severe famine in the Deccan and Karnátak, and in spite of it the population showed an increase of nearly half a million in 1881, which goes to prove that there must have been large omissions from the census of 1872. In 1891 after a period of exceptional freedom from widespread calamity the population was found to have increased by 15 per cent. to nearly 27 millions. The Census of 1901 was taken under circumstances of exceptional difficulty in the famine in Gujarát and in the height of a plague epidemic in Bombay City to which some of the enumerators unfortunately succumbed. The numbers returned on the 1st of March 1901 showed an actual loss of one and a half million persons. This, in spite of plague, has now been recovered and the population is just a shade more numerous than in 1891. Previous Enumerations.

There has been no change in the Districts and States over which our census operations extended, and no change in the broad outlines of the methods of enumeration. The general schedules were everywhere used, even in the wild Bhil tracts of the Mahi Kántha Agency, where in past censuses the use of them had been dispensed with as impracticable. A certain amount of tact and discretion had to be used, some areas being warned that the enumeration was in order to ascertain the requirements of the people should a famine unhappily recur, in others the enumeration was performed by the Bania hawkers with whom the Bhils are acquainted.

Mr. P. J. Mead, I. C. S., was appointed Census Superintendent, and entered on his duties on the 1st of April 1910. The first step to be taken was the preparation of the General Village Register in which was shown a complete list of all the villages and hamlets in each táluka, the number of houses and the number of workers available for enumeration. The villages were then divided into blocks, 40 houses on the average going to a block, and the blocks grouped into Circles, which contained about 10 blocks apiece. The area was then ready for house numbering. Each village was numbered consecutively right through. This was finished everywhere by the 15th of November 1910 except in areas affected by plague. During this period the enumerators and supervisors had been selected and were undergoing training under the Charge Superintendent, who was generally the Mámlatdár, or principal revenue official of the táluka. Preliminary enumeration, or the work of writing up the sixteen columns of the schedule, was then commenced and completed by the 20th of February 1911. As the schedules were filled in they were gradually checked and rechecked by all superior officers, right up to the census night. The only exception to this rule was in some of the wilder tracts in the Násik District, where the final check was dispensed with and no final test was taken. Enumeration.

A certain amount of dislocation was caused by plague, chiefly in municipalities, and the reserves of enumerators had to be called up, but the date selected for the final enumeration did not coincide with any big gathering of pilgrims in this Presidency. The usual notices requesting people to avoid fixing the census week for marriages or social gatherings was extensively circulated but no special arrangements were called for.

On the night of 10th March, except in the plague-stricken villages where it was thought that more accurate results could be obtained by a day enumeration, and in certain jungle tracts where night travelling is not pleasant, the enumerators went out as soon as it was dark to take the final check. New comers and newly born children were added to the list, and persons who had left the locality struck off. The next morning all the enumerators collected at an appointed meeting place in the supervisor's charge and checked each other's totals. The supervisor then combined the block totals into a circle total, took the books and started off for the headquarters of his Charge Superintendent. The latter added up the totals of all the books and wired the total wherever possible to the Charge Summary Officer at the headquarters of the District who in turn telegraphed the final total to the Census Commissioner at Calcutta and the Provincial Superintendent. Special care was taken that these provisional totals showing the number of occupied houses, males, females and total population should be as accurate as possible, and the final result only varied from the preliminary figures by 0·2 per cent. The total number of Census Officers employed was 139,892 or 0·5 per cent. of the subsequently ascertained population.

Tabulation.

Thirteen Abstraction Offices were then opened, of which the largest was at Poona, where 750 clerks dealt with the schedules of all the Maráthi-speaking British Districts and some small Native States. There was no change from the procedure of 1901. The first business to be done was to transcribe the details of each individual on to a slip 2"×4½". Religion was designated by colour, civil condition by a symbol of varying shape, and sex by the symbol being solid for a male and merely outlined for a female. The remaining details, age, caste, occupation, birth-place, language, literacy, knowledge of English and infirmities had to be written by hand. Copying was everywhere completed by the end of May 1911.

Sorting was then commenced. The slips were arranged in pigeon-holes according to the particular detail sorted for, then taken out of the pigeon-hole, counted and tied up in bundles of a hundred and the figure entered on a Sorter's Ticket. This method enabled a continuous check to be taken by the supervising staff, and as it was paid for as piece-work the sorters had no interest in concealing or making away with slips. Sorting was everywhere completed by the 7th October 1911. The Sorter's Tickets were then compiled into Compilation Registers and turned over to the Compilation Office, which brought out the final tables. Compilation was complete by the 1st May 1912.

Arrangement of the Statistics.

Some differences in arrangement have been made on this occasion, with a view to reduce bulk. Most of the Provincial Tables have been dispensed with as well as information for areas smaller than a táluka or petha, and the remainder has been consolidated into two tables which are incorporated with the Imperial Tables, and will be found at the end of Part II.

There are, therefore, only two volumes dealing with the Census of the Presidency, *viz.*, the Report and Tables. A third volume on the Administration of the Census will be issued shortly, but as it is of interest only to officials who have to organise a census staff, it will not be available to the general public. The Report of the Town and Island of Bombay, which was published in three parts in 1901, will be produced in one volume, the historical portion being omitted and the tables amalgamated with the Report.

Turning to the contents of the Tables, the chief differences have been the cutting out of all statistics of castes which did not reach a standard of two per mille of the population of the Presidency or of any one district, in other words, those which were of no general or local interest, and a revision of the occupational statistics. The result of this was that 62 main castes were dealt with. Details of their life and customs were relegated to the caste glossary printed as an appendix to Chapter XI and the body of the chapter was devoted to a consideration of the system of caste government about which little has previously been published.

The recasting of Table XV has been a very important step. In 1889 Dr. J. Bertillon promulgated a scheme of classification of occupations which eventually received the approval of the International Statistical Institute in 1893. There were three classifications—a broad, a more minute and a very detailed arrangement—each classification being derived by subdivision from the one above it. The arrangement was therefore applicable to all grades of civilized society and at the same time a basis was formed for international comparison. The information contained in the schedule under the head of occupation is bound to be so meagre that only the broader subdivisions of occupations are possible. The minute classification of 1901 was accordingly abandoned in favour of an arrangement into 55 orders and 169 groups.

Another innovation was the taking of an industrial census, the results of which are embodied in Imperial Table XV-E. The managers of all industrial concerns employing more than 20 hands on the 10th of March were asked to fill in a special schedule which contained details of the caste of the management, of the nature of the power used, of the number of each sex employed and whether they were adult or juvenile. The state of trade was also given. This census, it must be remarked, was a matter outside the regular census and was not taken by the ordinary census staff, but by the heads of the factories themselves. Its full value will be apparent in succeeding censuses, when the great industrial development, which we may expect to see in this province during the next ten years and the beginnings of which are already evident, becomes an accomplished fact.

All the composing, printing and binding charges are not yet available, but Cost of Census the census apart from that has cost Government roughly Rs. 1,96,000, compared with Rs. 1,69,000 in 1901. The reasons for the increased cost are :—

- (1) 6 per cent. larger population dealt with.
- (2) Higher charges paid in abstraction offices.
- (3) Plague and famine allowances.
- (4) Abstraction took a good deal longer.

It is estimated that the cost of publishing the two parts of Volume VII will amount to Rs. 12,500.

Summary.

The striking features revealed by Census are :—

- (1) The terrible mortality caused by plague in the Karnátak.
- (2) The recovery of Gujarát from famine.
- (3) The increase in infirmities.
- (4) The continued increase in Sind, and
- (5) The enormous increase in the textile industry.

Acknowledgments.

This Report has been written under certain difficulties. Mr. Mead, who had carried through all the enumeration and most of the abstraction, found himself obliged to go home on account of ill-health just as compilation was about to commence, and I was appointed to succeed him. The necessity of being near my office in Poona prevented me doing any serious touring, and beyond a natural interest in the quaint customs of the wilder tribes of the South of the Presidency I had little ethnographical preparation, and was painfully conscious of my ignorance of the subject, as well as of the conditions in the Presidency in Sind and Gujarát. I was able, however, to obtain from Mr. Mead paragraphs 224, 226 to 236 and 238 of the Chapter on Caste and paragraphs 239 to 245 of the same Chapter from Mr. C. M. Baker, I. C. S. Mr. Baker was also kind enough to send me paragraphs 201 to 205 dealing with the languages of Sind ; a contribution which his natural taste for ethnography, previous study of the subject and fifteen years' residence in that part of the Province rendered more than ordinarily valuable.

To Mr. G. M. Kalelkar, who has been steadily progressing since the last census with the work of collecting material for the preparation of the monographs of the Ethnographical Survey I am indebted for the Caste Glossary as well as valuable help in the Chapter on Religion.

My thanks are also due to Mr. W. A. Dubois, Indian Police Retired List, who as Deputy Superintendent most ably organised the Poona Office with its 750 clerks and kept it going in spite of a plague panic most efficiently to the close, and to Mr. G. S. Yadkikar, who supervised the Compilation Office and has given me much material help and valuable co-operation.

Of the other Deputy Superintendents, Mr. S. V. Yatgiri, who administered the Dhárwár office, and Mr. Mularám Kirpáram, who was for the greater part of the time in charge of the office at Hyderábád, Sind, have been entirely satisfactory, while Mr. H. Fleming worked well with the very inferior material at his disposal in Ahmadábád.

The Government Central Press have worked very well at rather high pressure, and have got out proofs for me at short notice, and the Photozinc Office have been at some pains to make the various maps, charts and diagrams as clear and as striking as possible.

G. LAIRD MACGREGOR.