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VOLUME XX



KASHMIR



PART I
REPORT



BY

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SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS, JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE



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INTRODUCTION

1. Although the present is the third regular Census of the Kashmir State the enumeration and tabulation procedure has never before adhered with as strict and punctilious conformity to the Imperial rules as on the present occasion. The count taken in 1873 was at best only an estimate, of the roughest type, and it did not extend to the outlying districts. The first attempt at regular Census made in the State was that of 1891, but even that did not include the unsettled area now known as the Frontier *Naqas* lying beyond the district of Gilgit. The next decennial Census came on in 1901, but of the material collected on that occasion so little was preserved that in instituting the present operations everything had to be done on, as it were, absolutely 'untrodden ground.' The enormous difficulties that the present Census Department has had to encounter and overcome at all stages of the operations will be found enumerated in the Administration Volume and all that needs to be stated here is that the claim of being, in fact, the first regular Census of this State arrogated to the present Census is, it is hoped, neither untrue nor ostentatious.

Present and past censuses

I.—Enumeration

2. The first step in organising the Census operations was the preparation of 'the General Village Register' and 'the Circle List' by means of which the whole area of the State and its dependencies was split up into units, big and small, technically called blocks, circles and charges. The Census divisions having been formed were allotted to the various grades of the Census officers—the enumerators, supervisors and charge Superintendents. Each Tehsildar was placed in the entire supervising and controlling charge of his Tehsil Census and the Wazirs-i-Wizarat were all treated as Census District Officers. The size of the various Census units though in general conformity with the Imperial standard varied with local conditions and requirements. As ultimately settled there were altogether 20 District Officers, 16,102 enumerators, 1,680 supervisors and 205 charge Superintendents through whom the executive portion of the enumeration stage of the Census work has this time been carried out; each enumerator thus having dealt on an average with 196 persons.

Formation of Census divisions

3. As soon as the Census divisions had been formed and the Census agency determined and trained, house numbering was started and the 'House List' prepared. The houses were serially numbered and the number assigned to each house painted on a prominent spot. According to the final figures there were 553,124 houses in all yielding an average of 6 houses to the mile and 6 persons to each house. The slight difference in the definition of Census house on the present occasion ought to be borne in mind; each commensal family constituted a separate unit for purposes of Census, whereas last time the *chulha* (hearth) was not the exclusive test but the enclosure with a main entrance. The one great object of registering the houses was the ascertainment of the name of the head of each family from whom all the information required for filling up the enumeration schedule could readily be obtained.

House numbering

4. It is a physical impossibility to carry out the enumeration of a large mass of people with all the detail required for filling up the 16 columns of the general schedule within the short space of five hours' time allowed for counting the entire population synchronously. The enumeration books are therefore written up ahead of the Final Census and all that is left for the final date is to bring the preliminary record, so prepared, up-to-date by giving effect to changes that might have subsequently occurred in the shape of incomings and outgoings through birth, death or ordinary traffic. This stage was gone through with all possible care and supervision and, like the one preceding, finished in time. In addition to the usual testing

Preliminary enumeration

and checking by the superior officers, the entries so made were, in view of the relatively inferior quality of the enumerating community, wholly revised here by the supervisors, who were paid servants of the State of sufficient intelligence and capacity to understand the nature and scope of the enumeration census seeks to enforce; the majority of them came from the Revenue and Settlement departments—the Patwaris, Shajrakashes and Munsarims.

Final
enumeration

5. The final enumeration, that is to say the Census proper was held in the night between 10th and 11th March 1911 from 7 to 12 p. m. in all places except where climatic conditions made the nocturnal check impracticable. The present Census thus took place fully 10 years and 9 days after the date of the preceding one. A list had been prepared of all places where travelling by night was unpleasant because of the rigours of the climate, or which were so remote and ill-connected that their totals could not reach the head quarter in time for incorporation in the tehsil totals. A margin of time, accurately calculated, was allowed within which the provisional totals had to be brought in after having been finally tested as near the end of the day as possible. Everywhere else a proclamation had been circulated for the people to stay at home with light burning and facilitate the final count in every way. Fixtures for marriages, and other social gatherings were also required to be put off and no *barats* (marriage procession), fairs or other festivals seem to have interfered with our operations. Matters were made very easy by the gracious accord of sanction by H. H. the Maharaja Saheb Bahadur to two days holiday and the State servants of all the departments engaged on Census work were able to devote their whole time to this part of the work. An untoward event, however, caused a great deal of inconvenience and difficulty in carrying out the final operation; the morning of the Census date dawned with dense clouds and a very unseasonable fall of heavy and continued rain came on at night causing much discomfort to the whole Census agency, whose personal trouble was only surpassed by their dogged perseverance in the pursuit of their duty. The downpour extended throughout the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces but the local officers assured me that it, in no way, affected the progress of the work.

Provisional
totals

6. The collection of the preliminary totals was a task of no mean difficulty in this intensely hilly and broken country. It had been arranged well before hand that punctually on the morning of the 11th March the enumerators would congregate at an appointed trysting-place with their supervisors who would check the total of each block after it had been prepared by the local enumerator and revised by two other enumerators, prepare the totals of their own circles and carry them forthwith to their charge superintendents; the charge superintendents were to deliver the rough totals of their respective charges to their tehsildars who were to communicate the tehsil total to their district officers. The latter officer was charged with the duty of wiring the district total to me and to the Census Commissioner, India, simultaneously, and everything was carried through with clock-work punctuality. The expedition with which this part of the work was carried out may be judged from the fact that instead of the week's time allowed by the Imperial rules the provisional totals of the State were reported to the Commissioner within five days of the final Census. This organised effort at dispatch has had its full reward in the appreciation of the Census Commissioner expressed to me in the following words.

“I congratulate you on the speed with which you got in the provisional total for your large and scattered charge.”

Final totals

7. The rapidity with which the totals were communicated was excelled only by their accuracy as tested with the final results obtained after compilation. The total population as originally reported amounted to 3,157,352 and that obtained after detailed compilation was 3,158,126; an increase of only 774 or .02 per cent thus occurred, which redounds to the great credit of all grades of Census officials concerned in working out the provisional totals.

II.—Tabulation

8. Arrangements had been made well in advance as to accumulation of the enumeration books and other connected record at prescribed centres within the appointed time. Two Tabulation offices were opened, one at Srinagar for the whole of Kashmir Province and the Frontier districts and the other at Jammu for all the districts and Jagirs of that province. The raw material so collected was operated upon at the two offices and tabulation work was, in spite of the difficulties and dangers of transporting the bulky record, begun in good time. Conformably to the practice of the last Census the slip system of compilation was adopted with the slight alteration in the procedure, which was in fact an improvement upon the older method, that only one slip was used for each individual instead of two. Religion, sex and civil condition were indicated by distinguishing colours and marks on the slip and other particulars were copied from the schedule under the proper headings provided in the slip. To further save time certain abbreviations were prescribed and uniformly used. Such mistakes as could be corrected without reference to the local officers were corrected before the enumeration books were issued for copy. To obviate omission by oversight infirmities were abstracted on a separate slip. The preliminary sorting by sex and religion was carried out along with copying work and the final totals were quickly ascertained by that means.

9. The slips so prepared were then made into boxes and delivered for sorting. One set of the slips was dealt with by the same sorter for all the final tables in turn. The sorting was done by means of pigeon-holes labelled with the necessary particulars required for the various tables and results were noted in appropriate columns on the sorter's tickets. The first six tables and Table XV-D, required no sorting, Tables XII and XII-A could readily be prepared from the infirmity slips, and the rest were sorted out in the following order:

VII, VIII, XI, X, XIII, IX, XIV, XVI, XV-A, XV-B, XVII and XVIII.

10. All tabulation work up to the end of sorting was done at the two provincial offices, but compilation took place wholly at Jammu, the Srinagar office having been abolished at the end of the Kashmir season and necessary record transported to the former place. The totals of the sorters' tickets were transcribed into the compilation registers, the unit of tabulation adopted being the tehsil. These registers were then totalled up by districts. The most difficult part of the tabulation work was sorting and once that it had been accomplished it was all plain sailing. The need for supervision, however, became greater as each subsequent stage was reached, because larger quantities were dealt with at the concluding operations and any errors of commission or omission occurring at later stages led to more serious results. Having kept this in view I tried to exercise close and constant supervision over every part of the tabulating operation. Having started the Jammu office and set it in full working order I went to Srinagar and put the work of that office to a searching scrutiny and inspection, and as to all subsequent work it was done under my immediate supervision at Jammu.

11. Compilation registers having been filled in and totalled up, the final tables were easily prepared from them. Some delay occurred owing to revision of certain tables necessitated by detection of some mistakes. The tables when ready were examined at my office and any discrepancies detected were corrected by reference to the original record.

III.—Concluding stages

12. The next step was the working out of proportional figures for the various sets of the subsidiary tables appended to the different chapters of this Report. This entailed a large amount of figure work requiring much arithmetical and statistical ability, which is difficult to find in a backward country in the requisite quantity. No endeavours were, however, spared to make the most of the material available, although this entailed a lot of subsequent personal trouble and work under high pressure to me in emending the tables prepared erroneously in principle or detail.

Copying

Sorting

Compilation

Final Tables

Subsidiary
Table

Census Re-
port

13. The Table Volume could be printed soon after the final tables were ready and had been examined, but the Report Volume of this State though not later in production than that of several other Imperial units, could not be turned out as early as I had wished it to be. I do not remember a single subsidiary table which did not undergo extensive corrections under my hand and those relating to the last three chapters had to be mostly prepared afresh.

The Report is, however, now ultimately presented to the public, and contains a brief description of the geographical, historical, administrative, political, fiscal, meteorological, sanitary, economical, religious, educational, linguistic, ethnological, commercial, and industrial conditions of the Kashmir State in all its component parts and a concise account of the customs and manners of its people. If of sufficient interest to the reader, my prolonged labour over it will not have been in vain. A set of seven maps has been provided to illustrate the various matters dealt with, and the fact that they are not more numerous, and that the salient features of the statistics have not been represented by means of diagrams and squares, should not be ascribed to lack of inclination but to the narrowness of the scope for comparison. The firmer ground that the statistics collected and arranged on the present occasion provide will, it is hoped, enable the future generation of Census officials to compare the results by means of inset maps and diagrams more freely.

Cost of
Census

14. In the course of the three financial years over which the operation extended amounts totalling Rs. 108,678-10-0 were from time to time, budgeted for Census expenditure, but the strict economy with which the whole thing was accomplished resulted in a saving of Rs. 36,643-10-0. The incidence of the Census cost is, thus, 22 *per mille* as compared to 26 of Baroda and 28.6 of Mysore. This will further be reduced after the expenditure incurred on behalf of Jagirs has been recovered and the net incidence will then become only 19.8. This may look excessive as against 20 of the last Census, but that the increase is merely apparent and not real will be evident when it is considered that a large proportion of the Census work having been done by the regular Revenue staff and many miscellaneous charges having never been shown under Census but amalgamated into the departmental accounts, the statement of account exhibited in the last Report is neither complete nor accurate. On the present occasion, however, a self-sufficient and self-supported Census department was organised, and the cost incurred is exclusively its own.

Acknow-
ledgments

15. Before I conclude these prefatory remarks I must express my deep sense of gratitude to Khan Bahadur, Shaikh Mukbul Husain, Revenue Minister, whose kindly encouragement and support enabled me to grapple successfully with the heavy difficulties my work in a country like this involved and to Mr. W. S. Talbot Settlement Commissioner, whose helpful advice to me was as diversified as it was invaluable. Among the District Officers I have to make special mention of the zeal and energy which Munshi Hashmat-ul-lah Khan, Wazir-i-Wizarat, Laddakh, and Pundit Ramdhan, Settlement Officer of Udampur, displayed in carrying out all the Census duties allotted to them. The Census Report in all its volumes has been printed by the Newul Kishore Press of Lucknow, which carried out the work to my greatest satisfaction and my thanks are due to Babu Manohar Lal, the Superintendent of the Press, who gave me every facility for getting my Report through the Press. The clerks of my office, senior and others, were obliged to work under high pressure all through, and Shaikh Ghulam Naqshband did his best as the Head Clerk. Maulvi Fazl-ud-din, I may add, has proved very useful to me in all matters connected with the printing and Babu Tara Chand in statistical details.

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