

164 ~~17864~~ 17864 164

To, Professor Dadabhai Naoroji  
with best compliments from  
the undersigned

Shamagar  
18 July 1885

उद्दिष्ट-मोहल-संज्ञ

W. Jayeshankar Bha-  
shankar.

\* 8

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

B H Á V N A G A R ;

BEING

*Rare section*

THE BHÁVNAGAR CONTRIBUTION

TO THE

KÁTHLÁWÁR PORTION OF THE BOMBAY GAZETTEER.

BY

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. W. WATSON,  
PRESIDENT, RÁJASTHÁNIK COURT, KÁTHLÁWÁR.

---

REVISED EDITION.

---

Bombay:  
PRINTED AT THE  
EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

---

1884.

17864

U.23163k

BA

# CONTENTS:

---

CHAPTER I.— <i>Description, Products, and Population.</i>	PAGE
(1) Description :— Position and Area; Boundaries; Parganahs or Subdivisions; Aspect; Hills; Geological Formations; Rivers; Lakes and Reservoirs; Wells; Drainage; Soil; Climate.....	5
(2) Products :— Forests and Trees; Plantations; Crops; Mode of Cultivation; Domestic and Wild Animals .....	6
(3) Population :— Census Details; Aboriginal and other Tribes; Religion; Occupation; Mode of Living; Language; Houses; Number of Villages .....	7
CHAPTER II.— <i>Trade.</i>	
(1) Trade :— Description of Bhávnagar Creek, &c.; Former course of trade of the Bhávnagar Port; Causes of the former and present prosperity of the Port of Bhávnagar; Merchandize at the end of last century and the beginning of this century; Shipping; Course of Trade .....	10
(2) Salt .....	17
(3) Money-lending; Currency; Prices and Wages; Weights and Measures .....	18
CHAPTER III.— <i>History</i> .....	20

CHAPTER IV.— <i>Details of Administration.</i>	PAGE
(1) Land:—	
Land Tenures; Khálsá and Bárkhali Lands; Pasáitá; Dharmádá; Jivái, Inám, Patel Palat, and Service Tenures; Kapál Girás and Múl Girás; Tenant Proprietors under the State; Tenant Proprietors under the Vassals; Land whether or not liable to debt; Land Revenue how collected; Internal management of Vassal villages; Incidence of the Land Tax; State demand how levied; Collection of arrears how enforced .....	53
(2) Justice:—	
Civil and Criminal Justice; Original Courts; Appeal Courts; Working of the Courts .....	56
(3) Police .....	56
(4) Revenue and Finance .....	56
(5) Customs and Transit Dues .....	58
(6) Miscellaneous Cesses .....	59
(7) Post .....	59
(8) Education .....	60
(9) Sanitary .....	60
(10) Public Works.....	60
(11) Forests and Tree-planting .....	61
CHAPTER V.— <i>Places of Interest</i> .....	62
APPENDIX.—Installation of His Highness the Thákor Sáhib of Bhávnagar .....	159

## APPENDIX.

INSTALLATION OF HIS HIGHNESS THE THÁKOR SÁHIB  
OF BHÁVNAGAR.

His Highness Máhárája Ráwál Shri Takhtsingji, Thákor Sáhíib of Bhávnagar, was placed on the dais at Bhávnagar on April 5th, 1878, on the termination of his minority.

The Political Agent accompanied by Colonel Parr, Joint Administrator, Major Watson, President of the Rájasthánik Court, Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, Assistant Political Agent in Gohilwár, Mr. Proctor Sims, State Engineer, and Mr. Fernandez, Superintendent of Surveys, and conducted by Diwán Gayrishankar Udeshañkar, C.S.I., arrived at the Darbár at 7 A.M. under a salute of 11 guns.

The Political Agent was received at the door of the Darbár room by His Highness the Thákor and greetings were exchanged. In the Darbár room were collected Ráo Báháddúr Gokalji Sampatrám, Diwán of Jánágarh, Ráo Báháddúr Shambhúparsád, Joint Administrator of Morvi, and a large assembly of kinsmen and officers of His Highness, officials of the Agency, European gentlemen of Bhávnagar and visitors.

His Highness the Thákor was then conducted by the Political Agent on his right and Colonel Parr on his left to a chair of State on the dais on which he was seated by the Political Agent.

The Political Agent took his seat on a separate dais on the right of His Highness.

A salute of 15 guns was then fired and the band played. During the salute Colonel Parr, Joint Administrator, delivered to His Highness the Thákor the Seal of the State.

When the salute was ended, the Political Agent addressed His Highness the Thákor as follows:—

Máhárája Ráwal Shri Takhtsingji—Thákor Sáhíib of Bhávnagar—Yesterday's sun set on your last day of pupilage, and that which has just risen sees you ascended to the seat from which your predecessors administered policy and justice, the seat whereof the cares and honours will be around you henceforward as long as your life shall last. Your city is full of rejoicing, the natural and laudable joy of your people at the return of their domestic dynasty to the power which we have ceased to hold in trust. I can enter into their gladness; but here in this hall filled with the able ministers and officers whom I used to see surround-

ing the late Thákor, on this spot where I first knew you as a child of tender years besides your father's knee, let me lead you for a brief space to the more serious and solemn thoughts which this ceremonial suggests.

You have passed through your boyhood and early manhood under the care of that great Power which is in this continent supreme. I have watched your growth from the home of childhood to the College which your gratitude has enriched, and from the College through your probation in public life; and I know that you hold in affectionate remembrance the names of Percival and Watson, and Parr, and Macnaghten, and Nutt, and that their teaching and example have cultivated a simple, generous, and open nature into the promise of a good man. And now your tutors have completed their task, and you have acceded to-day to the full stature and dignity of manhood and sovereignty.

Before I speak of the future, let me direct your thoughts to the history of your house, and its connection with the British Government. Somewhat more than a century has elapsed since the name of the Great Company was first heard in Káttywar through its Chief and Council of Surát. Your ancestors, the Ráwals of Sihor, were then lords of but a little seignory, and the walls and towers which Bhávnagar has long out-grown, were still fresh from the quarry. Of the rise of Bhávnagar I will only say that enterprise and boldness succeeded as they commonly do in troubled times. At the beginning of this century Bhávnagar had made its way into the first rank of Káttywár States. And observe what then ensued. The British Government interposed in favour of peace between the Mahráttá rulers and their tributaries, existing possessions were confirmed, the tribute was fixed, and the Múlkgeri forces withdrew from Káttywár. You know how unbroken the subsequent peace has been, and how wealth and trade and civilization have come and increased as they always will where peace prevails. No State profited as much by British Supremacy as the newly consolidated State of Bhávnagar. Opportunity for its peaceful development as a commercial State was supplied by the British guarantee. Since the beginning of the century it has rested in absolute security within the bulwark of British power, at no charges for the munitions of war, with no increase of its tribute, with the arts and commerce of the world brought freely to its doors through Bombay. Now consider the convulsions of the countries of Europe during the early part of this century. Trace the history of the small States which were the prize and sport of their great neighbours. If any one would have you be discontented because you are not independent in

your external relations, judge from history whether the possession of a foreign policy be more an embarrassment or a blessing to the smaller powers. Consider the wars in which the Western nations have been engaged since 1854. Look at the ruin of property and the waste of wealth on armaments, and you will learn to value justly your inviolate peace.

Such are the antecedents of the State which with flourishing finances and much good work in progress, we have handed over to you at the end of your minority, and which you are henceforward to govern. And now let me speak to you of yourself, and of the duties and responsibilities which lie before you.

I will not call those duties easy or those responsibilities light, for in truth your powers in internal administration are very large and absolute. You are under no restriction of law or constitution, but, of course, the greater the freedom of action, the greater the personal responsibility; and high responsibility can only be met by patient work and anxious thought. The ruler of Bhavnagar cannot be idle, or luxurious, or indifferent, for consider the misery which must ensue to your 400,000 subjects if you fall away from the severe and noble ideal of duty which I would have you form and keep before you. It will not suffice you to be generally kind-hearted and well-meaning. Exercise on others if you will that softer virtue which droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven, and is enthroned in the hearts of kings, but with yourself you must hold strict account. You are to be in person a judge, and you will have to judge as against yourself. Impulse will often tell you that those who stand up against you for their rights are unreasonable and factious and insolent. Do not believe it. Set your own fancy and will aside, and rigorously award to your humblest dependant the justice which is his birth-right as a man. Again you appoint your own judges and they hold their places at your pleasure. Encourage them to judge without fear or favour. If you invade the independence of your judges by one hint or one frown, you debase the pure and noble form of justice to a false and crooked sham. Again, you may do as you will with your time. Then do not be too busy to be just; do not be too idle to be just. Believe me it is no light labour to sit in judgment worthily. It requires the highest efforts of a patient intellect and a pure heart. The brain that is clouded and the conscience that is dulled with luxury are not fit for the judgment seat.

Also you must watch against the insidious flatterer who will use your weaknesses as allies to undermine your principles. Do not permit him to praise your qualities of head or heart. Appreciate them yourself. Do not open your ears to his opinions and reports of men. Judge them



by their deeds. Do not let him suggest how you should act, or how much work you should do. Refer that to your conscience. Whenever a man would make you more indulgent and lenient to yourself than your judgment approves, distrust him, for he has something to gain by making you fall from your independence.

I have named some of the dangers which will assail you from within and without, but it would be idle to tell you of them, if I did not also suggest how you may arm yourself against them. To be properly armed against them you must be master of yourself. You are in a great degree isolated by your station, and therefore you must be able to stand alone. Your acts will be sharply criticized and judged in that fierce light that beats upon a throne, be it great or small, but they will not be met by that resistance which quickly warns people of humbler station when they trench on their neighbour's rights. You have to take the lead in action, not to follow the lead of others after looking to see what they do. You can only receive advice with caution. You can only trust yourself after rigorous questioning of your motives. How then are you to assure yourself that you are not perplexing your people by caprice, or disgusting them by selfishness, or estranging them by indifference or hardness? I reply that you must establish an ideal standard to which you can refer the problems of daily life. Form it by studying the history of the lives of wise and good men. Rest your mind on great examples. If you cannot be a Marcus Aurelius or an Akbar, at least let them be your models. Make the toleration, and humanity, and manliness of statesmen and soldiers and philosophers your daily precedents. They will not deceive nor flatter, and by imitating them you may be at once strong, and consistent, and just. If this looks like returning to school, I tell you that you are indeed only now entering into the school of life. Believe, as a great writer tells us, that it is not idleness and ease, but rather toil and difficulty and danger that commend themselves to the soul of man. And remember if my advice seem severe, habitude makes all things easier in time. High thoughts and noble actions will become second nature to him who clings to a pure ideal. But what comes of the habitude of luxury, and a second nature of self-indulgence and apathy? Hear what Tacitus says of an Emperor of Rome: *Videllius, umbraculis, hortorum abditus, ut ignava animalia, quibus si cibum suggeras, jacent torpentque, præterita, instantia, futura, pari oblivione dimiserat.*

I have enlarged on your duty of doing justice in the widest sense, because that is of the first importance both to your own character and to the happiness of your people. Of financial matters I need say little. You have no debts and your treasury is full. As to the spend-

ing of that surplus, and your general policy, my advice to you is, strenuously to pursue the destiny which was marked out for this city by Bháusing, its founder. Spend freely in connecting it with the great system of communications over which the commerce of this empire travels. Bring it out of isolation on to the high road of trade. Enable your subjects to procure the commodities of other countries easily and cheaply, and to command the most favourable markets for their own.

I have said nothing here of the pleasures of rule. I might say much. I might enlarge on the delight of doing good to men, of raising great public works, of cultivating the fine arts and filling your State with objects of beauty. But I will leave this unsaid, for I do not forget that we have stolen a few hours for this ceremonial from the cares and anxieties which are hanging heavy in the present season over every ruler and officer in Káttwár. I will therefore only bid you heartily God-speed, assuring you that many of us will watch your course with affectionate interest, and exhorting you to bear yourself manfully and uprightly in your exercise of sovereign power, as one responsible in your public actions to the Crown of England, and in your heart and conscience to God.

His Highness then made the following reply :—

MR. PEILE AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with feelings of sincere gratitude that I have to thank the British Government for entrusting me with the sole charge of my State, which has been hitherto so ably managed and taken care of during my minority after the death of my lamented father.

I assure you, Sir, that I will always follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors on this Gádi, in maintaining friendly and loyal relations with the Paramount Power.

On this auspicious occasion, it is a matter of great satisfaction to me that this installation ceremony should have been performed by you, Mr. Peile, who have taken such a deep interest in the welfare and good government of Káttwár, and who have a special regard for me and my State.

I am very grateful to Mr. Percival, Major Watson and Colonel Parr for their having performed their duties as Joint Administrators with so much ability and satisfaction. I shall follow them as my guides in the administration of my State and shall always be glad to ask the advice of the Political Agent when I find it necessary to do so.

I am confident that my Kárbhári, Mr. Gavrishankar, and Assistant Kárbhári, Mr. Sámaladás, will never fail to render me every assistance as

they have hitherto done, in the future administration of my State, and in my endeavours to secure the welfare and prosperity of my subjects.

I take this opportunity of thanking you all sincerely, gentlemen, for the trouble you have taken to be present here to-day on this occasion.

His Highness' speech was next translated into Gujarathi by Ázam Sámaldás Parmánandás, Assistant Joint Administrator.

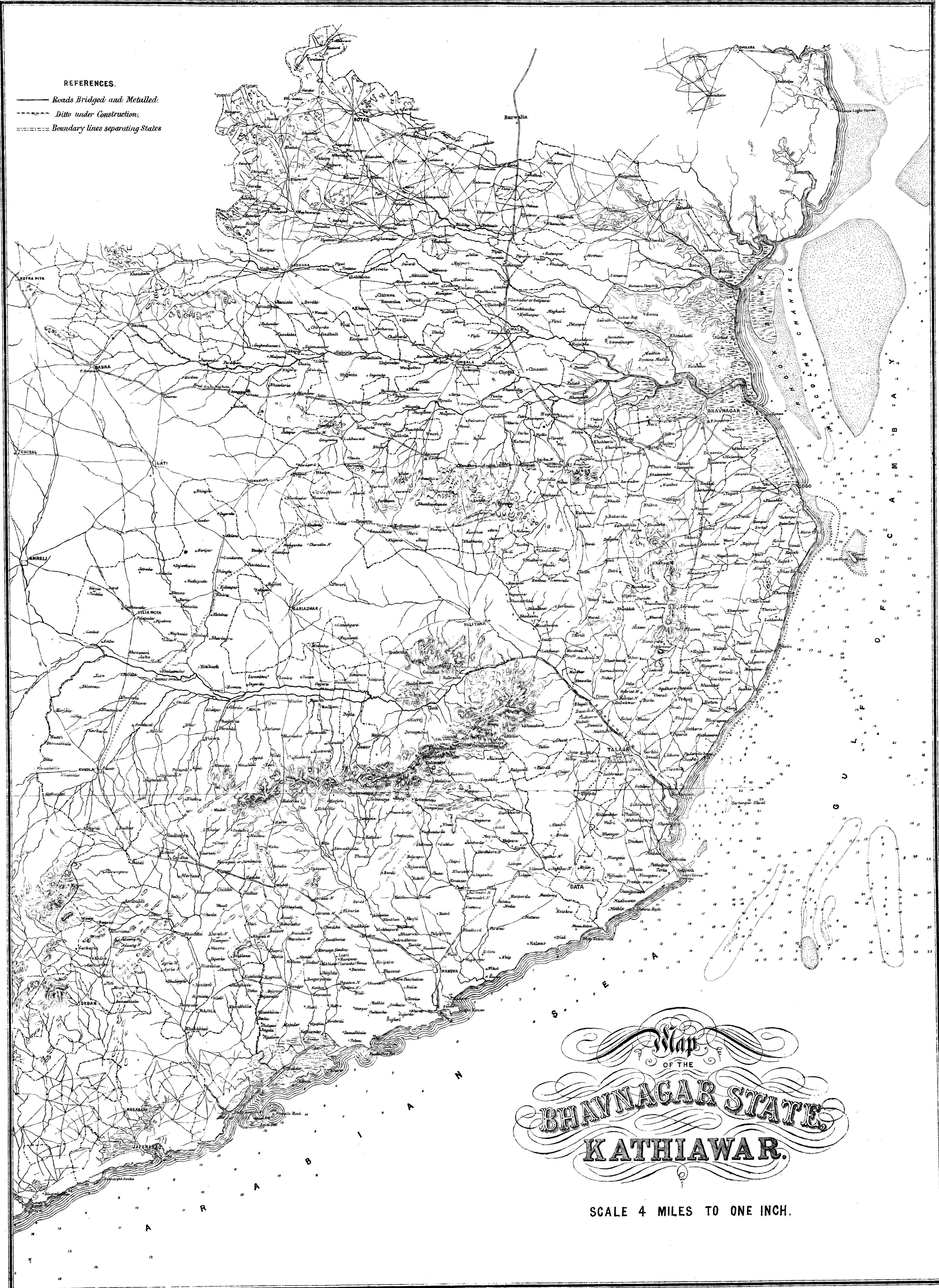
His Highness the Thákor then descended from his chair of State and meeting the Political Agent and the other officers standing on the carpet, received their congratulations.

His Highness then conducted the Political Agent to a couch on the dais and placed him on his right hand.

After conversation, Atr and Pán were distributed, and the Political Agent took leave of His Highness the Thákor and left the Darbár with the Political officers present under a salute of 11 guns.

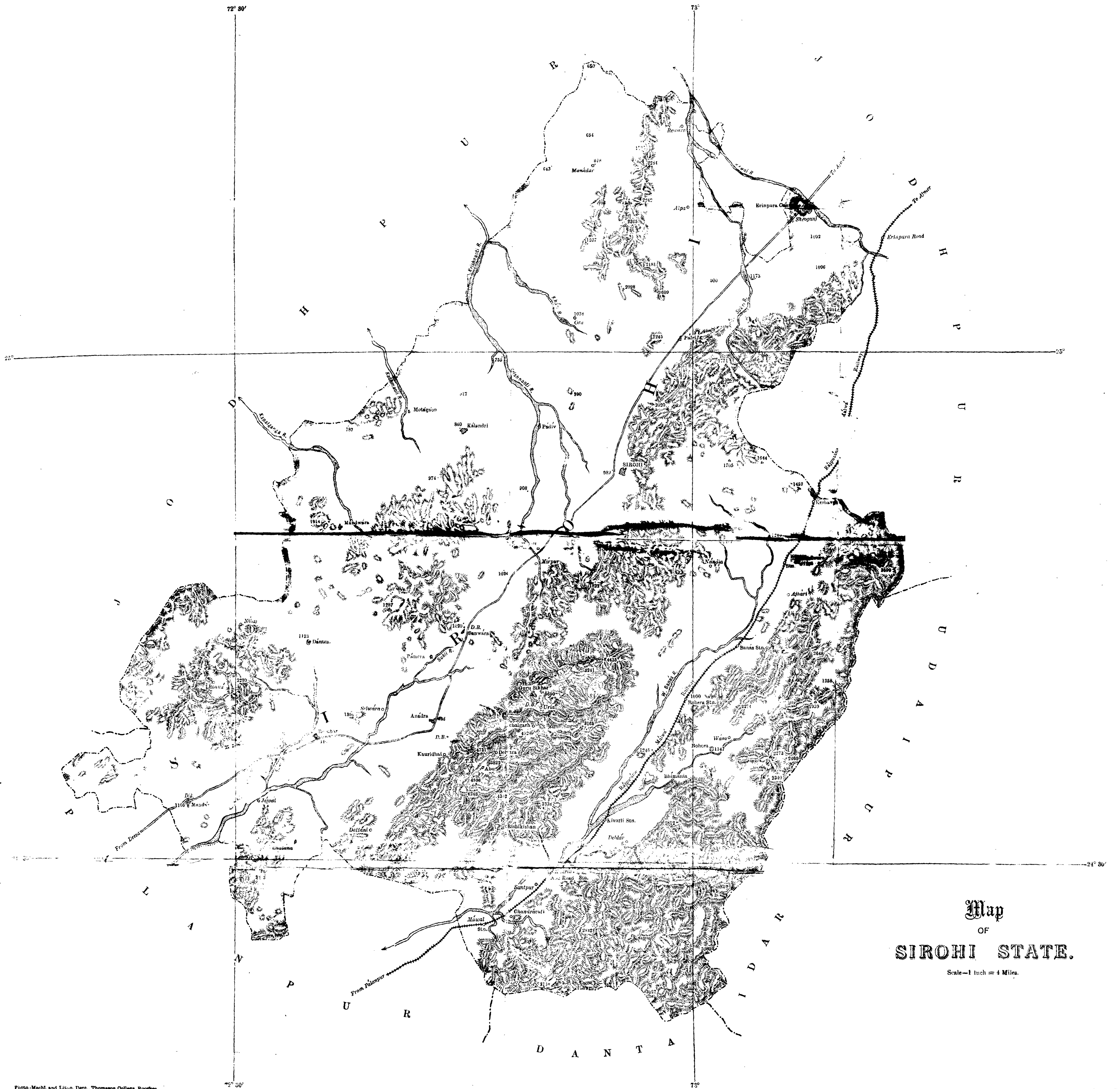
REFERENCES.

- Roads Bridged and Metalled.
- - - Ditto under Construction.
- Boundary lines separating States



Map  
OF THE  
**BHAVNAGAR STATE**  
**KATHIAWAR.**

SCALE 4 MILES TO ONE INCH.



Map  
OF  
**SIROHI STATE.**  
Scale—1 inch = 4 Miles.