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EARLY REVENUE HISTOR OF BENGAL

AND THE FIFTH REPORT, 1812

BY

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OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE FORMERLY SCHOLAR OF EXELER COLLEGE, OXFORD

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PREFACE

This book was suggested by a course of four lectures, which I gave at the Dacca College at the request of Mr. R. B. Ramsbotham, of the Indian Educational Service. The lectures attempted to analyse and condense the more important facts, contained in the body and appendixes of the Fifth Report, so far as they deal with the revenue administration of Bengal, in order to make intelligible the period immediately preceding the Permanent Settlement. This book attempts nothing more, and its publication is merely due to the fact that, in Mr. Ramsbotham's opinion, it will be of assistance to students of the administration and revenue system of Bengal dufing the eighteenth century.

One of the most important appendixes of the Fifth Report, viz. the Analysis of the Finances of Bengal, by James Grant, commonly known as Grant's Analysis, contains much valuable matter, obviously collected with a great deal of trouble and research; but the matter is sometimes inconsistent, often contaminated with error, and always composed in a confused and laborious style. I have attempted to explain the main facts contained in the Analysis in Chapters II and V.

I must apologize for drawing the majority of actual examples from the Dacca District. My excuse lies in the fact that I have enjoyed opportunities of studying its revenue history in detail; my justification I draw from Grant's own

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words, that in his time Dacca continued to be 'the largest and most valuable province of the country'.

I am indebted to Mr. Ramsbotham for many valuable suggestions in the arrangement of the book, and for pointing out where explanations were required from the historian's point of view. To Mr. V. A. Smith I must express my gratitude, not only for his valued advice, but also for undertaking the thankless task of seeing the proofs through the press owing to my absence in India. The imperfections of the book may, perhaps, be partly ascribed to the busy life of an Indian official.

F. D. ASCOLI.

DACCA, July 3, 1916.

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GLOSSARY

This glossary includes only words requiring explanation, which are used in both parts of this book. A full glossary, by Sir Charles Wilkins, is printed at the end of the original folio edition of the Report, and in Higgin-botham's second reprint, Madras, 1883; the full glossary includes all words requiring explanation in the Appendices to the Report, which are not now reprinted. Difficulties are occasionally encountered in tracing words in the glossary on account of the different methods of transliteration used; the following notes will indicate how such difficulties may be overcome:

Modern. Old.	Modern. Old.
a = u, occasionally e or o	i = ee
ā = au	0 = u
ai = oi or oy	$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{oo}$.
$\bar{a}i = y$	k = c or ck
au = ow	s = sh, or occasionally c
ar = ir	z = j, and vice versa
_ :	••

Abwāb. Cesses and imposts levied by the ruling power from the zemindārs, and by the zemindārs from the cultivators in excess of the true revenue or rent. Particularly used for imposts levied from the time of Murshīd Quli Khān until the grant of the dewāni.

Adālat. Court of justice; sadar dewāni adālat is the chief civil court; sadar nisāmat adālat is the chief criminal court.

Ahshām-i-amlā (Asham omleh). Literally, the retinue of public officers; used specifically to denote grants of land, assigned for the maintenance of the eastern frontier force in the period of the Mughal power.

Ain. Law, rule, or regulation.

Altamgha. A grant of land by the Emperor or the Subadar, free

of revenue or rent, in perpetuity.

Āmil. Agent or holder of an office. Used specifically for the superintendent of a *chaklā* under Murshīd Quli Khān's system, and for native collectors of the revenue, appointed in 1773.

Amīn. A trustee or commissioner; used specifically with the reference to the native commissioners appointed in 1777 to investigate the resources of the country, and more generally to men appointed to manage estates on the removal or the recusancy of the zemindār.

Amīr-ul-umrā. Lord of lords, a title of great distinction, ordinarily held by the commander-in-chief. Used specifically to denote grants of land, assigned to defray military expenditure

in the period of the Mughal power.

Asl. Origin or principal. Original rent or revenue, as distinguished from subsequent imposts. Asl tūmār-i jamā pādshāhi is the original royal rent roll of the Emperor Akbar.

Bandah-i-ālī bārgāh. Servant of the exalted court; used specifically to denote grants of land, assigned to defray the expenses of the revenue (dewāni) administration.

Bāzār. A daily market.

Bazi zamin. Miscellaneous lands: specifically used to denote lands, exempted legally or illegally from payment of revenue.

Bighā. A land measure, varying in size, but normally about onethird of an acre.

Chakla. A division of the country, adopted by Murshid Quli Khan as the unit of administration; also used for the subdivision of an estate.

Chaudhari. A superintendent of the land revenue in earlier days; later practically indistinguishable from the zemindar.

Chauki. A seat; used for toll, customs, and guard stations.

Chauthayi. A fourth part.

Daftar. An office.

Darbar. A court or official assembly.

Dārogā. A superintendent or overseer.

Dasahrā. An important Hindu festival.

Dewan. The officer in charge of the revenue department and second in importance only to the nasim; later used for subordinate officials subordinate to collectors and zemindars.

Dewānī. Belonging to the dewān; see also adālat.

Disjat. Price of blood.

Ezāfā (izāfa). Increase.

Färigh khatti. A written release.

Farman. An imperial decree, or charter.

Fatwā. A judicial decree or judgement under Muhammadan law. Faujdār. Originally an official in charge of a frontier province; later a police official with magisterial and, occasionally, revenue

powers.

Faujdārān. Plural of above; specifically used to denote grants of land assigned for the maintenance of forces for the defence of the west and north-west frontiers in the period of the Mughal power.

Ganj. In origin a granary, but ordinarily used for general wholesale markets open on specific days only.

Haftam. Seventh; ordinarily used to denote Regulation VII of 1700.

Hastobud. Generally means a detailed inquiry into the financial value of lands; specifically an examination by detailed measurement of the resources of an area or estate immediately before the harvest.

Hat. A market held only on certain days in the week. Hudud. Penalties prescribed by Muhammadan law.

Ihtimām. A trust or charge; the zemindāri trusts or jurisdictions into which the country was divided by Murshīd Quli Khān.

Ijārā. A farm or temporary lease of an estate or tract to persons other than the proprietors.

Istimrāri. Permanent, perpetual.

Jāigīr. A grant of land free of revenue, or the assignment of the revenue of particular lands for the maintenance of some particular person or establishment. (Jāgīr is more correct.)

Jäigirdär. The holder of a *jäigīr*.

Jalkar. The right of fishery and use of water.

Jamā. Sum, amount; ordinarily used for the total revenue. Jamā kāmil tumāri is the complete revenue roll.

Kabūliyat. The counterpart of a lease or pāttā.

Kaifiyat. Surplus, profit; specifically applied to the increase of revenue obtained by Kāsim Ali Khān.

Kāmil. Complete; vide jamā.

Kānungo. Literally, the expounder of the law. Applied to a very important official in charge of all land records.

Kāzī. A Muhammadan judge.

Khalāri. Salt works.

Khālsā. Exchequer; when applied to lands, it means lands the revenue of which is paid into the exchequer, in contrast with jāigīr lands, the revenue of which is assigned for specific purposes.

Khās. Private, own; used specifically of estates in which Government collected the revenue direct without the intermediate

agency of zemindars or farmers.

Kheda (kheddah). A trap in which elephants are caught; specifically used for lands assigned for paying the expenses of catching elephants.

Khodkāsht. Cultivators living in the village where they actually cultivate.

Kisās. The Muhammadan law of retaliation.

Kotwäl. The chief officer of police in large towns: he was also superintendent of the markets.

Kror (karōr). Ten millions.

Lakh. One hundred thousand.

Madad-i-maāsh. Aid for subsistence; specifically used for lands assigned for the payment of religious endowments.

Mahāl. A place or source of revenue; an estate; ordinarily though erroneously confounded with the word māl and used to denote land revenue as opposed to sāir or excise revenue.

Malangi. A person engaged in the manufacture of salt.

Mālikānā. The allowance made to zemindars on account of their profits, when dispossessed from their estates. Also applied to the allowances of petty village officials.

Mandal. The headman of a village.

Mansabdaran. High military officials; specifically applied to lands assigned to such officers on the condition of personal service.

Masnad. Throne.

Maulvi. An interpreter of Muhammadan law.

Maund. A measure of weight, about eighty pounds.

Mazkuri. Small petty estates, ordinarily paying rent through a superior zemindār.

Mufassal. Country as opposed to town; interior of the country as opposed to head-quarters.

Mufti. The Muhammadan law officer who expounds the sentence. Mukaddam. The headman of a village.

Munsif. A native judge.

Mushahara. Monthly pay or wages; specifically used in the sense of mālikānā, q. v.

Naib. A deputy.

Nankar. An assignment of land or of the proceeds of a specific portion of land for the maintenance of the zemindar or of state officials, such as kānūngos.

Nawab. A great deputy or viceroy (honorific plural of Naib).

Nawara. An establishment of boats: specifically used to denote lands assigned for the maintenance of the fleet.

Nazar. An offering or present made to, or extorted by a superior. Nazim. An adjuster; the governor of a province and minister of criminal justice.

Neabat (niyabat). Appertaining to a nawab.

Nizamat. Appertaining to a nazim; see also adalat.

Pādshāhī. Belonging to the Pādshāh or Emperor.

Pāik. A messenger or village watchman.

Paikasht. A tenant cultivating lands in a village in which he does not reside.

Pandit (pundit). A learned Brāhman.

Pargana. A fiscal division, ordinarily including several estates.

Pāsbān. A watchman or guard.

Patwari. A village accountant employed on the accounts of the land.

Pattā. A lease.

Polygar. A military chieftain in Southern India. Puniya. The day when the collection of rent and revenue for the new year commences; literally a holy day.

Raiyat. A peasant or cultivator.

Rājā. A prince or nobleman of the Hindu castes.

Rāzīnāmā. An admission of satisfaction in writing by the plaintiff in a suit.

Rozīnahdārān. Persons enjoying a daily allowance; specifically used for lands assigned for the payment of such religious allowances.

Sadar. Town as opposed to country; the head-quarters as opposed to the interior of any area.

Sāir (sāyar). Duties on goods, excise, licences, &c., as opposed to land revenue.

Salāmi. A premium for advantages received; a complimentary gift.

Sāliānādārān. Annuitants; specifically used for lands assigned for the payment of annuities in Sylhet.

Sālisān. Ārbitrators.

Sanad. A grant or charter.

Sarkar. Head of affairs, government.

Sarkār-i-ālī. The most exalted state; specifically used for lands assigned for defraying the expenses of the Nāzim's government.

Sāstra. Divine ordinances of the Hindus.

Sazāwal. Officers employed to manage the affairs and collect the revenue of estates of recusant proprietors.

Sebandi. Irregular native troops employed in the police and revenue departments.

Serishtadar. Keeper of the records.

Sikkā. The main currency in circulation in Bengal in the eighteenth century. (See Prinsep, 'Useful Tables.')
Sipāhsālār. The commander-in-chief; ordinarily applied to the

Sipahsalar. The commander-in-chief; ordinarily applied to the subadar or nazim.

Sivāsat. Punishment.

Sūbā. Province; used loosely even in treaties as the ruler of the province.

Sübadar. Governor or ruler of a province.

Tahsīldār. One who is in charge of the collection of the rent or revenue; especially applied to officials appointed to collect the revenue of petty estates at the Decennial Settlement.

Takhsīs. Detailed; especially used in the expression takhsīs jamābandi or detailed rent-roll, showing the revenue distributed estate by estate.

Tālukdār. A petty or under-proprietor; in Oudh the term is used for the large landed proprietors.

Tappa. A fiscal division, forming part of a pargana.

Taufir. Increase or excess; applied to revenue derived from excess lands.

Tāzīr. Punishment.

Thanadar. A petty police officer in charge of an area known as a thana; in earlier days the commandant of a fort.

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Tumar. A roll or book; ordinarily applied to the revenue roll.

Veda. The sacred writings of the Hindus.

Zebti (zabti). Resumed or confiscated; applied to lands formerly assigned as jāigir, but transferred to the khalsā or exchequer.

Zemindār. The proprietor of an estate.

Zemindārān. Plural of above; specifically applied to lands assigned to defray the expenses of defending the east and north-east frontier districts.

Zillā. A district.

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