

GAZETTEER

OF THE

SIALKOT DISTRICT.

BY

CAPTAIN J. R. LENLOP SMITH, I. S. C.

Settlement Collector.

1894-95.

REVISED EDITION.



Rs 3-10-0.

Compiled and Published under the Authority

OF THE

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

SOLE: "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE" PRESS.

1895.

GAZETTEER
OF THE
SIALKOT DISTRICT.

BY
CAPTAIN J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, I. S. C.,

Settlement Collector.

1894-95.

REVISED EDITION.



Compiled and Published under the Authority

OF THE

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

LAHORE: "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE" PRESS.

1895.

PREFACE.

The following preface was prefixed to the first edition of the *Gazetteer* of this district published in 1883-84.

“The period fixed by the Punjab Government for the compilation of the *Gazetteer* of the Province being limited to twelve months, the Editor has not been able to prepare any original matter for the present work; and his duties have been confined to throwing the already existing material into shape, supplementing it, as far as possible, by contributions obtained from district officers, passing the draft through the Press, circulating it for revision, altering it in accordance with the corrections and suggestions of revising officers, and printing and issuing the final edition.

“The material available in print for the *Gazetteer* of this district consisted of the Settlement Reports, and a draft *Gazetteer*, compiled between 1870 and 1874 by Mr. F. Cunningham, Barrister-at-Law. Notes on certain points have been supplied by district officers; while the report on the Census of 1831 has been utilised. Of the present volume, Section A of Chapter V. (General Administration) and the whole of Chapter VI. (Towns) have been for the most part supplied by the Deputy Commissioner; Section A of Chapter III. (Statistics of Population) has been taken from the Census Report; while here and there passages have been specially written for the work. But with these exceptions, the great mass of the text has been taken almost, if not quite verbally, from Mr. Cunningham’s compilation already referred to, which again was largely based upon Mr. Prinsep’s Settlement Report of the district. The report in question was written in 1863, and, modelled on the meagre lines of the older Settlement Reports, affords very inadequate material for an account of the district. No better or fuller material, however, was either available or procurable within the time allowed. But when the district again comes under settlement, a second and more complete edition of this *Gazetteer* will be prepared; and meanwhile the present edition will serve the useful purpose of collecting and publishing, in a systematic form, information which had before been scattered, and in part unpublished.

“The draft edition of this *Gazetteer* has been revised by Colonel Birch and Messrs. Perkins and Beachcroft. The Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the spelling of vernacular names, which has been fixed throughout by him in accordance with the prescribed system of transliteration.”

The present edition was prepared during 1894-95 in accordance with paragraph 11 of Revenue Circular No. 62. The *Gazetteer* has been entirely re-written, except the earlier part of Chapter II, which deals with the ancient history of the district, and the paragraphs in Chapter VI, which relate to the early history of Siálkot city. The statistics have been brought up to date, and much new information has been added. I have to cordially acknowledge the assistance given me by Munshí Ghulam Ahmad Khan, Extra Assistant Settlement Officer, who has supplied me with information on various matters, which has been useful in supplementing and checking the results of my own observations; by Munshi Khazan Singh, Head Clerk of the Settlement Office, who has furnished notes on the various tribes and on the customs of the people; by Mr. J. Greenwood, Secretary of the District and Municipal Boards; and by the heads of the different Missionary bodies, who have freely given me assistance. I am also much indebted to Mr. H. P. Tollinton, I. C. S., for kindly seeing this volume through the press during my absence from Siálkot on leave.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, CAPTAIN,

Settlement Collector.

CONTENTS

	PAGE.
CHAP. I.—THE DISTRICT	1
„ II.—HISTORY	20
„ III.—THE PEOPLE	38
A.—STATISTICAL	ib.
B.—SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE	47
C.—TRIBES, CASTES, AND LEADING FAMILIES	74
D.—VILLAGE COMMUNITIES AND TENURES	85
„ IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION	103
A.—AGRICULTURE, ARBORICULTURE AND LIVE-STOCK	ib.
B.—OCCUPATIONS, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMERCE	125
C.—PRICES, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, AND COMMUNICATIONS.	134
„ V.—ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE	143
A.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	ib.
B.—LAND AND LAND REVENUE	156
„ VI.—TOWNS, MUNICIPALITIES AND CANTONMENTS	164
STATISTICAL TABLES (INDEX ON PAGE II).	

CHAPTER I.—THE DISTRICT.

General description	1.
Physical features	2
River system	3
The Chenáb	4
The Rávi	ib.
Hill streams	5
Other lines of drainage	6
Marshes	ib.
Old Canals	8
Rakhs and Forests	9
Trees	ib.
Grasses	13
Miscellaneous plants and weeds	14
Geology	15

CHAPTER I.—THE DISTRICT—*concluded.*

	PAGE.
Mineral products	15
Wild animal sport	<i>ib.</i>
Fishing	17
Snakes	<i>ib.</i>
Rainfall	18
Climate	<i>ib.</i>
Disease	19

CHAPTER II.—HISTORY.

Early history	20
The first settlers	<i>ib.</i>
Principal tribes, and whence they emigrated	21
Purely Rájput races	<i>ib.</i>
Places of antiquity—Pasrúr	<i>ib.</i>
Siálkot	<i>ib.</i>
Rája Sulwán (Saliváhan)	<i>ib.</i>
Rája Risálú	22
Siálkot under the Mughals	23
Invasions of the Durránis, A. D. 1748 and A. D. 1751	24
Rise of Ranjít Deo, the Rájput Chief	<i>ib.</i>
Rájput ascendancy established	25
Siálkot held by Patháns	<i>ib.</i>
Rájput revenue system	<i>ib.</i>
Rise of the Bhangí Confederacy	<i>ib.</i>
Death of Ranjít Deo and birth of Ranjít Singh	26
The great famine of San Chálís, corresponding with A. D. 1783	<i>ib.</i>
Decline of Rájput power	<i>ib.</i>
Bhangí ascendancy established	<i>ib.</i>
Distribution of the country by the Sikhs	27
Rise of Ranjít Singh	<i>ib.</i>
Origin of the talúqa system	<i>ib.</i>
Establishment of the Sikh monarchy by Ranjít Singh	28
Ranjít Singh's revenue system	<i>ib.</i>
Recapitulation of the four great epochs	29
Status of district when annexed by British Government in A. D. 1849	<i>ib.</i>
The mutiny	<i>ib.</i>
Famines	34
Constitution of the district, and subsequent changes	<i>ib.</i>
Tahsíl subdivisions at time of first settlement	35
Existing tahsíl arrangement	<i>ib.</i>
List of district officers	36
Development since annexation	37

CHAPTER III.—THE PEOPLE.

	PAGE.
Section A.—Statistical—	
Distribution of population	38
Migration and birth-place of population	39
Increase and decrease of population	41
Births and deaths	43
Age, sex, and civil condition	44
Infirmities	45
European and Eurasian population	46
Section B.—Social and Religious Life—	
Habitations	47
Household furniture	48
Dress	<i>ib.</i>
Ornaments	49
Food	51
Cost of living	<i>ib.</i>
Marriage	52
Births	55
Funerals	56
Daily life	57
Amusements	58
Proverbs	<i>ib.</i>
Condition of the people	59
The moneyed classes	60
Religion	61
Hindús	62
Sikhs	63
Jains	64
Musalmáns	<i>ib.</i>
Christians	65
Religious establishments	66
Temples and shrines	<i>ib.</i>
Fairs	68
Religious Societies	<i>ib.</i>
Srí Gurú Singh Sabha	<i>ib.</i>
Arya Samáj	<i>ib.</i>
Sanatan Dharm Sabha	<i>ib.</i>
Jain Sabha	<i>ib.</i>
Missions	69
United Presbyterian Church of America	<i>ib.</i>
Mission of the Established Church of Scotland	<i>ib.</i>
Female Mission of the Church of Scotland	70

CHAPTER III.—THE PEOPLE—*continued.*

	PAGE.
Section B.—Social and Religious Life—<i>concluded.</i>	
<i>Missions—concluded.</i>	
Church of England	70
The Zanána Mission	71
Roman Catholic Mission	<i>ib.</i>
Language	72
Education	<i>ib.</i>
Literature	73
Section C.—Tribes, Castes and Leading Families—	
Statistics and local distribution of tribes and castes	74
The Jats	76
Bájwa Jats	77
Chíma Jats	<i>ib.</i>
Ghumman Jats	<i>ib.</i>
Káhlón Jats	<i>ib.</i>
Sindhú Jats	78
Goráya Jats	<i>ib.</i>
Rájpúts	<i>ib.</i>
The Salehriás	79
The Bhattís	<i>ib.</i>
The Minhás clan	<i>ib.</i>
Aráíns	<i>ib.</i>
Awáns	<i>ib.</i>
Kaláls	80
Labánás	<i>ib.</i>
Other tribes	<i>ib.</i>
Leading families	<i>ib.</i>
Sardár Jagjodh Singh	81
Sardár Richpál Singh	<i>ib.</i>
Sardár Baghel Singh	<i>ib.</i>
Sardár Raghbír Singh	<i>ib.</i>
Sardár Jagat Singh	82
Sardár Dyál Singh	<i>ib.</i>
The Mán family	<i>ib.</i>
Leading men	<i>ib.</i>
Sardár Ganda Singh	83
Súbedár-Major Sikandar Khan	<i>ib.</i>
Mahant Prem Singh	<i>ib.</i>
Rái Diwán Chand	<i>ib.</i>
Local Darbáris	84
Retired native officers and barristers, &c.	85

CHAPTER III.—THE PEOPLE—*concluded.*

	PAGE.
Section D.—Village Communities and Tenures—	
Village tenures	85
The theory of village tenures	<i>ib.</i>
Size of proprietors' holdings	87
Superior and inferior proprietors	<i>ib.</i>
Riparian customs	88
Tenancies	<i>ib.</i>
Tenants	89
Tenants having a superior position	90
Páikásht or non-resident tenants	<i>ib.</i>
Resident cultivators treated with much indulgence	<i>ib.</i>
Occupancy and protected tenants	91
Tenants-at-will	<i>ib.</i>
Cash rents	92
Kind rents	93
Cultivating partnership	94
Zaildárs	<i>ib.</i>
Village headmen	96
Chief headmen	97
The village accountant or patwári	<i>ib.</i>
Village servants	98
The Chúhra	<i>ib.</i>
Kumbár	99
Lohár	<i>ib.</i>
Tarkhán	<i>ib.</i>
Máchhí or juhíwar	<i>ib.</i>
Other menials	<i>ib.</i>
Petty village grantees	100
Transfers of land	<i>ib.</i>
*Agricultural indebtedness	102

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Section A.—Agriculture, Arboriculture and Live-stock—

General statistics of agriculture	103
Soils	<i>ib.</i>
Irrigated area	104
Well irrigation	105
Other means of irrigation	106
System of cultivation on cháhí lands	<i>ib.</i>
System of cultivation on sailába lands	108
System of cultivation on bárání lands	<i>ib.</i>

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION—*continued.*

	PAGE.
Section A.—Agriculture, Arboriculture and Live-stock—<i>concluded.</i>	
Sowing	109
Ploughing	<i>ib.</i>
Rolling	110
Agricultural implements	<i>ib.</i>
Manure	111
Harvest operations	113
Rice	<i>ib.</i>
Maize	114
Cotton	<i>ib.</i>
Jowár	<i>ib.</i>
Sugarcane	<i>ib.</i>
Other kharíf crops	116
Wheat	117
Barley	<i>ib.</i>
Gram	<i>ib.</i>
Minor <i>rabi</i> crops	118
Crop diseases	<i>ib.</i>
Nomenclature of staples	119
Consumption and food-supply	120
Arboriculture	121
Agricultural stock	<i>ib.</i>
Cattle breeding	124
Horse Fairs	125
Pony stallions	<i>ib.</i>
Section B.—Occupations, Industries and Commerce—	
Occupations of the people	125
Manufactures	126
Paper	<i>ib.</i>
Glazed earthenware	127
Iron work	<i>ib.</i>
Other metal-work	128
Pashmína	129

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION—*concluded.*

	PAGE.
Section B.—Occupations, Industries and Commerce—<i>concluded.</i>	
Manufactures— <i>concluded.</i>	
Other cloth fabrics	129
Wood-work	130
Cotton printing	<i>ib.</i>
Phulkáris	<i>ib.</i>
Koft or damascened work	<i>ib.</i>
Brass-ware	131
Racquets canes, &c.	<i>ib.</i>
Paper	132
The Belfast Flax Company	<i>ib.</i>
Course and nature of trade	133

Section C.—Prices, Weights and Measures, and Communications—

Prices, wages, rent-rates, interest	134
Weights and measures'	<i>ib.</i>
Communications	135
Ferries	<i>ib.</i>
Railways	137
Roads, rest-houses and encamping-grounds	<i>ib.</i>
Post offices	140
Telegraphs	141

CHAPTER V.—ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE.

Section A.—General—

Executive	143
Judicial	<i>ib.</i>
Honorary Magistrates	144
Registration	<i>ib.</i>
Police	<i>ib.</i>
Criminal tribes	146
Jails	147
Revenue, Taxation and Registration	<i>ib.</i>
District and Local Boards	148

CHAPTER V.—ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE—*concluded.*

	PAGE.
Section A.—General—<i>concluded.</i>	
Education	149
Middle schools	150
High schools	<i>ib.</i>
Indigenous schools	<i>ib.</i>
Zamindari schools	<i>ib.</i>
Female schools	<i>ib.</i>
Other educational matters	151
Medical	<i>ib.</i>
Hakim Fund	152
Vaccination	<i>ib.</i>
Leper asylum	<i>ib.</i>
Ecclesiastical	153
The convent	154
Cantonments and troops	155
Head-quarters of other departments	156
Section B.—Land and Land Revenue—	
Revenue system under the Mughals	<i>ib.</i>
Revenue system under the Rájputés	<i>ib.</i>
Management under the Sikhs	157
The farming system introduced by Ranjít Singh	<i>ib.</i>
Direct management under kárdárs or paid agents	<i>ib.</i>
Sikh system of kankút	158
Money settlement once made by General Avitabile	<i>ib.</i>
Summary settlement	159
Regular settlement 1854 A. D.	<i>ib.</i>
Second regular settlement	160
Statistics of land revenue	162
Assignments of land revenue	<i>ib.</i>
CHAPTER VI.—TOWNS, MUNICIPALITIES AND CANTONMENTS.	
General statistics of towns	164
Description of Siálkot town	165
History	<i>ib.</i>

CHAPTER VI.—TOWNS, MUNICIPALITIES AND CANTONMENTS—*concluded.*

	PAGE.
Institutions and public buildings	169
Municipal government of the town	<i>ib.</i>
Population and vital statistics of the town	170
Births and deaths	<i>ib.</i>
Daska town	171
Jámke town	172
Mitránwáli	173
Pasrúr town	<i>ib.</i>
Kila Sobha Singh town	174
Zafarwál town	<i>ib.</i>
Sankhatra	175
Narowál town	<i>ib.</i>
Notified areas	176
Glossary of vernacular terms	177
Appendix A	180