

GAZETTEER

OF THE

KARNAL DISTRICT.

1883-84.

Compiled and Published under the authority of the
Punjab Government.



By order:

PRINTED AT THE "ARYA PRESS,"

1884.

P R E F A C E.

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 1881 has been utilised. Of the present volume, Section A of Chap. V (General Administration), and the whole of Chap. VI (Towns), have been for the most part supplied by the Deputy Commissioner; and Section A of Chap. III (Statistics of Population) has been taken from the Census Report. But with these exceptions, the great mass of the text has been taken almost if not quite verbally from Mr. Ibbetson's report on the southern parganahs,* and from the volume of extracts from old Settlement Reports of the Thanesar District. These latter afford very inadequate material for an account of that portion of the district to which they relate.

No better or fuller material, however, was either available or procurable within the time allowed. But when the settlement operations now in progress are finished, 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purpose of collecting and publishing in a systematic form, information which had before been scattered, and in part unpublished.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 Major Roberts and Messrs. Benton and Douie and by the Irrigation Department so far as regards the canals of the district. 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 final edition, though compiled by the Editor, has been prepared for and passed through the press by Mr. Stack.

THE EDITOR.

* Note.—Mr. Ibbetson's text has very often been modified by the district authorities, especially in

CONTENTS.

| | <i>Page.</i> |
|--|--------------|
| CHAP. I.—THE DISTRICT | 1 |
| A.—DESCRIPTIVE | 1 |
| B.—GEOLOGY, FAUNA AND FLORA | 10 |
| ” II.—HISTORY | 21 |
| A.—PHYSICAL | 21 |
| B.—POLITICAL | 25 |
| C.—ADMINISTRATIVE | 49 |
| ” III.—THE PEOPLE | 56 |
| A.—STATISTICAL | 56 |
| B.—SOCIAL LIFE | 65 |
| C.—RELIGIOUS LIFE | 84 |
| D.—TRIBES AND CASTES | 98 |
| E.—VILLAGE COMMUNITIES AND TENURES | 114 |
| F.—LEADING FAMILIES AND CHAUDHRIS | 141 |
| ” IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION | 155 |
| A.—AGRICULTURE AND ARBORICULTURE | 155 |
| B.—LIVESTOCK | 185 |
| C.—OCCUPATIONS, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMERCE | 191 |
| D.—PRICES, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, AND COMMUNICATIONS | 196 |
| ” V.—ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE | 207 |
| A.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION | 207 |
| B.—LAND AND LAND REVENUE | 212 |
| ” VI.—TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES | 252 |
| APPENDIX | 265 |
| STATISTICAL TABLES (INDEX ON PAGE ii). | |

CHAPTER I.—THE DISTRICT.

Section A.—Descriptive—

| | |
|--|----|
| General description | 1 |
| General description—Physical conformation—The <i>Khádar</i> | 2 |
| The <i>Bánger</i> —The Nardak | 3 |
| The Nardak—The Ghagar-Suruswati basins—The Jamná | 4 |
| The Jamná—Minor drainage lines | 5 |
| Streams of the Ghagar basin— <i>Jhils</i> , and swamps | 6 |
| <i>Jhils</i> , and swamps—The Western Jamná Canal | 7 |
| The Western Jamná Canal—Rainfall, temperature and climate, | 8 |
| Rainfall, temperature, and climate—Disease | 9 |
| Disease | 10 |

Section B.—Geology, Fauna and Flora—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Geology—Mineral Products—Sal ammoniac | ... 10 |
| Sal ammoniac—Wild animals : sport | ... 12 |
| Wild animals : sport | ... 13 |
| Saurians and reptiles—Fish | ... 14 |
| Fish—Trees and shrubs | ... 15 |
| Trees and shrubs—The <i>dhák</i> | ... 16 |
| The <i>dhák</i> —Other trees | ... 17 |
| Other trees—Shrubs | ... 18 |
| Shrubs—Grasses | ... 19 |
| Grasses | ... 20 |

CHAPTER II.—HISTORY.**Section A.—Physical History—**

| | |
|--|--------|
| Changes in the course of the Jamná | ... 21 |
| Changes in the course of the Jamná—The Chautang and Naí Nadi | ... 22 |
| Famines | ... 23 |

Section B.—Political History—

| | |
|---|--------|
| General remarks—Antiquities | ... 25 |
| Early Hindu history | ... 26 |
| Early Hindu history—Buddhist period—Early Muhammadan invasions— History under the Pathán dynasty | ... 27 |
| History under the Pathán dynasty—Invasion of Tamerlane—Anarchy previous to the Mughal dynasty | ... 28 |
| First battle of Pánípat | ... 29 |
| Second battle of Pánípat—Mughal dynasty—Territorial divisions under the Mughals | ... 30 |
| Territorial divisions under the Mughals—Decay of Mughal dynasty— Invasion of Nádir Sháh and Battle of Karnál | ... 31 |
| Invasion of Nádir Sháh and Battle of Karnál—Third Battle of Pánípat | ... 32 |
| Third Battle of Pánípat—The Sikh Rule | ... 33 |
| The Sikh Rule—Conquest by the English | ... 34 |
| State of the country in 1805 | ... 35 |
| Early English policy—Final assumption of sovereignty by the English | ... 36 |
| Final assumption of sovereignty by the English—Subsequent events—Early history of Kaithal | ... 37 |
| Early history of Kaithal—The Sikh Bháis of Kaithal | ... 38 |
| The Sikh Bháis of Kaithal—Early history of Ládwa and Thánesar | ... 40 |
| Early history of Ládwa and Thánesar—The Ládwa Rájás | ... 41 |
| The Ládwa Rájás—The Kháns of Kunjpura | ... 42 |
| The Kháns of Kunjpura—The Sardárs of Thánesar | ... 43 |
| The Sardárs of Thánesar—Condition of the country at annexation | ... 44 |
| Condition of the country at annexation—The mutiny | ... 46 |
| The mutiny—Development since annexation | ... 48 |

Section C.—Administrative History—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Constitution of the district—Administrative machinery. Dehli territory | ... 49 |
| Administrative machinery. Dehli territory—Administrative sub-divisions. Dehli territory | ... 50 |
| Administrative sub-divisions. Dehli territory—Thánesar district—District officers | ... 51 |

| | <i>Page.</i> |
|--|--------------|
| Section C.—Administrative History—(continued).— | |
| District officers—Early administration—Criminal administration | ... 52 |
| Criminal administration—Civil administration | ... 53 |
| Civil administration—Customs and Excise | ... 54 |
| Customs and Excise | ... 55 |

CHAPTER III.—THE PEOPLE.

Section A.—Statistical—

| | |
|---|--------|
| Distribution of population—Density of population | ... 56 |
| Density of population—Distribution over houses and families—Migration and birth-place of population | ... 57 |
| Migration and birth-place of population—Increase and decrease of population | ... 58 |
| Increase and decrease of population—Births and deaths—Age, sex and civil condition | ... 61 |
| Age, sex and civil condition—Infanticide—Treatment of female children | ... 63 |
| Polyandry and polygamy—Widows and widowers—Summary | ... 64 |
| Summary—Infirmities—European and Eurasian population | ... 65 |

Section B.—Social Life—

| | |
|--|--------|
| The homestead and the homes | ... 65 |
| The homestead and the homes—Domestic utensils | ... 66 |
| Domestic utensils—Daily life | ... 67 |
| Daily life | ... 68 |
| Food—Clothes | ... 69 |
| Clothes—Jewels and personal adornment | ... 70 |
| Jewels and personal adornment—Birth—Betrothal | ... 71 |
| Betrothal—Marriage preliminaries | ... 72 |
| Marriage preliminaries—The wedding | ... 74 |
| The wedding—After ceremonies | ... 76 |
| After ceremonies—Consummation of the marriage | ... 77 |
| Consummation of the marriage—Musalmán and other variations—Relations following upon marriage | ... 78 |
| Relations following upon marriage—The custom of <i>neotá</i> —Remarriage of widows | ... 79 |
| Remarriage of widows—Death | ... 80 |
| Death—Ceremonies for the repose of the spirit—Language | ... 81 |
| Language—Education | ... 82 |
| Education—Poverty or wealth of the people—Character and disposition of the people | ... 83 |
| Character and disposition of the people | ... 84 |

Section C.—Religious Life—

| | |
|--|--------|
| General statistics and distribution of religions | ... 84 |
| General statistics and distribution of religions—Musalmáns | ... 85 |
| Hindus—Minor deities—Effect of Islám upon Hinduism | ... 86 |
| The sect of <i>Sádhs</i> —Shrines—Modes of worship | ... 87 |
| Modes of worship—Offerings—Possession, divination, and exorcism | ... 88 |
| Possession, divination, and exorcism—Vishnu, Rám, Náráin—Shiv, Mahádev—Súraj Devata or the Sun god | ... 89 |
| The Jamná—Dharti Mátá or Mother Earth—Bhúmiá or the god of the homestead—Khwája Khizr, the Water-God | ... 90 |

Section C.—Religious Life—(continued).—

| | |
|---|--------|
| <i>Pitr</i> or ancestors— <i>Sattis</i> —The <i>gyáls</i> or sonless dead—The <i>Sitala</i> or small-pox group | ... 91 |
| The <i>Sitala</i> or small-pox group—The <i>Saiyads</i> (<i>Shahíds</i>) or martyrs—The <i>Singhs</i> or snake-gods | ... 92 |
| The <i>Singhs</i> or snake-gods— <i>Gúgá Pír</i> —The <i>Núris</i> or fairies | ... 93 |
| Minor saints | ... 94 |
| Minor saints—Ghosts or <i>Bhúts</i> —Omens and charms | ... 95 |
| Omens and charms—Superstitions | ... 96 |
| Superstitions—Fasts and festivals | ... 97 |
| Karnál Mission | ... 98 |

Section D.—Tribes and Castes—

| | |
|---|---------|
| Statistics and local distribution of tribes and castes—Former inhabitants | ... 98 |
| Former inhabitants—Local organization of tribes | ... 100 |
| Local organization of tribes—Admission of strangers into the tribal organization | ... 101 |
| Imperial <i>thapás</i> —Division of tribes into clans: exogamy and endogamy | ... 102 |
| Division of tribes into clans: exogamy and endogamy—Exogamy among the clans—Social intercourse among tribes | ... 103 |
| Social intercourse among tribes—The Dehia and Haulánia factions | ... 104 |
| The Dehia and Haulánia factions—The Rájputés | ... 105 |
| The Rájputés—The Játés | ... 106 |
| The Játés—The Gújars | ... 108 |
| The Gújars—The Rors | ... 109 |
| The Rors—The Tagás | ... 110 |
| The Bráhmans—The Gújrátí and Dákaut Bráhmans | ... 111 |
| The Gújrátí and Dákaut Bráhmans—The Saiyads | ... 112 |
| The Saiyads—Miscellaneous and menial tribes | ... 113 |
| Miscellaneous and menial tribes | ... 114 |

Section E.—Village Communities and Tenures—

| | |
|---|---------|
| Constitution of the proprietary body | ... 114 |
| Constitution of the proprietary body—Village officers | ... 115 |
| Village headmen | ... 116 |
| Village headmen—Village tenures | ... 117 |
| Village tenures—Proprietary tenures—Property in severalty a creation of our own | ... 118 |
| Property in severalty a creation of our own—The family. Rules governing the devolution of property | ... 120 |
| The family. Rules governing the devolution of property—Admission of strangers into the family, and alienation | ... 121 |
| Admission of strangers into the family, and alienation—Muhammadian customs—Inferior proprietors—Tenure of Karnál Cantonment lands | ... 123 |
| Tenure of Karnál Cantonment lands—Riparian custom | ... 124 |
| Riparian custom—Tenants and rent in general | ... 125 |
| Tenants and rent in general—Tenants of village common land—Kinds of rent and other tenants' dues | ... 127 |
| Kinds of rent and other tenants' dues—Petty village grantees | ... 128 |
| Common expenditure of the village | ... 129 |
| Common income of the village: village dues | ... 130 |
| Common income of the village: village dues—The distribution of the revenue | ... 131 |
| The distribution of the revenue—Agricultural partnerships or <i>lánàs</i> | ... 132 |
| Agricultural partnerships or <i>lánàs</i> —The sugarcane <i>lánà</i> | ... 133 |

| | Page. |
|---|---------|
| Section E.—Village Communities and Tenures—(continued).— | |
| The sugarcane <i>lāná</i> — <i>Dangwára</i> —Agricultural labourers | ... 134 |
| Agricultural labourers—The village money-lender; village banking | ... 135 |
| The village money-lender; village banking—The village accountant—Village menials | ... 136 |
| Village menials—Inhabitants of the village generally | ... 138 |
| Inhabitants of the village generally—Watch and ward. <i>Thikar</i> —Poverty or wealth of the proprietors | ... 139 |
| Poverty or wealth of the proprietors | ... 141 |
| Section F.—Leading Families— | |
| Principal families—The Mandal family | ... 141 |
| The Mandal family—Minor assignments of revenue within the Mandal holding | ... 144 |
| Minor assignments of revenue within the Mandal holding—Conversion of part of the <i>Istanrár</i> into <i>jágír</i> —Primogeniture among the Mandals—Record of Mandal custom | ... 145 |
| Record of Mandal custom—Nature and incidents of the Mandal tenure | ... 146 |
| Nature and incidents of the Mandal tenure—Present condition of the Mandals | ... 148 |
| Present condition of the Mandals—The Sardárs of Shámgarh | ... 149 |
| Present condition of the Mandals—The Sardárs of Sikri—The Sardárs of Dhanaurá—The Sardárs of Labkari—The Skinner family | ... 150 |
| The Skinner family—Acquisition of villages in proprietary right by the Skinners | ... 151 |
| Acquisition of villages in proprietary right by the Skinners—The Kunjpura family | ... 152 |
| The Kunjpura family—Pánípat families | ... 153 |
| Pánípat families— <i>Chaudhris</i> | ... 154 |

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Section A.—Agriculture and Arboriculture—

| | |
|--|---------|
| General statistics of agriculture—The seasons. Agricultural calendar | ... 155 |
| The seasons. Agricultural calendar—The weather—Seed time and harvest | ... 156 |
| Seed time and harvest—Soils—Means of irrigation | ... 157 |
| Means of irrigation—Well-sinking | ... 158 |
| Well-sinking—Unbricked wells | ... 159 |
| Well-gear; the Persian wheel—The rope and bucket | ... 160 |
| Agricultural implements and appliances—Cattle—Fodder—Manure | ... 161 |
| Manure—Use of dung as fuel—The sugar press | ... 162 |
| The sugar press—The cart—The plough | ... 163 |
| Minor agricultural implements—Breaking up and ploughing | ... 164 |
| Breaking up and ploughing—Harrowing—Sowing | ... 165 |
| Well irrigation—Canal irrigation | ... 166 |
| Canal irrigation—Weeding—Protection of crops | ... 167 |
| Protection of crops—Reaping—Thrashing | ... 168 |
| Winnowing—Measuring | ... 169 |
| The work of the year—Cost of cultivation | ... 170 |
| Cost of cultivation—Principal staples | ... 171 |
| Principal staples—Diseases and enemies of plants | ... 172 |
| Diseases and enemies of plants—Sugarcane | ... 173 |
| Sugarcane—Cotton | ... 175 |
| Cotton—Maize—Fine rice | ... 176 |

Section A.—Agriculture and Arboriculture—(continued)—

| | |
|---|---------|
| Fine rice—Coarse rice | ... 177 |
| <i>Jawár—Bágra—Mandwa</i> | ... 178 |
| <i>Mandwa—Móih—Urad—Múng—Gawánr—Til—San</i> | ... 179 |
| <i>San—Wheat—Barley</i> | ... 180 |
| <i>Barley—Gram—Masúr or Masri—Sarson—Toría</i> | ... 181 |
| <i>Toría—Methi—Tobacco—Karar</i> | ... 182 |
| <i>Karar—Mixed crops—Rotation of crops</i> | ... 183 |
| Rotation of crops—Average yield. Production and consumption of food grains | ... 184 |
| Average yield. Production and consumption of food grains—Table of produce estimates—Arboriculture and forests | ... 185 |

Section B.—Live-Stock—

| | |
|---|---------|
| Live-stock | ... 185 |
| Live-stock—Horned cattle | ... 186 |
| Horned cattle—Grazing and food—Milk and butter | ... 187 |
| Milk and butter—Diseases of cattle—Traffic in cattle | ... 188 |
| Traffic in cattle—Sheep and goats—Horses—Other animals—Government breeding operations | ... 189 |
| Government breeding operations—Karnál branch cattle farm | ... 190 |
| Karnál stud | ... 191 |

Section C.—Occupations, Industries, and Commerce—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Occupations of the people | ... 191 |
| Agricultural occupations—Principal industries and manufactures | ... 192 |
| Rope-making—Pottery—Brick-making | ... 193 |
| Town manufactures—Trinkets—Fabrics—Glass-blowing | ... 194 |
| Glass-blowing—Course and nature of trade | ... 195 |
| Course and nature of trade | ... 196 |

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

| | |
|--|---------|
| Prices, wages, rent-rates, interest | ... 196 |
| Prices, wages, rent-rates, interest—Changes in the value of agricultural produce | ... 197 |
| Changes in the value of agricultural produce—Weights and measures | ... 200 |
| Weights and measures | ... 201 |
| Communications—Navigable rivers and canals; ferries, and bridges— | |
| Roads, rest-houses, and encamping-grounds | ... 202 |
| List of canal bridges | ... 203 |
| Roads, rest-houses, and encamping-grounds | ... 204 |
| Roads, rest-houses, and encamping-grounds—Post offices | ... 206 |

CHAPTER V.—ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE.

Section A.—General Administration—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Executive and Judicial—Criminal, Police and Gaols | ... 207 |
| Criminal, Police and Gaols—Criminal tribes, and crime | ... 208 |
| Revenue, Taxation, and Registration—Statistics of land revenue | ... 209 |
| Statistics of land revenue—Education—Karnál District school | ... 210 |
| Karnál District school—Medical—Ecclesiastical—Head-quarters of other departments | ... 211 |
| Head-quarters of other departments | ... 212 |

| | Page. |
|---|---------|
| Section B.—Land and Land Revenue— | |
| Introductory—Sikh revenue system | ... 212 |
| Sikh revenue system—Constitution of the Thánesar district | ... 213 |
| Constitution of the Thánesar district—Regular Settlements | ... 214 |
| Regular Settlements—Further revisions | ... 215 |
| Causes of the break-down | ... 216 |
| Causes of the break-down—Final revision by Captain Davies— <i>Parganaḥ</i> | |
| <i>Ládwa—Parganaḥ</i> Indrí | ... 217 |
| <i>Parganaḥ</i> Indrí— <i>Parganaḥs</i> Pehoa and Chika— <i>Parganaḥ</i> Sháhábád— | |
| Thánesar <i>parganaḥ</i> | ... 218 |
| Thánesar <i>parganaḥ</i> | ... 219 |
| Results of the several revisions—Pánípat. Early British Revenue Administration | ... 220 |
| Early British Revenue Administration—Gradual amelioration | ... 223 |
| Gradual amelioration—Regular Settlement of 1842 | ... 225 |
| Regular Settlement of 1842 | ... 226 |
| Revenue history since the Regular Settlement. The Khádar—Revenue History since the Regular Settlement. The Bángar | ... 227 |
| Revenue History since the Regular Settlement. The Bángar | ... 228 |
| The Mandal Tract | ... 229 |
| The Mandal Tract—Mandal Settlement of 1847 | ... 230 |
| Mandal Settlement of 1847—Revision of 1852 | ... 231 |
| Revision of 1852—Revision of 1856 | ... 232 |
| Revision of 1856—Revenue history since the Regular Settlement | ... 233 |
| Revision of 1856 | ... 234 |
| Revenue history since the Regular Settlement—Basis and scheme of the assessment—Results of the assessment | ... 235 |
| Results of the assessment | ... 236 |
| Resumé of the assessment. The Nardak | ... 238 |
| Resumé of the assessment. The Nardak—Resumé of the assessment. Pánípat Khádar | ... 239 |
| Resumé of the assessment. Pánípat Khádar—Resumé of the assessment. Karnál Khádar | ... 240 |
| Resumé of the assessment. Karnál Khádar—Resumé of the assessment. Pánípat Bángar | ... 241 |
| Resumé of the assessment. Pánípat Bángar—Resumé of the assessment. Karnál Bángar | ... 242 |
| Resumé of the assessment. Karnál Bángar—The owner's rate system | ... 243 |
| The owner's rate system—Nature of the fixed demand—The detailed assessment | ... 244 |
| The detailed assessment—Five-yearly revision of assessment—Incidents attached to owner's rates—Cesses | ... 247 |
| Di-alluvion—Assignments of land revenue—Assessment of assigned revenue | ... 248 |
| Assessment of assigned revenue—Previous Settlements of assigned revenue | ... 249 |
| Previous Settlements of assigned revenue—Government lands, forests, &c.—Government rights in canal land | ... 250 |
| Government rights in canal land | ... 251 |

CHAPTER VI.—TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

| | <i>Page.</i> |
|--|--------------|
| General statistics of towns—Town of Karnál | ... 252 |
| Town of Karnál—Town of Kunjpura | ... 256 |
| Town of Kunjpura—Town of Pánipat | ... 257 |
| Town of Pánipat | ... 260 |
| Town of Kaithal | ... 261 |
| Síwan town—Púndri town | ... 263 |
| Púndri town—Tiráori | ... 264 |

 APPENDIX.

Growth of irrigation—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Defects of the canal system | ... 265 |
| Defects of the canal system—Excessive irrigation practised by the people | ... 268 |
| Excessive irrigation practised by the people—Resulting swamps—Resulting saline efflorescence | ... 269 |
| Resulting saline efflorescence—Effects upon health and prosperity | ... 270 |
| Effects upon health and prosperity—Present condition | ... 271 |
| Present condition | ... 273 |
