

BENGAL DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

DARJEELING

BY

ARTHUR JULES DASH, C.I.E.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, BENGAL
AND LATE OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE

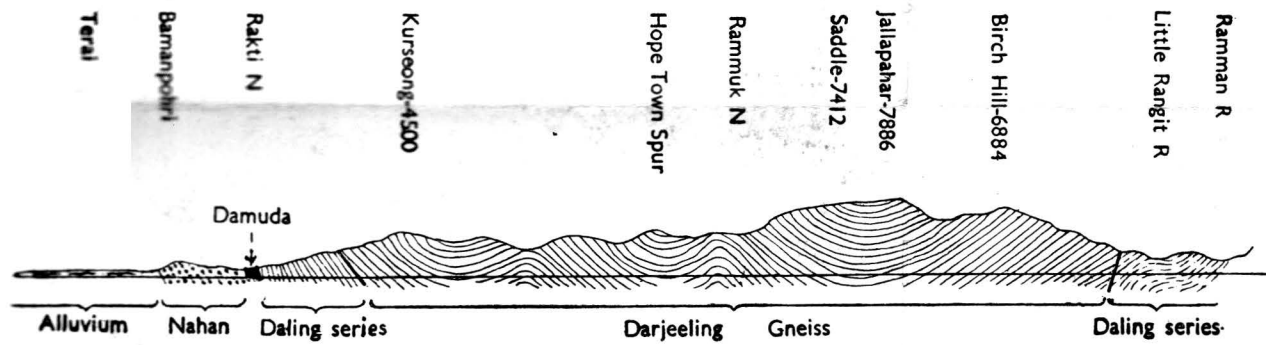
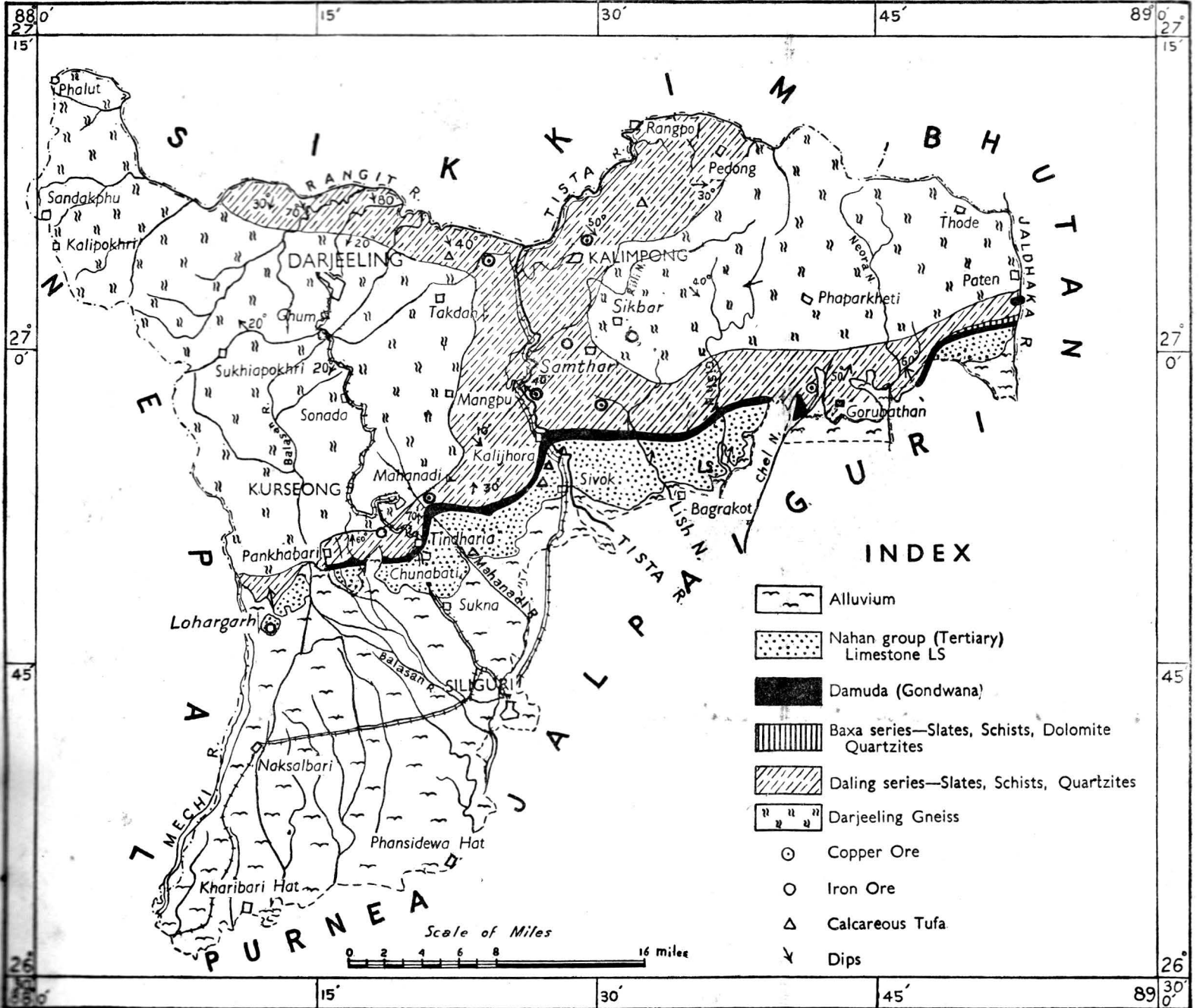


SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING
BENGAL GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALIPORE, BENGAL

1947

Price—Indian, Rs. 8; English, 13s. 6d.

GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE DARJEELING HILL TERRITORY (AFTER MALLET)



Section from Terai south of Kurseong to Ramman R.
Horizontal & Vertical Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 Mile = 5280 ft.

PREFACE.

This Gazetteer is a compilation of contributions from a number of individuals and my own has mainly been the application of some knowledge of the District and its administration to the task of collating and editing the contribution of others.

I place on record my indebtedness to many contributors for their willing assistance and my apologies for the alterations and excisions that the process of editing has made necessary.

Limitation of space prevents me publishing a list of the names of those who have assisted. It is a long one and includes the names of officers of the Indian and Provincial Governments, of officers of local bodies and of many residents of the District, all of whom have given time and labour generously.

A. J. DASH.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Physical Description.

	PAGES.
POSITION—Boundaries—Mountain system—River system—Geology— Minerals, mines and quarries—Earthquakes—Erosion and landslips—Climate and weather—Storms—Botany—Fauna ..	1-36

CHAPTER II.

History.

EARLY POLITICAL HISTORY—Developments after 1866—Later administrative history—Jurisdictions and statutory powers— Constitutional history—Present constitutional position ..	37-47
--	-------

CHAPTER III.

The People.

GROWTH OF POPULATION FROM EARLY TIMES—Immigration—Density of population—Urban populations—Population of plantation areas and of other rural areas—Languages—Religions—Population classified by racial origin—Hillmen and plainmen—Tribes—Bhutia and Lepcha populations	49-87
--	-------

CHAPTER IV.

Public Health.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH—Diseases—Health administration—Water-supply—Sewage disposal—Medical institu- tions	89-98
--	-------

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER V.

Agriculture and Livestock.

PAGES.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS—Areas under various crops—Soils, methods and implements—Maize—Millet—Buckwheat—Wheat—Rice—Potatoes—Cardamoms—Fruit—Vegetables—Administration—LIVESTOCK—Cattle—Other animals—Poultry—Veterinary administration—Prevention of cruelty to animals—Stock farming

99-111

CHAPTER VI.

The Tea Industry.

HISTORY OF TEA PRODUCTION—Distribution of gardens—Outturn—Prices—Cultivation—Manufacture—Labour—Finance—Planters' associations

113-121

CHAPTER VII.

Forests.

HISTORY—Administration—The three Forest Divisions—The forest crop—Utilisation—Silviculture and forest management—Erosion and soil conservation—Fire—Grazing—Game

123-138

CHAPTER VIII.

Cinchona.

EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT—Outturn—Cultivation—Manufacture—Distribution—Prices—Administration

139-144

CHAPTER IX.

Occupations, Manufactures and Industries.

THE ARMY AND RECRUITING—Agriculture & plantation industries—Forest industries—Electric power—Transportation—Engineering workshops—Rice milling—Building—Road maintenance, quarrying and mining—Cottage industries—Economic condition of labouring classes

145-157

CHAPTER X.

Trade and Prices.

COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION—Trade with the plains—Trade through Siliguri—Transfrontier trade—with Bhutan—with Tibet—with Sikkim—with Nepal—Exports—Local trade—Finance of trade—Prices—Power development

159-178

TABLE OF CONTENTS

iii

CHAPTER XI.

Means of Communication.

PAGES.

HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT—Roads—Railways—Ropeways—Posts— Telegraphs—Telephones—Inspection bungalows—Landing ground	179-203
--	---------

CHAPTER XII.

Land Revenue Administration.

LAND REVENUE SUMMARY—Permanently settled estates—Revenue paying tea estates—Cesses—Sadar-Kurseong Khas Mahals—The Relling and Samabong estates—Tauzi No. 1064—Cart Road Lands—Town Khas Mahal—Kalimpong Development Area— Kalimpong Government Estate—Administration of the hill Khas Mahals—Rate and incidence of rent in the hill Khas Mahals—The Terai Khas Mahals—Revenue free properties—The Darjeeling Improvement Fund	205-234
--	---------

CHAPTER XIII.

General Administration.

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE—Police—Jails—Revenue realised— Excise—Registration—Co-operative Credit—Factories and Boilers	235-242
--	---------

CHAPTER XIV.

Local Self-Government : Description of Urban Areas.

THE DISTRICT BOARD—Local Boards—Union Committee—Local Self- Government in Siliguri—in Kalimpong—Kurseong Municipality —Darjeeling Municipality—Description of Darjeeling town—of Kurseong town—of Kalimpong town—of Siliguri town ..	243-264
---	---------

CHAPTER XV.

Education.

• HISTORY—Primary education—Scholarships—Collegiate education— Special education—Physical education—Education in tea areas —Administrative control—Important schools—European education	265-279
---	---------

CHAPTER XVI.

Gazetteer and Index of Place Names.

GAZETTEER AND INDEX	281-294
-----------------------------	---------

List of maps and diagrams.

Map 8 miles to 1" showing Geology	..	..	..	Front of volume.
Maps 8 miles to 1" showing Contours	..	..	..	Pages 4, 5
Maps 8 miles to 1" showing Rainfall	..	..	..	do. 18, 19
Diagram showing succession of vegetation	..	..	..	do. 27
Maps 8 miles to 1" showing administrative boundaries	..	..	..	do. 46, 47
Diagram showing rainfall and available hydro-electric energy	..	..	..	do. 177
Map 2 miles to 1" showing communication system and utilisation of land				In folder at end of volume.

Glossary.

Basti	..	Village or group of houses.
Bhadralok	..	Gentleman, not a cultivator.
Chaukidar	..	Village policeman.
Daffadar	..	Head chaukidar.
Dara	..	Ridge.
Darzi	..	Tailor.
Dhura, dura		Lines, quarters.
Ghum, ghoom		Mat of leaves and split bamboo worn on head and back to keep off rain.
Hat	..	Market not held every day.
Jhora	..	Stream, torrent.
Jhum	..	Cultivation by burning forest and sowing or planting crops in the burnt area.
Jotedar	..	Owner of <i>jote</i> right who may be a middleman or an actual cultivator.
Khas Mahal		Private Estate, i.e., Government's estate directly managed.
Khola	..	Stream.
Kukat	..	Timber other than sal.
Kukri	..	Nepali knife.
Mandal	..	Village headman.
Mani	..	Buddhist monument.
Niz	..	Private, own.
Panchayat	..	Committee (of five).
Rayat	..	Tenant cultivator.
Sadar	..	Headquarters.
Salami	..	Premium.
Tauzi	..	Deputy Commissioner's list of Estates : hence Estate.
Tar	..	Flat, level place.
Thana	..	Police-station : investigating centre.