CENSUS OF INDIA, 1901.
VOLUME XVII.

THE

PUNJAB, ITS FEUDATORIES, AND THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

PART I.

THE REPORT ON THE CENSUS.

BY

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OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE,
PROVINCIAL SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS.

'Statistics accumulate and knowledge decays.'

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ERRATA.

In Part II (Tables)—

1. Table VII, page vii, in column of remarks against Christians for '16' read '61'.

2. Table XIII, page cxxii, in the heading of Appendix II, for 'Brahman sections,' read 'Brahman groups,' as the groups specified are not exogamous 'sections.'

3. Table XIII, page cxxiv, in the heading of Appendix V for 'Khattri sub-castes,' read 'Khattri sections,' as the sections specified are exogamous 'sections.'

4. On same page the figures for Kakkar females should be—

Table XIV, page xiv, in column 373, substitute the following figures for Khattri-Kakkar females:

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On same page, in column 383, substitute the following figures for other Khattri:

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Table XIV, page iv in column 64, against widowed age '20 and under 40', read '64' for 'blank.'

Table XIV, page xxii, in column 1 under widowed, read '12 and under 15' for '10 and under 15.'

Table XV, page clxii, the entry against Nahan in group No. 433 should be read in group 422 on the preceding page.
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Summary and Preface.

I. Summary.—The Introduction contains a brief note on the populations of the Punjab Province, as now constituted, and the North-West Frontier Province. Chapter I deals with the Distribution of the Population, and the main point of general interest is the decay of the small towns. Chapter II relates to the Movement of the Population. Part I of this Chapter deals with vital statistics, which appear to be wonderfully accurate in the Punjab. The Census figures are also in close accord with the estimate calculated on the rate of increase in the 1881-91 decade. This rate was abnormally high, yet the Census figures are only some 570,000 souls below that estimate. Part II of this Chapter deals with the increase and decrease of population. The effect of scarcity on the population of individual Districts has been but slight, even in the case of Hissar, in which District the population has been stationary since 1891, though a more serious result of the famines has been to diminish the due proportion of children, a fact which may retard its recovery for a generation. The condition of the population in Amritsar, parts of Karnal and Ludhiana, is unsatisfactory and appears to call for more detailed analysis and local investigation. Part III of Chapter II gives the data for migration, which are more complete than in previous Censuses. The chief point of interest is the loss of population by the sub-mountainous Districts due almost entirely to migration to the Chenab Colony which has also attracted large numbers from the rural tracts which are adjacent to it.

Chapter III—Age, Sex, and Civil condition—runs much on the lines of the Census Report of 1891. In dealing with the vexed question of the proportion of the sexes in the Punjab I have not touched on the physiological aspect of the problem, because it is one with which only a specialist could deal. Logically the chapter on caste (VIII), should have preceded this, as the significance of the data can only be realized if the social system of the main Punjab castes is understood. Indeed for this reason the notes on the castes in the 1891 report relate to the end of Chapter VIII.

Chapter IV relates to Religion and Sect. The main points to notice are the slow rate at which the Hindu population is increasing in numbers, and the tendency to abandon the older sects for the organized societies of modern times.

As subjects for further investigation may be noted the extent of the Shia influence on the development of modern Mohammadanism in the Punjab, and the form of Hinduism in the south-west of the Province. As regards the latter Dr. Grierson writes:—"The Hinduism of the Southern and Western Punjab has always been condemned by the orthodox Hindus of the Saraswati", and I quote below a passage from his chapter on language, for the general report on the census, which is of interest in this connection.

Chapter V—Education—gives data, which may be of use to specialists relating to the various indigenous scripts.* I have not attempted to discuss the question whether the Urdu, Roman-Urdu or Gurmukhi character is destined to be the universal script of the future in these Provinces or to draw any conclusions from the figures. Similarly in the case of language, Chapter VI, I have had to be content to note a few facts, leaving the deductions to be drawn by the specialist, Dr. G. A. Grierson, C.I.E., who is in charge of the Linguistic Survey and to whom I am indebted for nearly all my information.

The theory that there were two Aryan invasions now stands thus:—"According to the theory," writes Dr. Grierson, "as it has developed in my hands the Eastern Punjab, Gujar and Rajputana were originally Aryanized by invaders of the first immigration, but were subsequently covered by a dominant layer of the second invaders, which accounts for the mixed language of the people inhabiting these tracts. This will also well account for the impossibility of drawing a clear line between 'Punjabi and Lahnda. The mixed character of these languages of the Central and Western Punjab, is well illustrated by the character given to the inhabitants of those tracts in the Mahabharata and by incidental references in the grammar of Panini. Although not distant from the holy

* Specimens of these scripts have been collected and are in the hands of Dr. Vogel, Archæological Surveyor to the Punjab Government, with whose assistance I hope to publish a complete set of the alphabets in use in these Provinces. A number of specimens were published in 1882 at the end of the late Dr. Leiden's History of indigenous education in the Punjab.
Sarasvati, the centre from which Sanskritic civilisation spread, we learn that the laws and customs of the Punjab were at a very early period widely different from those of the Madhyadesa. The people are at one time described as living in a state of kingless anarchy, and at another time as possessing no Brahmins (a dreadful thing to an orthodox Hindu of the middle country), living in petty villages and governed by princes who supported themselves by internecine war. Not only were there no Brahmins, but there were no castes. The population had no respect for the Veda, and offered no sacrifices to the Gods. They were rude and uncultivated, given to drinking spirituous liquor and eating all kinds of flesh. Their women were large-bodied, yellow, extremely immoral in their behaviour, and seem to have lived in a state of polyandry, a man's heir being not his son, but the son of his sister. That this account was universally true in every particular need not be urged. It is given to us by enemies; but, whether true or not, it illustrates the gulf in habits, customs and language, which existed between Madhyadesa and the Punjab."

Chapter VII deals with infirmities, and is the most satisfactory I have had to write, the numbers of the infirm showing a marked decrease.

Chapter VIII—Caste, Tribe and Race—is an attempt to describe the organization of caste. In the Punjab the social system appears to be essentially different from the caste system of lower India. The caste is not a social unit, and thus the attempt to classify castes in the order of their social precedence failed. It appears indisputable that the structure of the individual castes must first be thoroughly examined before any attempt can be made to classify the castes. In this, as in the Chapter on the Religion, nothing can be regarded as final until the Ethnographic Survey is complete. And indeed these two chapters can only be regarded as mere notes and queries or rough material for the investigations which have still to be made. And when the fullest possible data have been collected, it will be for specialists to trace the connection between the ancient system and the modern developments of caste.

Chapter IX—Occupations—contains little that is new or of interest. It seems clear that the industries of these Provinces are in a transition stage, but so far we are only at the beginning of that stage and the progress made has had very little effect on the census figures.

2. Preface.—The issue of the Census Tables and Report was greatly delayed owing to the constitution of the new Frontier Province after the figures had been compiled. It was necessary to recalculate all the Tables so as to give figures for the new Districts, as well as for the new Province, and at the very lowest estimate, this extra work delayed the issue fully two months.

At a future Census it would, I think, be preferable to issue the Census Tables and Report in bulletins or fasciculi, of uniform size, each dealing with one subject. On the present occasion the drafting of Chapter III had to be postponed for want of data for emigration to certain Provinces in India, and the chapter had eventually to be written without the (doubtless unimportant) figures from Mysore. Chapters V, VI and VII could however have been issued in October 1901, just as easily as in August 1902. If the suggestion made in section 14, page 7, of the introduction to this report is accepted it should be quite possible to issue the shorter tables with the chapters relating to them within six months of the date of the next Census, and the heavier tables and chapters within the year. Sooner or later a quinquennial Census of India is inevitable. Economic changes must accelerate the movements of the population and necessitate the prompt collection of information regarding them. But if the Census be taken twice as often as hitherto it will be essential to materially reduce the cost, and this could be effected by specializing, recording for example, at one census, occupations, literacy and birth-place, and, at the next, caste, language and infirmities. Under the present system of decennial census we are compelled to ask too much of the people, and of the enumerators, while we collect more material than can well be digested within a reasonable time. Half the value of census statistics is lost unless they are made available within a few months of their collection.

Points like these will however be elaborated in the administrative report and need not be further discussed here.

* * * * *

* Cfr. § 16, Chapter III, at page 173 for the doctrices of Guru Gorind Singh, and § 33, Chapter VIII, at page 324 for the democratic organisation of the Jats.
In obtaining full and accurate Census data, I think three officers rendered conspicuous service. Mr. Leslie Jones, Colonization Officer of the Chenab Colony, had a particularly difficult task. The area under his charge was extensive, the population large and unsettled and the administrative staff inadequate. The Civil Department could not spare the services of its administrative agency to assist in taking the census so that special arrangements had to be made at short notice, yet the enumeration in the Colony was remarkably thorough and complete. In Gujarat the arrangements under Captain A. C. Elliott, Deputy Commissioner, were as nearly perfect as possible. In Hoshiarpur Mr. P. J. Fagan, Deputy Commissioner, spared no personal trouble to ensure an exhaustive enumeration. In all Districts I believe the arrangements to have been complete and efficient, though the Tahsildars of Jhang and Chiniot were somewhat perfunctory. A feature of the census was the efficiency of the arrangements in the Native States which, without exception, grasped the intention of the instructions and carried them out with great thoroughness and success. In the rural areas in British Territory the enumeration was, on the whole, equally satisfactory. In the towns it was not quite so good, and the three main cities and the larger cantonments caused more trouble and anxiety than all the rest of the Province put together.

In the cities the municipal authorities appeared to be unable to realize the importance of the work or its difficulties. This was especially the case in Delhi, where, I observe, press of Census work has been advanced as an excuse for neglect of other duties. I can only say that in this case the pressure did not fall on the head of the municipal administration for disaster was only averted by the exertions of Mr. H. D. Craik, C.S., Assistant Commissioner. In Amritsar Mr. Wood, Assistant Secretary, rendered excellent service, while in Lahore Mr. Johnson, the Secretary, spared no personal trouble, but was ill-supported.

In the Cantonments many officers, of the military as well as of the civil departments, took great pains to master the details of the instructions and make the census a success, but the want of a controlling authority was often felt. In Peshawar, Captain Woodcock, 29th P. I., was appointed to superintend the work in the military part of the cantonment and the success of the census therein is due to his exertions. In Ambala Cantonment, Captain Christie, Cantonment Magistrate made excellent arrangements, as did Captain Waller, Cantonment Magistrate, at Rawalpindi. The work of Captain Brownlow at Multan and Captain Thrushill at Mian Mir also deserves mention. But in the purely military portions of the cantonments the work often devolved upon the already overburdened Station Staff Officer, who had to deal with a multiplicity of units over which he had no adequate authority. In Rawalpindi Mr. Wilson Johnson, C.S., took great pains to ensure success, but he was transferred at a critical moment, and but for the exertions of Lieutenant Hamilton, (now in the Political Department) the results might have been unsatisfactory. It is greatly to the credit of that officer and of Lieutenant Bigg-Wither (in Amritsar) that, though only temporarily employed in the Punjab at the time, they rendered excellent service in the work of the Census.

In the actual work of enumeration, or in matters connected with it, Captain O'Brien, in Peshawar, gave most valuable aid, L. Paire Ram, Revenue E. A. C. in Gujarat, under Captain Elliott, also did excellent work, as did Bhai Hota Singh in Dera Ghazi Khan, Lala Hukam Chand in Amritsar, Lala Lachmi Narain in Gurdaspur, Mohammad Aziz-ud-din in Hoshiarpur, Babu Chart Singh in Ferozepur, and Lala Sri Ram in Ludhiana.

It would however be impossible to mention all the officers whose work deserves commendation. A Census depends for its success on the labour of a very large number of workers, both officials and non-officials, whose services it is hardly possible in the nature of things to particularize. A small sum was allotted for rewards to each district; the distribution being left to the Deputy Commissioner or Settlement Collector as the case might be. The sum thus spent amounted to Rs. 12,255, and the money could not have been better spent, indeed one only regrets that it was not larger. Attempts were also made to recognize specially good service by the issue of Sanads under the authority of Government, 434 of the first, 4,579 of the second and 8,739 of the third class being granted to census officials in the various Districts and on the railways.
APPENDIX.

THE COST OF THE CENSUS.

On the present occasion two accounts of Census Expenditure were kept, one showing the actual cost of the Census, i.e., the administrative account, the other showing the amounts debited to the Census allotment, i.e., the financial account.

According to the former account the Census has actually cost Rs. 2,39,209 for both Provinces, or Rs. 10 annas 10 pies for each 1,000 or 17 of an anna (say a sixth of a penny), per head of the population enumerated.

As compared with 1891.—Comparison with the Census account of 1891 can only be effected on the basis of the financial account. For this the Accountant General’s Office is responsible, but the system of account being complicated precise accuracy is not attainable. Moreover there was in that office a disposition to regard the Census as a branch of the Civil Veterinary Department and as dependent on the Agric- Horticultural Gardens of Lahore, views which may have caused a little confusion. However according to the financial account the Census of 1901 cost Rs. 1,89,128 as against Rs. 2,03,645 in 1891.

This is not a satisfactory result. With the slip system of abstraction the cost should have been less, but there were certain causes which prevented the reduction hoped for. In the first place it was found necessary to rent expensive (and wholly unsuitable) buildings at Lahore for the abstraction office, although we could have decentralized the work with perfect safety. Further we had to import our abstractors and pay them travelling allowances—a heavy item. Apart from these details, however, the abstraction was cheap. But when we came to the compilation we met with difficulties. No sooner were the tables compiled, (and some had actually gone to press), when we received orders to compile data for the North-West Frontier Province. This necessitated our re-tabulating the data for 33 villages of Dera Ghazi Khan transferred to other Districts, and then re-compiling the District totals. This having been done the Provincial totals had to be divided into three and the tables re-copied.

Had these difficulties been anticipated we should have arranged for a specially selected staff to carry on the work. As it was for the abstraction work very few officials had been called in from Districts, and as soon as it was finished those few were allowed to return. This mistaken act of benevolence to District Officers left us with few experienced hands to cope with the new complications which arose, and greatly delayed the work.

The changes of area involved in the Chenab Colony were fairly simple, as the District boundaries of Jhang, etc., remained practically unaltered. But the changes, consequent on the formation of the new Frontier Province, led to inextricable confusion. From a census point of view the transfer of a slice of territory containing a few villages matters little, as the change may be disregarded, but the transfer of a Tahsil is anathema marana, for the factor is too large to be ignored. Thus the formation of the new district of Mianwali, to which we endeavoured to give complete census data, involved the expenditure of much time and trouble in the compilation of the returns.

Again there were certain special items of expenditure. We censused the Mahkand garrisons, Kurram and the Shrimni country, which were not enumerated in 1891. In the Chenab Colony Rs. 1,346 had to be spent in paying enumerators as the Revenue staff was hopelessly inadequate and the Canal Department was unable to render us any assistance. Over Rs. 1,000 were also spent on providing for the storage of census records which should save some trouble and expense at the next enumeration.

Lastly, it looks quite easy to condense statistics, but it is not so. Condensation requires specially trained men and should not be attempted with an amateur staff. With these points I hope to deal further in the administration report on the census.
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