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BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

PART III
REPORT AND TABLES—ADEN

BY

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IN CHARGE OF CENSUS OPERATIONS, ADEN



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REPORT.

PREVIOUS ENUMERATIONS.

1. The first Census of the Bombay Presidency (of which Aden is administratively speaking a part) was held in 1854 when an estimate of the population was made but it was not till 1872 that the first enumeration was attempted and its accuracy is extremely doubtful. From 1881 inclusive however organized counts have been taken at ten-year intervals and the general results will be found in Imperial Table II. The Census of the 18th March 1921 may therefore be said to be the seventh of any description, the sixth based on an actual count and the fifth of reasonable accuracy. The reader who wishes to obtain a general idea of the results of this last Census with the minimum of trouble should turn to paragraph 9 hereafter.

CONDUCT OF PRESENT ENUMERATION.

2. The Chairman of the Aden Settlement Committee was appointed as the Officer in charge of the Census Operations and commenced work in July 1920. Captain J. Gordon of the Bombay Political Department who was acting as Chairman during my absence on leave was the Officer in charge of the operations until the end of September 1920 when Major J. C. Tate of the same Department took over charge until my return from leave in the middle of October. The first step taken was the preparation of the General Village Register in which was shown a complete list of the various divisions of Aden and its dependencies, the number of houses and the number of workers available for the enumeration. The divisions were then divided into blocks, 50 houses on the average going to a block in the Crater, Maalla and Tawahi divisions and 100 houses on the average going to a block in Sheikh Othman. The blocks were grouped into circles and the circles into charges. The numbers are shown below:—

Charges	8
Circles	27
Blocks	170

All the charge Superintendents, supervisors and enumerators were engaged from Government and Local Fund offices. One outsider volunteered to do work as enumerator and only two paid men had to be engaged. All charge Superintendents, supervisors and enumerators were given a practical demonstration by me of what they had to do. The need for this and the difficulty involved in the taking of a Census in a place of this nature was well illustrated by the answer of an enumerator who, when asked by me as to what entry he would make for the age of a *purdah* lady whom he could not see and whose male relative refused to give it, replied "I would make a guess at it!" I admit the problem defeated me so I told him to leave the entry blank. As the schedules were filled in, they were gradually checked and rechecked by all Superior Officers right up to the Census night. The only exception was in the case of the enumeration of houseless people and of the Port population which took place on the final night of the Census. A very slight dislocation was caused owing to the unavoidable absence on that night of certain enumerators but their places were filled up without difficulty by reserve enumerators. The date selected for the final Census did not coincide with any big holiday. The Aden Jews who live for the most part in the Crater division abstain from doing any work or business between 6 p.m. on Fridays and 6 p.m. on Saturdays, but although the final Census night—the 18th March 1921—was a Friday this caused no practical inconvenience and everything passed off smoothly and well. All enumerators went out as soon as it was dark to take the final check. New comers and newly born children were added to the list and persons who were absent on that date from Aden and its dependencies were struck off the list. The next morning all enumerators, supervisors and Charge Superintendents met together. The enumerators checked each other's totals. The supervisor then combined the block totals into a circle total. The Charge Superintendents then added up the totals of all the blocks and furnished them to me. Every one concerned worked with a will and I was able to telegraph the totals to the Census Commissioner at Simla and to the Provincial Superintendent at

Poona on the 19th March 1921 or on the day after the Census night. Special care was taken that these provisional totals showing the numbers of occupied houses, males, females and total population should be as accurate as possible and the final recorded result only varied from the revised provisional totals by about 0.12 per cent. The revised provisional total was 56,571 and the finally recorded total was 56,500. The total number of Census Officers employed was 255 or 0.4 per cent. of the subsequently ascertained population. Owing to the large number of houseless people in Aden 63 Census Officers were employed in enumerating them on the night of the final Census.

STATISTICS DECIDED ON.

3. Certain changes in the volume of Imperial Tables etc. were ordered in General Department Order No. 466 dated the 13th January 1921 and it was decided by Government that information regarding Aden should be excluded from the Imperial Tables of 1921 except Tables I and II and that the information excluded should be printed by the Chairman, Aden Settlement, in the form of a separate volume. Correspondence then ensued with the Provincial Superintendent of Census Operations, Poona, and details as to the working and salaries of the Abstraction office were arranged with him. He very kindly supplied me free of cost with the requisite number of slips, sorter's tickets, abstraction tables, etc., etc.

In my letter No. 390 dated the 31st May 1921 I stated that I had decided to print the following tables :

Imperial Tables Nos. I, II, VI, VII, VIII, X, XII, XIII (on the same lines as last Census), XV, XVI(a) and XVI(b), XVII, XXII (all parts) and Provincial Table No. 1.

The above arrangements were reported both to the Provincial Superintendent of Census Operations and to the Census Commissioner, Simla. No returns of Registers were sent to the Provincial Superintendent of Census Operations as in his letter No. Abs./23 dated the 9th June 1921 he had left the whole matter to me.

TABULATION OF RESULTS.

4. An Abstraction office was opened early in April 1921 in the Aden Settlement office and three temporary whole-time clerks were engaged in copying, sorting and preparing the Census Tables. Four half-time checkers, one half-time supervisor and one Deputy Superintendent were appointed to check and supervise the whole thing. Owing to the work of the Aden Settlement certain changes had to be made in the personnel but fortunately only among the checkers. There was practically no change from the procedure of 1911. The first thing done was to copy out from the schedules the particulars of each individual on to a slip 2" x 4½". The colour of the slips indicated the religion; civil condition was shown by a symbol of varying shape and sex by the symbol being solid for a male and merely outlined for a female. The remaining details such as age, caste, occupation, birth-place, language, literacy, knowledge of English and infirmities had to be written up in pencil. This copying and checking was completed by the end of June 1921.

Sorting was then commenced. Pigeon-holes were provided and slips were arranged therein in accordance with the details required for each table. Bundles of a hundred were tied up in the great majority of cases and the requisite figures were entered on sorter's tickets. This method enabled a good and continuous check to be exercised by the supervising staff and the sorters had no opportunity to conceal or make away with slips. When any discrepancy arose Register A was at once referred to and the mistakes were corrected; on one occasion (sorting of table VII) one slip was found missing and all the general schedules had to be looked up again and the particular slip was re-written. Fortunately except for this incident nothing worth mentioning took place and the sorting passed off successfully and was completed on the 30th September 1921. Side by side with the sorting one temporary clerk was detached to do the preparation of all tables from the sorter's tickets. This work was practically completed on the 25th October 1921. All the sorter's tickets and tables were then finally checked and the whole work of tabulation was completed by the 25th October 1921.

Cost.

5. The cost of the present Census has been Rs. 4,718 as compared with Rs. 1,873 in that of 1911. This cost is shared in equal proportions between the Government and the Aden Settlement Fund. The increase is due partly to the increase of the population enumerated but mainly to the great rise in wages and the cost of all materials.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT CENSUS.

6. The following brief suggestions may be of use to the officer who is placed in charge of the next Census Operations :—

Preliminary and final enumeration.

The general arrangements should be much the same as those made in the present Census. The work should commence early in July or August at the latest and all necessary details must be settled before January so as to be ready for the Census to be taken in March of the next year. Care should be taken to employ as many men as possible who have worked in the present Census and who may be in Aden at the time. The great thing to do is to select the present *supervisors* for this work if they are still available.

Census Abstraction.—Copyists and sorters.

Intelligent whole-time men should be employed for this work, as it is rather technical and requires a good deal of local knowledge.

Checkers.

In the present Census men in the permanent employ of the Aden Settlement were working half time only and were given a bonus of Rs. 60 each.

This work requires careful supervision and was done under great difficulties. I would very strongly recommend that full-time men be employed for this work and that they should temporarily be taken from the permanent staff for the purpose.

Supervisor.

This officer should also be a full-time man and should conduct all correspondence, keep charge of the records and supervise the working of the checkers as soon as their portion of the work is finished.

Deputy Superintendent of Census.

This officer should also be a full-time officer and should devote his whole time and energy to Census work right from the beginning of July or so up to August of the next year.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

7. My thanks are due in the first place to the whole population of Aden both Civil and Military, official and non-official, as without their hearty co-operation and help the conduct of the Census would have been a much more difficult matter than it was. In spite of the heterogeneous nature of the people and of the fact that so large a proportion of them are illiterate immigrants from comparatively uncivilized areas no trouble of any sort arose—a striking tribute to the good sense and amiability of the people and to the tact exercised by the enumerators in paying their house-to-house visits. Among the actual workers the first and foremost was Mr. E. R. Kanga, the Secretary and Head Assessor to the Aden Settlement Committee. He was appointed Deputy Superintendent of Census for Aden and placed on whole-time special duty for the work. His experience gained in the previous Census and his whole-hearted devotion to duty in the present one were invaluable and I owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

The following gentlemen also rendered material help and co-operation both in the actual enumeration and in the tabulation work afterwards :—

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Premji Meghji | .. Supervisor, Charge A, and Supervisor of Census Abstraction and Tabulation work. |
| 2. Mr. J. N. Pajnigar | .. Supervisor, Charge C, and Checker of Census Tables. |
| 3. Mr. Sayed M. Irshadali | .. Supervisor, Charge C. |
| 4. Mr. Abdul Habib | .. Supervisor, Port Limits. |
| 5. Mr. W. A. Morris | .. Supervisor, Perim Coal Co. Division. |

6. Mr. Ismail Abdulla	.. Enumerator and outsider Volunteer.
7. Mr. Ali Ahmed Khan.	.. Sheikh Othman Houseless Block Supervisor.
8. Mr. Mohamed A. Rahim	.. Supervisor, Perim.
9. Mr. Ajedya Singh	.. Census Enumerator, Military Limits.
10. Mr. Saeed Moosa	.. Enumerator and Checker.
11. Mr. Saeed S. Bamadhaf	.. Do.
12. Mr. Dulpatram Samji	.. Do.
13. Mr. Shapurji Sorabji	.. Do.
14. Mr. Mohamed Lail Khan	.. Do.
15. Mr. Sayed Mohamed Hydershaw	.. Do.

Lastly I wish especially to mention the Military and the Aden Police to whose tactful help and assistance the complete absence of disturbances of any kind was largely due.

DESCRIPTION OF ADEN.

8. Before proceeding to the results of the Census a brief description of the place will, it is hoped, not be unwelcome. The Settlement, as it is called, of Aden consists of four parts. The first of these and the most important is Aden itself, a rocky peninsula of volcanic origin and about 20 square miles in area bearing in many respects a strong resemblance to Gibraltar. This is connected to the mainland of Arabia by a sandy isthmus about three miles long and one broad called Khor Maksar and on the mainland near the end of this isthmus is the large village or small town of Sheikh Othman with its outlying hamlets of Imad and Hiswa. Between the Peninsula of Aden itself to the South and the mainland to the North lies the bay forming the harbour which is bounded on the East by the Isthmus of Khor Maksar and on the West by another rocky peninsula known as Little Aden. The above make up the British territory of Aden but in addition to it this Census deals also with the small British island of Perim at the Southern entrance to the Red Sea. In addition to its importance as a fortress Aden is a coaling station and oil fuel depôt for both ships of war and mercantile vessels. It also has a flourishing export trade in coffee, hides, skins, gums, spices, ostrich feathers, pearls and other commodities produced in the surrounding countries but for all of these it is an entrepot or collecting centre only and it serves in a similar manner as a distributing centre for imported piece-goods, hardware, kerosine oil and grain, etc. The sole local product of any importance to which Aden itself can lay claim is salt which is made by evaporating sea water and of which about 150,000 tons are exported annually, most of it going to Calcutta.

The assorted nature of its trade is reflected in the kaleidoscopic variety of the inhabitants of the place and of the languages they speak. English, Americans, French, Italians and Greeks, Somalis and Abyssinians, Arabs of all descriptions and Arabian Jews and every kind of Indian with a sprinkling of Persians, Chinese and other Asiatics earn their livelihood on the barren rocks of Aden though not a single one of them by agriculture. Their meat in the shape of sheep and goats comes from Somaliland; their grain and rice from India, their vegetables such as they are from Lahej 30 miles away on the mainland, their drinking water is either distilled sea water or that from brackish and salt impregnated wells which might make the fortune of a Spa but is certainly unpleasant in its effects when used as a daily diet. In fact everything they eat is imported except the excellent fish which swarm in the surrounding seas.

GENERAL RESULTS.

9. I have already had occasion to use the results of the Census for various purposes such as water supply and electricity schemes, etc., and have found that admirable though they may be for general statistical purposes the standard tables laid down are not fully suitable for local investigations, mainly owing to the fact that the population of Aden is concentrated in certain well-defined and separated areas. I have therefore prepared the additional tables which will be found immediately after this report and before the standard tables. The Special Table 1 gives the results of the present and past counts in moderate detail. Special Table 2 is a summary and Special Table 3 gives the percentage increase in population in the various localities over the decennial periods.

From the Special Table I it will be seen that the population counted in 1921 amounted to 56,500 made up as follows:—

Place.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Ratio of females to males; 1 to
Crater	12,245	8,183	20,428	1.5
Maalla	2,206	1,185	3,391	1.9
Tawahi and St. Point	5,903	2,127	8,030	2.8
Port	1,647	83	1,730	20
Total in civil limits in Fortress	22,001	11,578	33,579	1.9
Sheikh Othman and hamlets	6,430	4,876	11,306	1.3
Total in civil limits in Aden Settlement	28,431	16,454	44,885	1.7
Cantonment and Military	8,287	1,253	9,540	6.6
Total in Fortress	32,194	17,538	49,732	1.8
Total in Settlement	35,330	17,702	53,032	2.
Perim	1,676	399	2,075	4.2
Grand Total	38,394	18,106	56,500	2.1

The high percentage of males to females even among the civil population as compared with Western countries is noticeable. It is due to the fact that so many of the population of Aden are males who come there only to work and leave their families in the Hinterland or wherever their homes may be. It is satisfactory to notice from Special Table 3 that we are steadily reducing the numbers of the "Houseless" population. These people are immigrant coolies and labourers and beggars the control of whom constitutes one of our difficulties in Aden and who are a constant thorn in the side of the sanitarian.

Among the civil population the main increase in the last decade has taken place at Sheikh Othman, Maalla and Tawahi and for the time being at least the Crater would seem to have about reached the limits of its capacity.

E. M. DUGGAN,

Chairman, Aden Port Trust and Aden Settlement
Committee, and Officer in charge of the Census.

15th March 1923.