

Census of India, 1931

VOLUME XVII

PUNJAB Part I.

REPORT

BY

KHAN AHMAD HASAN KHAN, M.A., K.S., SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS OPERATIONS.

PUNJAB & DELHL

1933 PRINTED AT THE "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE " PRESS Lahore

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Biloch	••	••				891
Brahman						882
Chamars including]	Ramdasias	and Hin	du Mochis	••		888
Chhimba	••	••	••	•••		884
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Dagi and Koli	••	••	••			336
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INTRODUCTION.

1. Matters connected with religion, caste and language have been Freieck discussed at great length in the Census Reports of the past, and any reader interested in them will find ample material in the reports of the four censuses preceding the census of 1921. I have abstained, as far as possible, from indulging in a technical discussion of these matters, and have devoted my attention to an explanation of the figures brought out by the census enquiry. To those who study an Indian census report for the first time the endless scope and the utility of the work comes as a great and pleasant surprise. For my report I can only claim that it is a sort of snapshot of the various aspects of the population as it was at the time of Enumeration.

• It has been my endeavour to trace the local variations in different categories of figures for long periods in order to gauge the trend of the changes. I have tried to establish by my conclusions the causes of those variations and to anticipate their future trend. The author of a Census Report is of course always liable to be taxed with the boldness of some of his inferences, but obviously any one in his position is bound to be guided by the testimony furnished by the huge mass of statistics rather than by individual opinions.

The material collected at the census and requiring explanation is so vast that any one dealing with it may be excused for treating different subjects one after the other without sometimes establishing a real connection between them. I have, however, done my best to render the subject interesting by introducing some measure of continuity, thus making the book readable and not merely a dull volume to fall back upon when the usual encyclopædias have failed. There is at the beginning of each chapter a reference to statistics, and in the longer chapters, such as Chapter I, the contents of each paragraph have been given at the top of the opening page and the subsidiary tables have also been appropriately described. In addition to this there is a very exhaustive index at the end of this book where the same reference appears at more than one place for the reader's convenience.

Clearness and brevity are two essential merits of a Census Report, and it has been my endeavour not to offend against either. When discussing the various subjects I have kept in view the fact that among the readers there may be many who read a Census Report for the first time. I have, therefore, aimed at explaining the statistics in a manner clear and simple enough for any layman to understand. Brevity is a comparative term, and where I found that any subject wanted elucidation in the interests of the reader I have not hesitated to sacrifice brevity to lucidity. Thus I venture to claim that this report can be readily followed by a layman, while the material supplied should be of considerable use to the advanced statistician.

The District officers had their hands exceptionally full with their administrative duties during the period of the census operations, and had little time to spare for the census work. Immediately after the census they were requested to send in brief reports dealing among other matters with the census operations, the attitude of the public, the tendency on the part of members of certain castes to return a caste other than traditional, and any attempt at the swelling of figures by artificial means. The reports received from some of the districts revealed that a tendency on the part of the communities to swell their figures and on the part of members of certain castes to return a caste other than traditional were a prominent feature in certain localities, and a corroboration of this exists in the census statistics.

2. The dates of all previous censuses are quoted in the margin, and a Previous

lst January 1885. 10th January 1883. 17th February 1881. 26th February 1891. 1st March 1901. 10th March 1911. 18th March 1921. brief reference is made to them in paragraphs 13 to 15 of the report. In some of the Tables published in Part II of this Report are given the figures for previous censuses back to that of 1881. The two censuses of 1855 and 1868 concerned administrative divisions so different that any comparison with them is out of the question. In all cases

in which figures for previous censuses have been quoted in this report they

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have been adjusted so as to apply to existing divisions and not to the divisions which existed at the time those statistics were prepared. In this way alone a comparison is possible at present. Paragraphs 4 to 6 of the report deal with changes in the bound-

Chanzes in Boundaries and Areas

Operations of the Present Census.

Initial Arrange

ittents.

aries of administrative units that have taken place during the last decade. There has been no change of any importance since 1921. The census operations have been discussed at length in the Adminis-4. trative Volume, Part IV, of this Report, but as that Volume is intended only for departmental and local use I propose briefly to describe here each stage of the operations, which in point of procedure have practically remained unchanged

since last census. I assumed charge of my duties on the 1st April 1930 and lost no time 5. in setting about the work. I issued my preliminary circular together with the first three Chapters of the Provincial Census Code in the first week of May. The circular contained a résumé of all the stages of the Enumeration work, while the three Chapters of the Code supplied the necessary guidance for the preliminaries which had to be got through before the commencement of house-District Census Officers in every district and Census Superinnumbering. tendents in every state were appointed, and the preparation of General Village and Town Registers, on which the formation of census divisions rests The General Village Register showed for each was taken in hand at once. tabsil the names of all villages and the number of houses in each, while the Town Register showed for each town the names of wards, mohallas, etc., Sketch maps of villages and towns and the number of houses in each. were also prepared, showing the houses in each village and town. The next step was to parcel out all willages and towns into Blocks in which the enumeration could be carried out by one enumerator. These Blocks were grouped in Circles under Supervisors, and Circles again grouped in Charges under Charge Superintendents. In the towns care was taken that the Circles should be conterminous with the Administrative and Elective wards. These divisions were roughly marked on the skeleton maps and finally revised. after the completion of house-numbering. At the time of the final census there were 185,355 Blocks, 14,585 Circles and 1,048 Charges, and the enumeration was carried out by 180,631 Enumerators under the direction of 14,570 Super-visors and 1,039 Charge Superintendents. In the rural areas the Field Kanungos and Patwaris as a rule acted as Charge Superintendents and Supervisors, respectively. In the cities and towns the supervising agency was recruited mostly from amongst Municipal officials. The Enumerators both in the urban and rural areas were mainly voluntary non-official workers. The appointment orders were issued under the provisions of the Census Code, and each enumerator was treated as a public servant.

Housenumbering. in.

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6. The next item in the programme after the census divisions had been This work commenced provisionally fixed was the numbering of all houses. about the middle of September and was completed within two months. Every house, which was likely to be occupied on the final census night, was marked with a number, all houses in a Circle being numbered serially. In rural areas the house-numbering was carried out by the Supervisors, who were as a rule Patwaris, while in cities and towns the Municipal or Notified Area Committees had the needful done. The total number of houses numbered in the whole Province was 8,167,789, but on the final census night a considerable number of houses which bore numbers had no occupants, the number of occupied houses being 5,943,652, or 73 per cent. of the houses numbered. When the liouse-numbering was completed in the middle of November the census divisions were revised and fixed finally.

7. In August a complete issue of the Census Code and the Manual of Instructions for the Charge Superintendents and Supervisors were supplied to each district and state. Brief instructions for the guidance of enumerators were printed on the covers of the Enumeration Books.

Early in September before the house-numbering actually commenced the 600 necessary training was imparted by the District Census Officers and State Census Superintendents to the census staff. From the middle of November to the end of December the staff was trained in the work of enumeration, the instructions

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8.

The Preliminary Enumeratios.

fittering through from the Provincial Superintendent down to the Enumerator. District Census Officers and State Census Superintendents gave a practical training to the Charge Superintendents, who in their turn instructed the Supervisors. The Enumerators were trained by the Supervisors during December and January.

The whole month of January was devoted to the work of preliminary enumeration in rural areas, while in the cities and towns it began on the 20th January and was finished in most places by the middle of February. There was an Enumeration Book for each Block ; it consisted of a cover and a certain number of schedules, which were stitched together. The cover contained brief instructions for the Enumerator and an abstract to be completed and detached after the final enumeration. The schedules had 18 columns which were to contain particulars about each person enumerated. The first column was meant for the house number, and each page could contain particulars about eight persons.

In the course of the preliminary enumeration, which in towns was generally carried out by enumerators, the work was checked by the supervising staff and care was taken to bring the entries up to date even during the period intervening herween the preliminary enumeration and the final census. Entries were made in the schedules only about those persons who were to be present in the houses on the final census night.

The final census was merely the process of bringing up to date the The Final entries made in the schedules during the preliminary enumeration. It began at 7 p. w. on the 26th February and lasted until midnight. The Enumerators went round their Blocks, and verified the entries in respect of each house. Persons who had arrived after the preliminary enumeration, i.e., guests or newly-born children, were entered in the schedules, and the entries about those who had left the house or died were scored out. Early next morning the Enumerators met the Supervisor at an appointed place, gave a serial number to each entry in the book and struck out totals of occupied houses, persons, males Similar totals were prepared by the Supervisors for their Circles and females. and by the Charge Superintendents for their Charges. The charge summaries were totalled for the district or the state at the district or state headquarters and then telegraphed to me at Lahore and to the Census Commissioner for India at Delhi. . 87 :

9. In some parts of the Province the countryside is wild and the danger Nonfrom wild beasts considerable, and it was therefore considered advisable, as in Const. 1921, to hold the final enumeration before sunset on the census day. Such tracts are the Morni ilaga in the Ambala District, certain isolated parts of the Gurgaon District and the Biloch Trans-frontier Tract. In the high mountains of the Humalayas more senous variations from the normal procedure were neces-

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	5-12-30
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sary, as they become snow-bound during winter and some of them as early as September. On the present occasion more tracts (detailed in the margin) had to be subjected to a non-synchronous census, as the census took place about the end of February or nearly three weeks earlier than the census date in 1921. The results of the non-

synchronous census were treated as part of the February census.

10. The census of 1931 was held during a period of political upheaval Activate accompanied by an economic depression. The people knew that the future of the constatution of India was being moulded, and that their political rights mainly depended on the census figures. In these circumstances, the various communities made efforts to secure their full representation by having all their individuals recorded in the census schedules, and in some cases they did not hesitate to swell their numbers by unfair means. The menial classes, mainly Chamars and Chuhras in the central Punjab, in order to consolidate their position wanted to return their religion as "Ad-Dharmi." A tug-of-war started in some districts, and Ad-Dharmis were required by Sikhs and Hindus not to return themselves as Ad-Dharmis. Particularly in Ambala, Ludhiana, Ferozepore and Lyallpur the Sikh land-owners employed all sorts of measures, not infrequently bordering on terrorism, to secure the return of religion of Chuhras and Chamars as Sikh.* In some urban areas the Enumerators made efforts to swell the figures of their community by bogus entries and to curtail those of a rival community by scoring out the entries made in the course of the preliminary enumeration. In one town the various communities in order to secure more seats on the Municipality sent for their friends from the neighbouring villages in order to have them recorded as town-dwellers on the final census night and thus to increase their numerical strength. The effort, however, proved valueless, as the numerical strength of all the communities rose uniformly, leaving undisturbed their proportions resulting from the preliminary enumeration.

In some large urban areas the work of many Enumerators was characterized by apathy and indifference, and consequently there were many cases of omission. Thus the excess resulting from bogus entries was counteracted to a certain extent at least by cases of omission. But for the keenness and vigilance exercised by the various District Census Officers the cases of omission or artificial swelling of figures would have been more numerous and on a much larger scale. It has to be remembered that bogus entries made or houses and individuals left unenumerated in certain areas cannot materially affect the census figures which run into millions.

Another tendency noticeable on the present occasion was to return Urdu or Hindi as the language instead of Punjabi. This tendency was mainly confined to large towns. In the matter of script also, the town-dwellers in some places evinced keenness to return themselves as literate with a view to swell the figures of literacy for their community.

A marked tendency was to return a caste other than traditional. Members of certain occupational castes sought to be returned under an agricultural caste, e.g., Muslim tarkhans and lohars as Awans, nais, mirasis and julahas as Rajputs, etc. Hindu lohars and tarkhans were anxious to return themselves as Dhiman Brahmans, Hindu nais as Brahmans, Hindu darzis, dhobis. etc., as Tank Kshatriya, and Sikh lohars and tarkhans as Ramgarhia.

Arrange ments for Railways, Fairs and Migratory 🛪 Population, ÷.

Though the date of the general census is chosen so as not to clash with large congregations of people on the occasion of festivals or at certain places of pilgrimage, it is impossible to avoid some of the ordinary local gatherings. Adequate arrangements for fairs and other large gatherings of people were made beforehand, and in some districts, such as Rohtak and Ludhiana, several thousand persons attending fairs were enumerated by the special staff employed.

Special arrangements were made for the enumeration of persons travelling by rail on the census night, and as each was enumerated he was given a pass to prevent him from being enumerated a second time, and as a further precaution his ticket was marked with the letter E to indicate that he had been enumerated. The Railway census was carried out under the supervision of the civil authorities, and the Agent or Manager of each Railway line nominated a Railway officer to assist the District or State officer in the organization of the Railway census in the district or state. The Railway stations were made into separate Blocks or Circles in the districts or states in which they were situated, and the special enumerating staff, known as Platform Enumerators, was employed at each station at 7 P. M. on the night of the 26th February and remained on duty till 6 A.M. next morning. The staff enumerated each passenger alighting or en-training who did not possess a pass. There were, however, some people on trains, who had entrained before sunset and had not left the train until next morning, and even they were not allowed to escape enumeration. The running.

^{*}The Deputy Commissioner of Ambala (Mr. Shoepshanks) in his report on the census operations asys :--" The Sikhs did increase their number by all possible means. They persuaded their kumins (village menials) and others to give their religion as Sikh. They started a regular propagands in most of the villages. For instance, in village to give their religion as Sikh." The Deputy Commissioner of Ludhians (Mr. Connor) remarks.--" The proprietary bodies of villages put great The Deputy Commissioner of Ludhians (Mr. Connor) remarks.--" The proprietary bodies of villages put great pressure upon their kamins to return themselves as Sikhs, and I think they succeeded to a great extent in some villages." The Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepore (Mr. Maof'arquhar) asys :---" Ad-Dharmis were really anxious to con-The Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepore (Mr. Maof'arquhar) asys :---" Ad-Dharmis were really anxious to con-to solidate their position as a separate community, but on these residing in rural areas great pressure was brought to bear by their Sikh landlords to return themselves as Mazhabi Sikhs or Sikhs instead of Ad-Dharmis. Many such d-Dharmis had to yield under the pressure, they being the village menials generally." Ad-Dharmis had to yield under the pressure, they being the village menials generally."

train Enumerators were employed throughout the night to count the persons in running trains, and all trains were stopped at 6 A. M. on the 26th February, and all passengers who had not got passes were enumerated.

For persons journeying by road during the census night Enumerators were posted at all main roads and ferries, while definite instructions were issued for the enumeration of troops on march. Regarding the persons spending the night in fields or at wells in the villages, the instructions were that they should be enumerated as being present in their houses, as also persons in towns dining out with friends.

As explained in paragraph 8 the totals for each district and state were Provisional 12. otals. prepared with all possible promptness after the census. These totals included all persons enumerated at their houses or while travelling, and care was taken to add up the figures of the non-synchronous areas. The District or State authori-ties took all possible measures to ensure a speedy collection of figures from remote places, and camels, ponies, motor-cars and lorries were among the means so employed.

The Kapurthala, Pataudi, Nabha, Jind and Loharu States were all able to telegraph their provisional totals to me and to the Census Commissioner for India on the 27th February, while in British Territory Gurgaon, Mianwali, Kangra, Jullundur and the Trans-frontier Biloch Tract of Dera Ghazi Khan telegraphed the totals on the 1st March. In most cases the totals had been received by the 3rd March, and only seven districts and two states (Malerkotla and Simla Hill States) remained to telegraph them on the 4th and 5th March. The figures telegraphed so promptly are compared below with those finally tabulated, and the negligible difference between the two totals points to the high standard of accuracy attained.

		Occupied houses.	Persons,	Males.	Females.	Variation per cont.
PUNJAB.						
Provisional Totals	••	6,004,717	28,490,057	15,558,230	12,931,827	
Final Totals	••	5,943,652	28,490,857	15,561,194	12,929,623	•003

The next stage in the operations was to get the entries in the general sup-18. schedules copied on to slips. The slips were issued in five different colours, one copying. for each of the main religions and one for all other religions. Sex and civil condition were indicated by symbols on the slips; the symbol for unmarried of each sex was printed on each slip to be converted to "married" or "widowed" by hand according to requirements. Thus there were five different colours and two different symbols giving a total of ten easily distinguished slips. The other particulars recorded about each person were written out by hand in the slips, a previously arranged system of abbreviations being used. Special slips were issued for the recording of infirmities.

The work of slip-copying was done by the revenue staff at the Tahsil headquarters, while in the case of large towns it was done by copyists engaged by Municipal Committees. For rural areas and small towns the Patwaris acted as copyists, and their work was on the whole satisfactory, while that done in Municipalities with a few exceptions was susceptible of much improvement, mainly owing to the temporary staff employed lacking a sense of responsibility. In most places the copying work was commenced on the 1st March and completed. within a fortnight. In some Municipalities considerable delay occurred, and the slips came in about the end of April or nearly a month and-a-half after the due date.

14. Two Central Sorting offices were opened at Lahore and one at Delhi, Sorting. and the completed slips were sent to these offices, where large staffs sorted them according to the various heads required for each table of the Report. The Delhi Sorting office dealt with the slips of the Delhi Province, the districts of the Ambala Division and the neighbouring states. The Phulkian States, Patiala, Jind and Nabha, and Bahawalpur State carried out their own sorting and compilation.

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The two Sorting offices at Labore divided up the rest of the districts and states for the sorting work. At each Sorting office care was taken that the slips of different units to appear in the tables remained separate. Information for each of the Imperial Tables was extracted one by one, as also for the Provincial Tables appearing in Part III. The results of the sorting were filled up in Sorters' tickets, which were sent on to the Central Compilation office at Labore. This work was finished in about five months.

Compiletion15. During this stage the entries in Sorters' tickets of different religions¹ -and localities were copied out in registers, and tahsil and district totals as well as totals for certain towns were struck for all the tables. The final tables were then prepared and from them the derivative tables, known as subsidiary tables, which appear at the end of each Chapter of this Report. The Compilation office was in charge of my Personal Assistant, who had under him a large staff of Inspectors and Compilers, and the office began to function in May 1981; the first table was sent to the press in September 1981 and the last table was finally printed off in November 1982.

Publication.

16. The results of the census are published in four parts, and the months in which these were issued or in which it is expected that they will issue are as follows :----

Part I.---The Report during April 1988.

Part II.-The Imperial Tables during February 1988.

Part III.—Appendices to the Imperial Tables during March 1998.

Part IV.-The Administrative Volume during April 1988.

Cost of Census. 17. The census of the two Provinces (Punjab and Delhi) has cost Government Rs. 3,57,752 which works out at Rs. 12-4-5 for every 1,000 persons enumerated; this compares with Rs. 3,59,224 or Rs. 14-0-8 for every 1,000 persons in 1921. In addition to this sum of Rs. 8,57,752, the total cost of the census includes Rs. 28,984-12-0 recovered from Municipalities, etc., on account of the cost of tabulation, Rs. 8,312-6-0 recovered from Indian States on account of the cost of forms, sorting and compilation. The Indian States have reported a cost of Rs. 59,735 for the enumeration carried out by them. The Phulkian States and Bahawalpur have been omitted altogether in the calculation of these figures as they carried out the whole of the operations themselves,

Acknowledg-

It is with a sense of very great pleasure that I now turn to my last 18. duty which is to thank all those to whose help and co-operation the successful completion of the census operations is due. In this grateful acknowledgment I include all officials and non-officials, who in one way or other participated in the census work without expectation of any remuneration or reward. In particular I wish to acknowledge the great service rendered by the revenue agency of the Province, without whose help the success of the enumeration or slip-copying work would be well-nigh impossible. It is true that no other branch of public service contributes to the census operations the same amount of attention and trained ability. The Patwaris and Field Kanungos with very few exceptions discharged their onerous duties faithfully and well, while the Sadar Kanungos barring one or two were most helpful. The majority of the Tahsil officers also exerted themselves in the supervision of the work, though not to the same extent as the subordinate staff. The District Census Officers did praiseworthy work, and but for their great devotion to duty and vigilance the census schedules would have contained a larger amount of inaccuracy resulting from the communal struggle. The Deputy Commissioners were unable to give any considerable time to the census work, but whenever a call was made on their attention the response was generous.

The Census Superintendents of the Punjab States showed great keenness in the supervision of the census work, and their arrangements were in all cases efficient. To those among them whose work was characterized by outstanding merit I have conveyed my special thanks.

I am very grateful indeed for the kindness of the gentlemen who found time to read the manuscript of some portions of my report, and offered valuable suggestions. Mr. Calvert, C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab, kindly read the Chapters on Age and Sex, Major Lodge-Patch, I.M.S., Superintendent of Mental Hospital, the Chapter on Infirmities, and Sir George Anderson, Kt., C.I.E., the Chapter on Literacy, while the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Kt., Minister for Agriculture, and my predecessor, Mr. Middleton, I.C.S., Sessions Judge at Rawalpindi, went through the Chapter on Religion. To all of them I am most grateful for having evinced much interest in my work and offered me the benefit of their criticism. Several heads of departments very kindly sent me notes on the progress made during the last decade by their respective departments.

My warmest thanks are due to Mr. Tyson, Superintendent of Lahore Government Press, who not only did much printing for me with the greatest possible promptness, but was always ready to help me with his advice in all my problems connected with printing. He is also getting my various volumes bound up very nicely. The staff of the *Civil and Military Gazette* Press, particularly the Works Manager, Mr. Wollen, deserve my thanks for their great keenness to print the Punjab and Delhi Reports and Tables expeditiously and well. The Census Code in Urdu and the forms for enumeration, sorting and compilation as well as the slips for slip-copying were printed mostly at the Mutid-i-Am Press. The work done by that Press at every stage was praiseworthy, and my special thanks are due to the manager, Lala Labha Ram, for his keenness and whole-hearted co-operation.

Of the three Deputy Superintendents, who had charge of the Sorting Offices, Chaudhri Nasar Ullah Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner, has stayed on till the end, having become my Personal Assistant when Lala Behari Lal proceeded on leave in the middle of October 1931. 3 On his sorting work at Delhi he brought to bear the qualities of great industry and intelligence, and as Personal Assistant I have found him quick, capable and devoted to his work, and at the end of the term I can without hesitation say that I could not have wished for a better colleague. A word of praise is also due to Sardar Kehr Singh, Deputy Superintendent, who discharged his duties with great Among the Inspectors of the Compilation office I shall choose diligence. for special mention M. Muhammad Musa, M. Dhian Singh, M. Fazal Elahi, M. Mehr Singh, M. Lal Singh and Lala Nihal Chand Bajaj. The last-named has been responsible for the preparation of the Subsidiary Tables, and is the last to His work has throughout been characterised by an exceptional leave. diligence and thoroughness, and I am most thankful to him. S. Gurdial Singh both as Proof Reader and Inspector in the Compilation and Sorting Offices has done extremely valuable work. The Head Clerk, Chaudhri Muhammad Said, is my oldest colleague. At the outset of my work he was my only clerk for many weeks to deal single-handed with correspondence, typing, translating and accounts. In September 1931 he was promoted to the post of Head Clerk, and has continued as such to the end. He has discharged his duties throughout with the utmost diligence, and he has been a valuable Sheikh Abdul Wahid, the efficient Record-keeper in my predecessor's asset. office, as third clerk and S. Harnam Singh as Record-keeper have done very good My second clerk and steno-typist, Pandit Rajindar Nath Kaul, work. has been with me for over two years and a quarter, and I have found him most useful throughout. He has passed through numerous periods of great stress with an amazing amount of patience and cheerfulness, and his work has been simply invaluable.

During the last three years I have had to make numerous references to the Punjab Government about various matters, and am much indebted for the kindness and consideration I have always received.

In conclusion, I tender my deep gratitude to Dr. Hutton, Census Commissioner for India, for the guidance and encouragement I have invariably received at his hands. Whenever I was faced with a difficulty and sought his help his response was prompt and his advice invaluable. It has been to me a privilege and a pleasure to have served under him.

APPENDIX I.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The system of registering vital statistics in the British Districts is as follows. In the rural circles, births and deaths are reported by village chaukidars (watchmen) who are provided with two books, one for births and the other for deaths, in which entries are made, on the chaukidar's report, by a resident of the village who can read and write, and the lambardars (village headmen) of each village are responsible that these entries are duly made. The chaukidars take their books with them to the Thans (police station) at their fortnightly visits and from these books and from oral enquiries made from chaukidars, the Police Muharrirs compile the fuller registers which they maintain. Fortnightly returns are submitted, through the Superintendent of Police, to the Civil Surgeon. The Civil Surgeon forwards fortnightly, monthly and annual returns, compiled from the Police returns, to the Director of Public Health, Punjab. From the returns so received, monthly and annual returns are prepared in the office of the Director of Public Health, Punjab. The Police Muharrirs receive a small monthly allowance in all cases in which the work is done satisfactorily. In Municipal towns, when a birth or death occurs in any household, the head of the household makes a report within three days of the occurrence or causes a report to be made orally or upon a form provided by the Committee. If for any reason he is unable to do so, the report is made by an adult member of his family, or failing any such, by an adult male servant, or in the case of births, by the midwife employed in the accouchement. If a birth or death occurs in a household in which there is no grown up male member, the report is made by the sweeper of the mohalla (street or lane). The mohalladar (a responsible resident of the mohalla) and the sweeper are jointly and severally responsible that there is no omission. In most Municipalities, rules or bye-laws have been adopted under the Municipal Act, regarding the proper registration of births and deaths. In towns where no special bye-laws for the registration of vital statistics have been prescribed by the Municipal Committee. but where the watch and ward is done by the Municipal Police the constable of each beat reports all deaths occurring in it. The police are assisted by the sweepers of the mohallas, who supply the information regarding births. Birth and death registers are kept at Municipal Registry Offices, and weekly returns compiled from the registers are forwarded to Civil Surgeons for incorporation in their district weekly returns. A weekly return showing the births and deaths registered in all Municipal towns with a population of ten thousand and upwards each, and a monthly return showing the births and deaths registered in all districts, are published in the Punjab Government Gazette.

The accuracy of the registers maintained by the Police and Municipalities is tested by the Director of Public Health, Punjab, and Assistant Directors of Public Health and District Medical Officers of Health, Civil Surgeons, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police, Tahsildars, Naib-Tahsildars, Kanungos, Superintendents of Vaccination and Vaccinators. All omissions of births and deaths are supplied in the registers after verification by the Civil Surgeons, and the District Officers are asked to punish the defaulters.

System of Registration.

LEPROSY.

In January 1925 His Excellency the Viceroy constituted an Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association with a view to the inauguration of an active campaign to eradicate leprosy from India, and nominated His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the then Governor of the Punjab, as one of his Vice-Presidents. An appeal was issued to India by His Excellency the Viceroy, at whose instance His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab on the 28th of January, 1925, issued a similar appeal enlisting in the Punjab the support of all who, by reason of their rank, position and affluence, were in a position to assist in the beneficent work. To assist in the raising of funds and the organization of measures to eradicate the disease from the Punjub, His Excellency constituted a Provincial Committee of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. This task was successfully completed in the year 1926, and a sum of Rs. 2,07,551/13/9 was raised by private subscriptions. The amount collected was transferred to the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association and the provincial committee then ceased to function. The Punjab Branch, however, has been receiving its quota from the Central organisation and in order to utilize this money in accordance with their instructions, a technical committee was appointed by the Punjab Government to deal with the problem and to suggest measures from time to time for stamping out leprosy from the Province.

The Punjab Census Report for 1921 shows that there were then 2,737 lepers in the Punjab, of which 1,627 were residing in British Territory and 1,110 in the Punjab States; so the problem was not of a great magnitude in the Province. In this connection it might be stated that Leprosy Hospitals (Leprosaria) exist at Tarn Taran, Ambala, Rawalpindi, Palampur and Subathu. These hospitals are run by the Mission to Lepers in the East with the assistance of a grant-in-aid from Government, the amount of which during the year 1925 was approximately Rs. 77,000/-.

During the year 1927, the work carried out by the Provincial Committee comprised a survey of the local situation, both on the administrative and technical sides, as it was felt that, before any plan of campaign could be drawn up, it was necessary to explore the ground.

Dr. A. R. Mehta, D.P.H., was deputed to the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at Calcutta to undergo special training under Dr. Muir, in the diagnosis of Leprosy and in modern methods of treatment, to visit the Leper hospitals in the Province, and to make a detailed study of their organisation and equipment with the permission and assistance of their respective Superintendents.

With the object in view to stamp out Leprosy from the Kangra district, where alone the disease was then known to be endemic, arrangements were made to send to Calcutta all Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons serving in the Kangra district for special training in the diagnosis and treatment of Leprosy, at the expense of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.

Duing the year 1929, at the request of the Committee, the Punjah Government sanctioned an honorarium of Rs. 70/- per mensem (half of which represented a grant from Government and the other half from the funds of the Association) for the Medical Officer in charge of the Palampur Asylum where no qualified Medical Officer was then employed. Steady progress was made during the year 1930 in giving effect to the policy advocated by the Punjab Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.

It was decided to engage a whole-time leprosy expert and subordinate staff for the purpose of carrying out a leprosy survey in the Kangra district. The Medical Officer provisionally selected for the post, on the recommendation of Dr. Muir, was, however, not available, but after this decision had been reached. information was received that the Indian Council proposed to send a leprosy-survey (treatment) party under the charge of Dr. Santra to the Kangra district during the summer of 1930. As the result of the survey made by Dr. Santra, it was discovered that in 83 villages situated in three zails of the Kangra district 52 persons were suffering from leprosy, whilst in the Kulu tahsil 28 lepers were found in 29 villages and in the Banjar tahsil of Kulu sub-division, 54 villages contained 13 lepers. The survey party also visited the Mandi State, in which 50 lepers were discovered in 47 villages and an appreciable number of lepers was also discovered in the Chamba State. In addition, a rough survey was carried out in two tahsils of the Amritsar district and 15 lepers were discovered in 116 villages. These circumstances necessitated consideration of the question of appointing a whole time leprosy expert to carry out surveys with a view to obtaining more detailed information in regard to the incidence of the disease; whilst Dr. Santra recommended the appointment of such an officer and also pointed out the need of improving the training of medical men and more especially medical students in the diagonsis and treatment of the disease.

Apart from these activities Dr. Santra and his party held leprosy clinics, each of seven days duration, in Kangra district under arrangements made by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab, and the Civil Surgeon, Kangra. These clinics were attended by some 21 doctors and their travelling expenses were borne by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. Dr. Santra also visited the King Edward Medical College, the Amritsar Medical School and the Women's Medical School at Ludhiana, where he delivered lectures and gave demonstrations on the diagonsis and treatment of leprosy to the staff and students.

The Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Civil Hospital, Palampur, who was placed in medical charge of the Palampur Leper Asylum, continued to draw the fee of Rs. 35/- per mensem from the Punjab Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.

A grant of Rs. 2,500/- was made to the Subathu Leper Asylum to meet part of the cost of providing a new dispensary and a small clinical laboratory.

During the year 1931, considerable progress was made in extending antileprosy work in the Punjab. The Punjab Government, after obtaining the views of the Commissioners and Missionary Societies, approved of the proposal of the Provincial Committee in regard to the appointment of visiting committees for the inspection of leper asylums in the Punjab

Almost all the Medical Officers in charge of dispensaries in the Kangra district have already received the special training in the treatment of leprosy at Calcutta or from Dr. Santra who visited that district. During the last four years, 14 Medical Officers and four private medical practitioners were sent to Calcutta at the expense of the Association.

APPENDIX II.-LEPROSY.

In regard to the training of medical students, the late Special Leprosy Officer of the Committee delivered a lecture-demonstration on leprosy to the students of the King Edward Medical College and the Amritar Medical School.

An annual grant of a sum of Rs. 100/- was given to each of the five leper asylums in the Punjab (Tarn Taran, Ambala, Palampur, Subathu and Rawalpindi) to provide comforts for the inmates. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 3,000/- was granted to the Honorary Superintendent, Tarn Taran Leper Asylum, to meet in part the cost of erecting an operation block and a sum of Rs. 1,250/- was given to meet half the cost of equipping it. Also, a sum of Rs. 2,500/- was granted to the Subathu Leper Asylum to meet part of the cost of erecting and equipping a small laboratory.

With a view to obtaining a detailed knowledge in regard to the incidence. of Leprosy in the Punjab a whole-time medical officer with M.B. B.S., qualifications (Dr. Jaikaria) has been appointed with the object of carrying out leprosy surveys and of supervising the work of a leprosy survey propaganda party. During the period from March 1st to December 1931, he did much valuable work and it need scarcely be said that the expenditure of Rs. 4,753/2/1 incurred in this connection has been fully justified by the result. In all, 956 villages were surveyed during this period of nine months, and 444 cases (or 253-12 per 100,000 of population) of leprosy were discovered in 199 villages. Seven leprosy clinics were opened for the treatment of 397 cases.

An extensive propaganda was carried out by means of magic-lantern shows and wide distribution of pamphlets on Leprosy. As many as 95 magiclantern lectures were delivered by Dr. Jaikaria.

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APPENDIX III.

DEPRESSED CLASSES.

The question-as to what are 'depressed classes' has of late aroused considerable interest. The term 'depressed classes', according to the definition laid down by the Census Commissioner for India, comprises :--

(i) All persons who would pollute a caste Hindu by proximity or touch.

- (ii) All those who are forbidden entry into the interior of ordinary Hindu temples.
- (iii) Those who are not allowed to draw water from the village well.

The castes which fall under the first category are comparatively few, and at present no caste in this Province is supposed to cause pollution simply by coming within a certain distance of the caste Hindu. In private buildings, however, no caste Hindu would let a sweeper enter his residential room, not to speak of the latter ever dreaming of going into the kitchen. In many cases the shadow of a Chamar or a Chuhra would pollute a caste Hindu if he happened to be in his own house, but he would not mind such a thing in a playground or on a public road. The tradition or habit has much to do with the dread or contempt of untouchables.

The matter of temple-entry is also a very vexed question. My inquiries show that old temples such as those in Southern India, where the practice or tradition has attained the force of ritual, do not really exist in this Province. The question as to which castes are, and which are not, allowed access to the different temples is still difficult of solution. It appears that a *Purbio Dhobi* would not be allowed to enter a temple, but a Hindu barber, especially if well dressed, would not be objected to. Large urban areas are not the places for a real test of disqualification for temple-entry as there the particulars and antecedents of an individual are not known, but in villages having temples for public worship such restrictions can be enforced.

The backward castes when numerous enough in any locality usually avoid such unpleasantness by having a place of worship of their own, however humble. In some cases when a family of a depressed caste (for instance Chuhra) is isolated in a place they would erect a mud temple to *Guga*, in size no larger than an ordinary Indian *chuhla* (hearth), and adorn it with peacock feathers.

The question of who can and who cannot draw water from the village well is also usually full of difficulties. The main criterion is as to whether it is easy or difficult for the people to obtain drinking water in the locality, and the scruples disappear in proportion as the difficulty to secure water increases. The untouchables usually have their own wells, but very often would take water from the water-courses of wells or canals. In cases where the whole population depends on water stored in ponds they usually obtain it at a separate ghat at some distance from that of caste Hindus.

Thus it will be realised that the question as to who are depressed classes is not at all easy to determine, and some castes will always be difficult to classify. The measure of reaction to be manifested by these classes at the time of separate enfranchisement also depends upon various considerations. In some places what there is an overwhelming influence of caste Hindus the depressed classes may not come forward to claim the vote. This may well happen in Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon. The reaction in Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Lyallpur, Sheikhupura and Montgomery is likely to give the depressed a much longed for opportunity to secure a large voting strength. /In Ludhiana, Ferozepore and Ambala the Sikh element will probably retain its hold, but it will not be a case of plain sailing and the struggle may easily take a serious turn.

Estimate of the Probable Number of the Depressed Classes.

The Social Map in the beginning of this Report shows the population of the castes, which have been classified as 'depressed' according to the above tests out of those for which we had the figures. Such castes comprise all Ad-Dharmis and the Hindu castes, Bawaria, Chamar, Chuhra, Dagi and Koli, Dumna, Megh, Od; Ramdasia, Sansi and Sarera, and their strength in British Territory comes to 1,310,709. It is true that we have not got the figures for some other castes, which are also untouchable, but all of them are numerically unimportant. An estimate of the present population of these minor castes * made on the basis of the 1921 figures, indicates their population to be 131,300. Thus the total figure for the Hindu and Ad-Dharmi depressed classes will be nearly a million and a half. If all the depressed classes get the vote, their population is likely to be slightly larger, as the indications are that in that case they may be joined by some of the low classes among Sikhs and Muslims. It may be remarked that the aggregate of Hindu depressed classes does not include the figures of the members of those classes, who have been converted to Vedic Dharm and returned no caste or merely Arya in the column of casto.

It is necessary to add that the strength of each of the depressed castos, named above, by religion and sex are given in Imperial Table XVII for each district and state. Similar figures of Ad-Dharmis are given in Imperial Table XVI.

The figures of total population and literacy for each Tahsil in British Territory are given for Ad-Dharmis and four of the most numerous depressed castes, namely Chuhra, Chamar, Dagi and Koli and Sansi, in Provincial Table II. In the Social Map in the beginning of this Volume the light-blue portion of the rectangles represents the total strength of Ad-Dharmis and the Hindu depressed classes for which figures are available. Appendix I to Chapter XI is a key to this map and gives the actual and proportionate figures for each unit of the Province. It will be observed that the Ramdasia is put down as one of the Hindu depressed classes and in this connection it has only to be added that these persons returned themselves as Hindus by religion and Ramdasia by caste. They are really Chamars and belong properly to the Hindu depressed classes. Those Ramdasias who retured themselves as Sikhs are not included in these figures.

^{*}Mazhabi, Marecha, Bangali, Barar, Bazigar, Bhanjra, Chanal, Daoli (Doala), Dhanak, Gandhila, Gedri, Kehal, Khatik, Kori, Nat, Pasi, Perna, Rihar, Sapela and Sirkiband.

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