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Rasai Committee in Sind, 1919.

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Committee appointed by Government to enquire into Rasai, Lapo and Chher in Sind.

Volume I.

Diary and Report of the Committee.



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DIARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman assumed charge of his duties before office hours on Wednesday, the 3rd April 1918, and called a meeting the same day at 4 p.m. at the Collector's kacheri, Karachi. The Committee met and considered clerical requirements, procedure and programme of tour.

The Committee met again at 11-30 a.m. on Thursday, the 4th April 1918, at the Collector's kacheri. It was decided to invite the Collectors to select official witnesses and zamindars, and a further list of witnesses was promised by Mr. Bhurgri. It was decided to frame questions to be sent beforehand to the witnesses and the programme of tour was settled. The meeting was attended throughout by Mr. Bhurgri.

The Committee met again at 11-30 a.m. on Saturday, the 6th April 1918, at the Collector's kacheri. Clerical requirements and procedure were further discussed and the questions framed during the preceding day by the various members were discussed and ordered to be consolidated and translated and printed, and to be then distributed to the witnesses. Mr. E. Rodrigues was appointed to be Secretary to the Committee and arrangements were ordered for the next meeting to be held for recording evidence on Monday, the 15th April 1918, at Sukkur.

Sukkur.					
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Confidential reports on rasai and lapo underlying Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 3115 of the 7th	Government h May 1902	•••	Part I	Page	1-20
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The Committee then proceeded to discuss the statements and evidence recorded and decided that it was necessary to have translations made of all vernacular papers and to have the whole record printed before preparing the final report. The Committee ascertained that this would take at least a month and dispersed after deciding to reassemble for another week about the end of June or middle of July 1918 to pass the final report.

(Sd.) E, RODRIGUES, Secretary.

The Committee were however unable to meet in July 1918 as there was delay in preparing the translation and in printing the record. The work proved to be much heavier than expected and was hampered by lack of materials due to the War. The record was not received from the printing presses till the end of April 1919.

The Committee required time to read it in its seven separate parts, and the 30th June 1919 was fixed for meeting to pass the final report. The Committee however, met on the 3rd July 1919 in the Chairman's Chambers in the High Court, Bombay, and on the 5th July 1919 passed the final report for submission to Government.

(Sd) E. RODRIGUES, Secretary.

NOTE.—The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1 to 6, 8 to 11, 14, 16, 17, 19 to 21, 24 and 25 on the motion of the Collector and the remaining witnesses on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri out of 25 witnesses examined orally at Sukkur and Nos. 1 to 5, 9, 13, and 15 to 21 on the motion of the Collector and the remainder on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri out of the 21 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Sukkur.

The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1 to 7 on the motion of the Collector, Nos. 8 to 15 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri and Nos. 16 and 17 on their own motion out of the 17 witnesses examined orally at Larkana and Nos. 1 to 3, 5 and 10 on the motion of the Collector and the remainder on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri out of the 16 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Larkana.

The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1 to 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 20, 21, 23, and 29 to 31 on the motion of the Collectors, Nos. 9, 12, 14, 16 to 19, 22, and 24 to 27 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri and Nos. 5, 6 and 28 on their own motion out of the 31 witnesses examined orally at Hyerabad and Nos. 2, 4 to 6, 10 to 12, 17 to 20, 23, 26, 31, 32, 35, 46, 49, 52, 53, 55, 59, 60, 62, 63 and 65 on the motion of the Collectors, Nos. 1, 3, 7 to 9, 13 to 16, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 to 30, 33, 34, 36 to 40, 43 to 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 54, 57, 58, 61, 64 and 66 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, No. 42 on their own motion, while No. 41 volunteered his statement out of the 66 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Hyderabad.

The Committee invited witnesses Nos. 1, 3, 6, 7 and 11 on the motion of the Collector, Nos. 10, 12, 13 and 16 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri and Nos. 2, 4, 5 and 8 on their own motion, while No. 9 appeared voluntarily out of the 14 witnesses examined orally at Karachi and Nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 to 20 on the motion of the Collector, No 5 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, Nos. 1 and 2 on their own motion, while Nos. 8 and 21 volunteered their statements out of the 21 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at Karachi.

The Committee invited in all 47 witnesses on the motion of the Collectors, 31 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, 8 on their own motion, while r witness appeared voluntarily out of the 87 witnesses examined orally and 63 witnesses on the motion of the Collectors, 56 on the motion of Mr. Bhurgri, 2 on their own motion, while 3 volunteered statements out of the 124 witnesses whose written statements only were recorded at the various places where sittings were held in the province.