

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

AMRITSAR DISTRICT

BY

A. MACFARQUHAR



CHANDIGARH
CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY, PUNJAB.

Price 3/12/-

Ist Impression—300 copies.

All Rights Reserved.

**PRINTED AT QAUMI PRESS, JULLUNDUR FOR THE CONTROLLER OF
PRINTING AND STATIONERY, PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH.**

PREFACE

1. This edition of the Gazetteer of the Amritsar District has been in great part re-written from collations of fresh material. Extensive use was made of non official sources of information and of technical departments, so that a considerable measure of authority should attach to the new material. I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the generous assistance received from almost all sources to which I applied.

2. In this edition paragraphs have been numbered for facility of reference.

3. The Fifth Amritsar Settlement was completed during the 1939 45 War and it was decided (FC's letter No. 1574S dated 17th November 1942) that the Gazetteer should not be revised and published until after the War. The manuscript of this volume was therefore withheld from the press. Hence the delay in its appearance. Changes which have taken place while the manuscript was lying unprinted have *not* been incorporated as I considered that the Gazetteer should represent the situation existing at the time of Settlement operations.

July 1947.

(A. MACFARQUHAR).

(a) SUBJECTS.	CONTENTS.	PAGE
CHAPTER I—DESCRIPTIVE.		1
SECTION A—Physical Aspects	1
SECTION B—History	16
SECTION C—Population	34
CHAPTER II—ECONOMIC	79
SECTION A—Agriculture	79
SECTION B—Rents, Wages and Prices	142
SECTION C—Forests	162
SECTION D—Mines and Minerals	163
SECTION E—Arts and Manufacture	163
SECTION F—Commerce and Trade	173
SECTION G—Means of Communication	174
SECTION H—Famine	182
CHAPTER III—ADMINISTRATIVE	183
SECTION A—Administrative Divisions	183
SECTION B—Civil and Criminal Justice	187
SECTION C—Land Revenue	189
SECTION D—Miscellaneous Revenue	234
SECTION E—Local and Municipal Government	236
SECTION F—Public Works	245
SECTION G—Army	246
SECTION H—Police and Jails	247
SECTION I—Education and Literacy	251
SECTION J—Medical	261

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I—DESCRIPTIVE

	PAGE.
SECTION A—Physical Aspects	
1. Derivation of name	1
2. Boundaries and general configuration	1
3. Scenery	2
4. Rivers—	
(a) The Beas	2
(b) The Ravi	3
(c) The Sakki	5
5. Natural drainage and artificial drains	6
6. Botany	9
7. Geology	12
8. Wild animals; game	14
9. Climate	15
10. Rainfall	16
SECTION B—History	
1. Architectural objects and remains	16
2. Important buildings	17
3. Early history	18
4. Origin of the Jat tribe	18
5. Muhammadan period	19
6. The rise of the Sikhs, and appearance of the Gurus	19
7. Situation of the Sikhs after the death of the tenth Guru	22
8. Durani invasions	23
9. Partition of territory among Sikh confederacies	25
10. Rise of Maharaja Ranjit Singh	26
11. The condition of the central districts under Sikh rule.	26
12. Amritsar from the death of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh upto annexation by the British	28
13. Formation of the district and alteration in the limits	29
14. The Mutiny	30
15. The scarcity of 1868 and 1869	33
SECTION C—Population	
1. Density and distribution of population	34
2. Growth and migration of population	35
3. Distribution of population by age and sex	36
4. Vital statistics	37
5. Infant mortality and birth customs	37

(vi)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I—DESCRIPTIVE—*continued.*

PAGE

SECTION C—Population—*continued.*

6	Civil condition	38
7.	Marriage customs	38
	(i) Hindus	38
	(ii) Sikhs	42
	(iii) Muslims	44
8.	Language	44
9.	Tribes and castes :— the Jats	45
	Sub-divisions of Jats :—	
	(a) The Sindhus	48
	(b) The Gils	49
	(c) The Dhillons	49
	(d) The Randhawas	50
	(e) The Aulakhs	50
	(f) The Chabils	51
	(g) The Sidhus	51
	(h) Other <i>gots</i> of Jats	51
	Rajputs	52
	Kombohs	53
	Arains	54
	Miscellaneous landowning tribes	55
	Chuhras	55
	Mahtams	56
	Kashmiris	56
10.	County families	57
	The Sindhanwalias, Sardars of Rajasansi	57
	The Sardars of Majitha	57
	The Sardars of Naushahra	58
	The Rasulpur family	58
	The Bhangis	59
	The Mananwala family	59
	Other families	59
11.	Other distinguished persons	60
12.	Indian Officers	61
13.	The people's representatives	61
14.	Religion	62
15.	Christianity	62
16.	Occupations	66
17.	Food	66
18.	Dress	66
19.	Dress of women	67
20.	Standard of living	68

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(vii)

CHAPTER I—DESCRIPTIVE—concluded.

PAGE.

SECTION C—Population—concluded.

21.	Ornaments	...	...	...	...	69
22.	Dwellings	...	...	...	...	69
23.	Public buildings	...	...	...	...	73
24.	Disposal of the dead	...	...	...	...	74
25.	Amusements and festivals	...	...	...	...	75
26.	Recreation	...	...	...	...	77
27.	Names and titles	...	...	...	...	78

CHAPTER II—ECONOMIC.

SECTION A—Agriculture.

1.	Area	...	...	...	...	79
2.	Cultivation	...	...	...	...	79
3.	Irrigation	...	...	...	...	80
4.	Dry farming and rainfall	...	...	...	...	82
5.	Cropping	...	...	...	...	83
6.	Soil distinctions	...	...	...	...	85
7.	Systems of cultivation	...	...	...	...	87
8.	Inferior or barani cultivation	...	...	...	...	87
9.	Superior cultivation on wells	...	...	...	...	89
10.	Cultivation of canal irrigated land	...	...	...	...	90
11.	Sailab	...	...	...	...	91
12.	Manure	...	...	...	...	91
13.	Double cropping	...	...	...	...	92
14.	Agricultural implements (a) The plough	...	...	...	...	92
	(b) The Sohaga	...	...	...	...	94
	(c) Other implements	...	...	...	...	95
15.	Hired labourers	...	...	...	...	96
16.	Principal crops :					
	(a) Wheat	...	...	...	...	96
	(b) Gram	...	...	...	...	98
	(c) Rice	...	...	...	...	99
	(d) Maize	...	...	...	...	100
	(e) Catton	...	...	...	...	101
	(f) Sugercane	...	...	...	...	102
	(g) Barley	...	...	...	...	103
	(h) Jowar	...	...	...	...	104
	(i) Bajra	...	...	...	...	105
	(j) Kharif pulses	...	...	...	...	105
	(k) Til	...	...	...	...	106
	(l) Rape	...	...	...	...	106

CHAPTER II—ECONOMIC—*continued.*

	PAGE.
SECTION A—Agriculture—<i>concluded.</i>	
(m) Toria	107
(n) Massar	107
(o) Senji	107
(p) Berseem	108
(q) Hemp	108
(r) Vegetables and fruits	108
(s) Tobacco	109
(t) Miscellaneous	109
17. Nomenclature of crops.	110
18. Changes in agricultural system	111
19. Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.	112
20. Agricultural banks and the Co-operative movement generally.	112
(i) Consolidation of Holdings.	115
21. Alienation and land values	116
22. Miscellaneous Income	119
23. Canals	120
24. Wells	124
25. Agricultural stock : markets	125
26. Importing or exporting District	126
27. The standard and number of live-stock improved	127
28. Buffaloes	129
29. Farming practice and the use of cattle	130
30. Initial Cost	131
31. Average life	132
32. Annual cost of maintenance	132
33. Fodder	134
34. Milk animals per family	134
35. Progress in the breeding of good stock	135
36. Veterinary facilities in each Tehsil	137
37. Horse, Pony and Mule Breeding	140
SECTION B—Rents, Wages and Prices.	
1. Cultivating occupancy	142
2. Tarn Taran Tenancies	142
3. Amritsar tenancies	145
4. Ajnala tenancies	148
5. Urban Wages	150
6. Village menials	151
7. Menials' dues-general	151
8. Menial's dues-Tarn Taran tahsil	152

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(ix)

CHAPTER II—ECONOMIC—*continued.*

	PAGE.
SECTION B—Rents, Wages and Prices—<i>concluded.</i>	
9. Menials' dues—Amritsar tahsil	154
10. Menials' dues Ajnala tahsil	154
11. Prices	155
12. Sale of produce	157
13. Material condition of the people	159
14. Debt Conciliation Board	161
SECTION C—Forests.	
	162
SECTION D—Mines and Minerals.	
	163
SECTION E—Arts and manufactures.	
	163
1. Introductory	163
2. Architecture and decoration	164
3. Work in metals	165
4. Wood-carving	167
5. Metal-wares	167
6. Ornaments	167
7. Ivory	168
8. Iron	168
9. Modern industrialisation	168
10. Woollen shawls and shawl cloth	169
11. Woollen Industry	170
12. Silks	170
13. Other textile fabrics	171
14. Carpets	171
15. Hosiery	172
16. Sugar	172
17. Distillery	172
18. Labour	173
SECTION F—Commerce and trade.	
1. Imports	173
2. Exports	173
3. Gold	174
4. Banks	174
SECTION G—Communications.	
1. Introductory	174
2. Railways	175
3. Roads	177
4. Ferries	179
5. Postal arrangements	181
SECTION H—Famine.	
	182

CHAPTER III—ADMINISTRATIVE		PAGE.
SECTION A—Administrative Divisions.		
1.	Magisterial and revenue administration ...	183
2.	Headmen ...	184
3.	Chief headmen ...	184
4.	Superior rural officials—zaildars and safedposhes ...	185
SECTION B—Civil and Criminal Justice		
1.	Judiciary ...	187
2.	The Bar ...	189
3.	Registration ...	189
SECTION C—Land Revenue		
1.	Village communities and tenures ...	189
2.	Development of the various forms of tenure ...	190
3.	Extent to which each form of tenure prevails ...	192
4.	Proprietary tenures ...	194
5.	Size of proprietary holdings ...	194
6.	Superior and inferior proprietors ...	194
7.	Riparian customs ...	195
8.	Cultivating occupancy ...	195
9.	Occupancy and protected tenants ...	196
10.	Tenants-at-will ...	197
11.	Fiscal history ...	198
12.	Early history of the district —	198
13.	The summary settlement ...	198
14.	First regular settlement —	199
15.	Second regular settlement —	200
16.	Third regular settlement —	201
17.	The expiring settlement ...	202
18.	Change in the demand of the expiring settlement —	204
19.	The new settlement ...	204
20.	The forecast report ...	204
21.	The mechanics of assessment ...	206
22.	The assessment circles —	206
23.	Classes of land —	207
24.	The estimate of net assets based on grain rents ...	208
25.	The estimate of net assets based on cash rents ...	211
26.	True net assets ...	211
27.	Assessment of Tarn Taran tahsil (i) general considerations ...	212
28.	Do. Do. (ii) Upper Manjha circle —	213
29.	Do. Do. (iii) Central Manjha circle ...	213
30.	Do. Do. (iv) Bet Bangar circle —	213
31.	Assessment of Amritsar tahsil (i) general considerations —	214
32.	Do. Do. (ii) Bet Bangar circle —	215
33.	Do. Do. (iii) Jandiala circle —	215
34.	Do. Do. (iv) Nahri circle —	216

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(xi)

CHAPTER III—ADMINISTRATIVE—*continued.*

			PAGE.
SECTION C—Land Revenue—<i>concluded.</i>			
35.	Do.	Do. (v) Mirankot circle	216
36.	Assessment of Ajnala tahsil	(i) general considerations	217
37.	Do.	Do. (ii) Nahri circle	218
38.	Do.	Do. (iii) Uthar circle	219
39.	Do.	Do. (iv) Hithar circle	219
40.	Do.	Do. (v) Sailab circle	220
41.	Financial results of reassessment		221
42.	Forecast and fact		222
43.	The sliding scale		222
44.	Sanctioned soil rates		223
45.	Irrigated assessments (a) canal		224
46.	Irrigated assessments (b) wells		227
47.	Term of settlement		228
48.	Instalments of revenue		228
49.	Cesses		230
50.	Rules for the revision of riverain assessments		230
51.	Rules for the reduction of assessment on account of deterioration		230
52.	Insecure estates		231
53.	Assignments		231
54.	Survey		231
55.	Record of rights		232
SECTION D—Miscellaneous revenue			
1.	Introductory		234
2.	Excise		234
3.	Stamps		235
4.	Electricity		235
5.	Registration		235
6.	Motor taxation		235
7.	Income-tax		235
SECTION E—Local and Municipal Government			
1.	District Board		236
2.	Amritsar municipal committee		237
	(a) Terminal tax and other income		237
	(b) Expenditure		239
	(c) Water supply		241
	(d) Drainage Scheme		242
	(e) Sewage disposal		242
	(f) Electric lighting		243
	(g) Fairs		243
3.	Tarn Taran municipal committee		244

CHAPTER III—ADMINISTRATIVE—*concluded.*

	PAGE.
SECTION E—Local and Municipal Government—<i>concluded.</i>	
4. Jandiala municipal committee	244
5. Town committees	244
6. Notified areas	244
SECTION F—Public works	
1. Introductory	245
2. Buildings and Roads Branch	245
3. Irrigation Branch	245
4. Electricity Branch	245
SECTION G—Army	
1. Amritsar detachment	246
2. Recruiting	246
SECTION H—Police and Jails	
1. Police	247
2. Crime	248
3. Criminal tribes	248
4. Reformatories	249
5. Jails	250
SECTION I—Education and Literacy	
1. Introductory	251
2. Collegiate education	252
3. Khalsa College	252
4. Hindu Sabha College	253
5. Muslim Anglo-Oriental College	253
6. Stratford College for Women	254
7. Schools and scholars	254
8. Boys' High Schools	255
9. Boy's Secondary Schools	255
10. Boys' Primary Education	256
11. Girls' Schools	256
12. Coeducation	257
13. Special and technical schools	258
14. Adult Schools	259
15. Compulsory Education	259
16. Liberal Education	259
17. Inspectorate	260
18. Expenditure on Education	260
19. Presses and publications	261
SECTION J—Medical	
1. Introductory	261
2. Medicine	262
3. Special Institutions	263
4. Public Health	266
5. Medical Education	267