

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

VOLUME XIII.

AMRITSAR DISTRICT,

STATISTICAL TABLES.

1933.

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PREFACE.

THIS volume is issued under the orders contained in the Punjab Government, Revenue Department, letter No. 2279-R., dated the 14th June 1928. The lines on which the revision of District Gazetteers is to be undertaken are laid down in the Government of India, Home Department, letter No. 3375, dated 1st October 1902, and are as follows :—

“The chief difficulty which stands in the way of the periodical revision of the existing Gazetteers, and that reason which has caused so large a portion of their contents to become obsolete, is that they contain a mixture of permanent matter, such as that relating to the history, physical characteristics, religion, ethnography, &c., of the district; of matter which changes gradually but, as a rule, slowly, such as that dealing with the agricultural and economic conditions; and of ephemeral matter, mainly statistical, which soon becomes out of date. For this reason, when a new District Gazetteer is issued it should consist of two volumes, A and B, compiled on the following lines :—

- (1) In the first edition all descriptive matter should go into the A volume; but the volume should contain only such general figures (incorporated in the letter-press) as are necessary to give point to remarks in the text.
All detailed statistics should be relegated to the B volume, which would at first consist only of these and of such notes as may be necessary to elucidate them.
- (2) On the occasion of the next revision the statistics in the B volume should be re-compiled, and this volume should be expanded by adding to it any matter that might be required to correct or supplement the A volume. Thus if there had been a famine since A was published, if a new railway had been opened, and so forth, information on these points would appear in B as supplementary to the appropriate chapters in A.
- (3) This process would go on till the time had come for revising the A volume. Then all the supplementary text matter should be incorporated in the new A volume, and B would revert to its original form as a statistical appendix with explanatory notes.
- (4) A new edition of the B volume should be brought out after each Census. The revision of the A volume must be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. The occurrence of a new settlement will ordinarily be the best time for such revision*; but it may well happen that plenty of copies of the original A volume are still

available, and that the settlement and lapse of time have not wrought any important change in the conditions of the district. In that case the revision of A should stand over till the stock of it no longer suffices for the demand ; but a brief account of the settlement operations and of the changes which they have produced or disclosed in the state of affairs described in the A volume, should be prepared by the Settlement Officer before he is relieved of his duties for inclusion in the next decennial B volume.

- “(5) The statistical part of the B volume should be issued with interleaved blank pages, so that those who use it can have the figures of later years written in. The tables included in the B volume should be drawn up on uniform lines and should contain the main administrative statistics of the district and its tahsils or other sub-divisions. . . . It is thought that including the explanatory notes they should not ordinarily exceed a maximum limit of 50 pages.”

Instead of issuing the tables with interleaved blank pages as suggested in paragraph (5) above, it has been found convenient to print the tables themselves with blank spaces in which to insert the figures of future years. The pages occupied by the statistical matter thus include the space which in the original scheme would have been appropriated by the interleaved pages, and consequently are somewhat in excess of the maximum fixed in paragraph (5).

* In the Punjab the Settlement Officer is generally entrusted with the revision of the District Gazetteer, and this plan is commended for adoption in other Provinces.

SUPPLEMENT TO CHAPTER II G (RAILWAYS), PAGE 121
OF THE GAZETTEER PART A, AMRITSAR DISTRICT, 1914.

THE suggestions made in the final settlement report referred to on page 122 of the Gazetteer, Part A, with regard to the future development of railway communication have been to a large extent fulfilled since the completion of the Gazetteer in 1914.

The first suggestion concerns the adjoining district of Gurdaspur on the north, where the linking up of Batala on the Pathankot Branch with Beas on the main line has now been in part completed. The line runs as far as Qadian, in Gurdaspur district, and is open to public traffic to this station. Further than this no lines have been laid, but a great deal of preliminary work has been done and bridge foundations and stations have been erected on the proposed alignment. Work, however, is now suspended and will not be continued for sometime to come.

The second suggestion was the opening of a branch line from Amritsar to Ajnala and thence on through part of the Batala tahsil of Gurdaspur district to Sialkot. The bridging of the Ravi, which was the chief obstacle to the fulfilment of this project has now been accomplished. The double road and railway bridge near Dera Baba Nanak in the Gurdaspur district was opened in the year 1927. The girders bear the single railway track beneath and the roadway above, to which access is given by two ramps from the ground level to the two side spans which carry the road over the railway. The road has not yet, however, been linked up to this bridge. Work is in progress and the road when completed will lead from Amritsar through Ajnala over the Ravi bridge and on to Sialkot. It is listed as an arterial road A 34. The railway, on the other hand, was opened to public traffic on the 3rd of May 1927. The new line is the Verka-Narowal section of the North-Western Railway, and branching off from Verka station which is 5·06 miles distant from Amritsar station, the new line now carries traffic through to Sialkot, over the Ravi bridge. There are stations at Verka, Majitha, Kotla Gujran, and Ramdass in Amritsar district and at Fatehgarh, Hardorawal, Rattar Chattar and Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district. The original suggestion was to take the line through Ajnala, but this was found impracticable and the railway lies some distance to the east of the headquarters of the tahsil. The length of the line in the Amritsar district is given below. The line leaves the district at mile 18·87 and re-enters at mile 24·67 :—

<i>From mile.</i>	<i>To mile.</i>	<i>Total mileage.</i>
5·06 (Verka)	18·87	13·81
24·67	26·58	1·91
Total	15·72

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