

IMPERIAL GAZETTEER.

BENGAL,

SAMBALPUR DISTRICT.



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SAMBALPUR DISTRICT.

Sambalpur District.—A District of the Orissa Division, Bengal, situated between 20° 45' and 21° 57' N. and 82° 38' and 84° 26' E, with an area of 3,773 square miles.

Sambalpur District.
Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

Up to 1905 the District formed part of the Chhattisgarh Division of the Central Provinces, and on its transfer to Bengal, the Phuljhar zamindári and the Chandampur-Padam-
pur and Malkburdú estates, with an area of 1,175 square miles and population of 189,455 persons (1901) were separated from it, and attached to the Raipur and Biláspur Districts of the Central Provinces. It is bounded on the north by the Gángpur State of Bengal; on the east by those of Bámra and Rairákhól; on the south by Patná, Sonpur and Rairákhól States; and on the west by the Raipur and Biláspur Districts of the Central Provinces. Sambalpur consists of a
part of tolerably open country, surrounded on three sides by
forests and forests, but continuing on the south into the
Sudatory States of Patná and Sonpur and forming the
valley basin of the Mahánadí. It is separated from the
Chhattisgarh plain on the west by a range of hills carry-
ing a broad strip of jungle, and running north and south
through the Raigarh and Sárangarh States, and this range
marks roughly the boundary between the Chhattisgarh and
Sambalpur tracts in respect of population and language. Speaking
broadly, the plain country constitutes the *khálsa*, that is, the
area held by village headmen direct from Government, while
the wilder tracts on the west, north and east are in the posses-
sion of intermediary proprietors known locally as zamíndárs.
But this description cannot be accepted as entirely accurate, as
some of the zamíndári estates lie in the open plain, while the
khálsa area includes to the north the wild mass of hills
known as the Búrápahár.

The river Mahánadí traverses Sambalpur from north to south-east for a distance of nearly 90 miles. Its width extends to a mile or more in flood time, and its bed is rocky and broken by rapids over portions of its course. The principal tributary is the Ib which enters the District from the Gángpur State, and flowing south and west joins the Mahánadí about 12 miles above Sambalpur. The Kelo, another tributary, passes Raigarh and enters the Mahánadí near Padampur. The

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Ong rises in Khariár and passing through Borásámbar flows into the Mahánadí near Sonpur. Other tributary streams are the Jíra, Borai and Mánd. The Bárápahár hills form a compact block sixteen miles square in the north-west of the District, and throw out a spur to the south-west for a distance of 30 miles, crossing the Raipur-Sambalpur road at the Singhorá pass. Their highest point is Debrígarh at an altitude of 2,276 feet. Another range of importance is that of Jbárbhāti crossing the railway at Rengáli station. To the southward, and running parallel with the Mahánadí, a succession of broken chains extends for some thirty miles. The range, however, attains its greatest altitude of about 3,000 feet in the Borásámbar zamíndári in the south-west, where the Narsinghnáth plateau is situated. Isolated peaks rising abruptly from the plain are also frequent, but the flat-topped trap hills, so common a feature in most Districts to the north and west, are absent here. The elevation of the plains falls from nearly 750 feet in the north to 497 at Sambalpur. The surface of the open country is undulating and is intersected in every direction by drainage channels leading from the hills to the Mahánadí. A considerable portion of the area consists of ground which is too broken by ravines to be banked up into rice fields, or of broad sandy ridges which are agriculturally of very little value. The configuration of the country is exceedingly well adapted for tank-making, and the number of village tanks is one of the most prominent local features.

Geology.

The Bárápahár hills belong to the lower Vindhyan sandstone formation which covers so large an area in Raipur and Biláspur. Shales, sandstones and limestones are the prevalent rocks. In the Bárápahár group coal-bearing sandstones are found. The rest of the District is mainly occupied by metamorphic or crystalline rocks. Laterite is found more or less abundantly resting upon the older formations in all parts of the area.

Botany.

Blocks of reserved forest clothe the Bárápahár hills in the north and the other ranges to the east and south-east, while many of the zamíndári estates are also covered with jungle over the greater part of their area. The forest

vegetation of Sambalpur is included in the great *sal* belt. Other important trees are the beautiful *Anogeissus acuminata*, *sāj* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *bijdsāl* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) and *shisham* (*Dalbergia sissoo*). The light sandy soil is admirably fitted for the growth of trees, and the abundance of mango groves and clumps of palm trees gives the village scenery a distinct charm. The *semur* or cotton-tree (*Bombax malabaricum*) is also a common tree in the open country.

The usual wild animals occur. Buffalo, though rare, are found in the denser forests of the west, and bison on several of the hill ranges. *Sāmbar* are fairly plentiful. *Chital* or spotted deer, mouse deer, raving deer and the four-horned antelope are the other varieties. Tigers were formerly plentiful, but their numbers have greatly decreased in recent years. Panthers are common, especially in the low hills close to villages. The comparatively rare brown flying squirrel (*Pteromys oral*) is found in Sambalpur. It is a large squirrel with loose folds of skin which can be spread out like a small parachute. Duck and teal are plentiful on the tanks in the cold season, and snipe in the stretches of irrigated rice fields below the tanks. Flocks of demoiselle crane frequent the sandy stretches of the Mahānadi at this time. Fish of many varieties including mahseer are abundant in the Mahānadi and other rivers. Poisonous snakes are very common.

The climate of Sambalpur is moist and unhealthy. The ordinary temperature in the District is not excessive, but the heat is aggravated in the headquarters town during the summer months, by radiation from the sandy bed of the Mahānadi. During breaks in the rains the weather at once becomes hot and oppressive, and though the cold season is pleasant it is of short duration. Malarial fever of a virulent type prevails in the autumn months, and diseases of the spleen are common in the forest tracts.

The annual rainfall at Sambalpur is 59 inches; that of Bargarh is much lighter, being only 49 inches. Taking the District as a whole the monsoon rainfall is generally regular. Sambalpur is in the track of cyclonic storms from the Bay of Bengal, and this may possibly be assigned as the reason.

**SAMBALPUR
DISTRICT.
History.**

The earliest authentic records available show Sambalpur as one of a cluster of states held by Chauhan Rájputs, who are supposed to have come from Mainpurí in the United Provinces. In 1797 the District was conquered and annexed by the Maráthás, but owing to British influence the Rájá was restored in 1817, and held under the political control of the Bengal Government. On the death of a successor without heirs in 1849 the District was annexed as an escheat, and was administered by the Bengal Government till 1862, when it was transferred to the Central Provinces. During the Mutiny and the five years which followed it, the condition of Sambalpur was exceedingly unsatisfactory owing to disturbances led by Surendra Sáh, a pretender to the state, who had been imprisoned in the Ráncí jail for murder, but was set free by the mutineers. He returned to Sambalpur and instigated a revolt against the British Government, which he prosecuted by harassing the people with dacoities. He was joined by many of the zamíndárs, and it is not too much to say that for five years the District was in a state of anarchy. Surendra Sáh was deported in 1864 and tranquillity restored.

Archæology.

The archæological remains are not very important. There are temples at Barpáli, Gaisúma 25 miles south-west of Sambalpur, Padampur in Borásámbar, Garh-Phuljhar, and Sáson, which are ascribed to ancestors of the Sambalpur dynasty and of the respective zamíndárs. The Narsinghnáth plateau in the south of the Borásámbar zamíndári is locally celebrated for its temple and the waterfall called Salasra Dhára or thousand streams, which is extremely picturesque. Húma on the Mahánadí, 15 miles below Sambalpur, is another place of pilgrimage. It is situated at the junction of a small stream, the Jholjir with the Mahánadí, and contains a well-known temple of Mahádeo.

The people.

The population of the District in the last three years of census was as follows:—1881, 693,499; 1891, 796,413; 1901, 829,698. On the transfer of territory in 1905 the population was reduced to 640,243 persons. Between 1881 and 1891 the increase was nearly 15 per cent., the greater part of which occurred in the zamíndáris, and must be attributed to increased efficiency of enumeration. The District had a half

crop in 1897 and there was practically no distress, but in 1900 it was severely affected and the mortality was augmented by a large influx of starving wanderers from native territory. The District furnishes coolies for Assam, and it is estimated that nearly 12,000 persons emigrated during the decade. The District contains one town SAMBALPUR and 1,938 inhabited villages. The principal statistics of population, based on the census of 1901, are shown below :—

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Taluk.	Area in square miles.	Number of—		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Sambalpur ..	1,450	1	708	275,703	187	+ 7.0	6,017
Barapali ...	2,281	..	1,172	301,911	130	+ 0.1	6,630
District Total ...	3,731	1	1,880	577,614	170	+ 3.2	12,647

The figures of religion show that 583,000 persons or 91 per cent. of the population are Hindus and 54,000 or 9 per cent. Christians. Muhammadans number only about 3,000. Oriyá is the vernacular of 89 per cent. of the population. A number of tribal dialects are also found, the principal being Oraon with nearly 25,000 speakers, Kol with 11,000, and Kharia 5,000.

The principal castes are Gonds, constituting 8 per cent. of the population, Koltás 11 per cent., Savarás 9 per cent., Gahrás or Ahíre 11 per cent., and Gáudas 13 per cent. Of the 16 zamindari estates 10 are held by Ráj Gonds; two, Rájpur and Barpáli, by Chauhán Rájputs; one, Rámpur, by another Rájput; two, Borásámbār and Ghens, by Binjháls, and one, Bijepur, by a Koltá. The Gond families are old ones, and their numbers seem to indicate that previous to the Oriyá immigration they held possession of the country, subduing the Mundá tribes who were probably there before them. A trace of the older domination of these is to be found in the fact that the Binjhál zamindár of Borásámbār still affixes the *titka* to the Maharájá of Patná on his accession. Koltás are the great cultivating caste and have the usual characteristics

Their castes
and occupa-
tions.

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of frugality, industry, hunger for land, and readiness to resort to any degree of litigation rather than relinquish a supposed right to it. They strongly appreciate the advantages of irrigation, and show considerable public spirit in constructing tanks which will benefit the lands of their tenants as well as their own. The Savarás or Saons of Sambalpur, though a Dravidian tribe, live principally in the open country and have adopted Hindu usages. They are considered the best farm-servants and are very laborious, but rarely acquire any property. Bráhmans (28,000), though not very numerous, are distinctly the leading caste in the District. The Binjbáls (39,000) are probably Hinduised Baigís, and live principally in the forest tracts. Kewats (38,000), or boatmen and fishermen, are a numerous caste. The Gándas (105,000), a Dravidian tribe now performing the menial duties of the village or engaging in cotton-weaving, have strong criminal propensities which have recently called for special measures of repression. About 78 per cent. of the population of the District are returned as dependent on agriculture. A noticeable feature of the rural life of Sambalpur is that the *Jhánkar* or village priest is a universal and recognised village servant of fairly high status. He is nearly always a member of one of the Dravidian tribes, and his business is to conduct the worship of the local deities of the soil, crops, forests and hills. He generally has a substantial holding, rent-free, containing some of the best land in the village. It is said locally that the *Jhánkar* is looked on as the founder of the village, and the representative of the old owners who were ousted by the Hindus. He worships on their behalf the indigenous deities with whom he naturally possesses a more intimate acquaintance than the later immigrants; while the gods of these latter cannot be relied on to exercise a sufficient control over the works of nature in the foreign land to which they have been imported, or to ensure that the earth and the seasons will regularly perform their necessary functions in producing sustenance for mankind.

Christian
Missions.

Christians number 722, including 575 natives, of whom the majority are Lutherans and Baptists. A station of the Baptist mission is maintained in Sambalpur.

The black soil which forms so marked a feature in the adjoining Central Provinces is almost unknown in Sambalpur. It occurs in the north-west of the District beyond the cross range of Vindhyan sandstone which shuts off the Ambá-bhoná *pargana* and across the Mahánadí towards the Biláspur border. The soil which covers the greater part of the country is apparently derived from underlying crystalline rocks, and the differences found in it are mainly due to the elimination and transportation effected by surface drainage. The finer particles have been carried into the low-lying areas along drainage lines, rendering the soil there of a clayey texture, and leaving the uplands light and sandy. The land round Sambalpur itself, and a strip running along the north bank of the Mahánadí to the confines of the Biláspur District, is the most productive, being fairly level, while the country over the greater part of the Bargarh tahsíl has a very decided slope, and is much cut up by ravines and water courses. Nearly all the rice is sown broadcast, only about five per cent. of the total area being transplanted. For thinning the crop and taking out weeds, the fields are ploughed up when the young plants are a few inches high, as in Chhattísgarh. A considerable proportion of the area in cultivation, consisting of high land which grows crops other than rice, is annually left fallow, as the soil is so poor that it requires periodical rests.

SAMBALPUR
DISTRICT.
General
agricultural
conditions.

- ¹ No less than 235 square miles are held revenue-free or on low quit-rents, these grants being either for the maintenance of temples or gifts to Bráhmans, or assignments for the support of the relatives of the late ruling family. The zamíndári estates cover 48 per cent. of the total area of the District, 109 acres are held ryotwári and the balance on the tenures described below (page 18). In 1903-04 396 square miles or 9 per cent. of the total area were included in Government forest, 200 square miles or 7 per cent. were classed as not available for cultivation, and 1,102 square miles or 26 per cent. as culturable waste other than

Chief agricul-
tural statistics
and crops.

¹ The figures in this paragraph refer to the area of the District as it stood before the transfer of Phuljhar, Chandarpur and Málkhurdá, the revised statistics of cropping not being available.

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fallow. The remaining area amounting to about 2,443 square miles or nearly 64 per cent. of that of the District, excluding Government forest, was occupied for cultivation. In the more level parts of the open country cultivation is close, but elsewhere there seems to be still some room for expansion. Rice is the staple crop of Sambalpur, covering 1,355 square miles in 1903-04. Other crops are *til* or *sesamum* 158 square miles, the pulse *urad* 145 square miles, and *kodon* 94 square miles. Nearly 12,000 acres are under cotton and 4,400 under sugarcane. The pulses are raised on the inferior high-lying land without manure, the outturn in consequence being usually very small. The pulse *kulthi* (*Dolichos uniflorus*) covering 56 square miles is a favourite one. Cotton and *til* are also grown on this inferior land. Sugarcane was formerly a crop of some importance, but its cultivation has decreased in recent years, owing to the local product being unable to compete in price with that imported from northern India.

Improvements
in agricultur-
al practice.

The harvests have usually been favourable in recent years and the cropped area steadily expanded up to 1899, when the famine of 1900 caused a temporary decline. New tanks have also been constructed for irrigation, and manure is now utilised to a larger extent. In the decade ending 1904, Rs. 77,000 were advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 69,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Irrigation.

In 1903-04 the irrigated area was only 31 square miles, but in 1902-03 it was 196, this being the maximum recorded. With the exception of 12 square miles under sugarcane and garden produce the only crop irrigated is rice. The suitability of the District for tank-making has already been mentioned, and it is not too much to say that the very existence of villages over a large portion of the area is dependent on the tanks which have been constructed near them. There are 9,500 irrigation tanks or between three and four to every village in the District on an average. The ordinary Sambalpur tank is constructed by throwing a strong embankment across a drainage line so as to hold up an irregularly shaped sheet of water. Below the embankment a four-sided tank is excavated which constitutes the drinking supply of the village. Irrigation is

generally effected by leading channels from the ends of the embankment, but in years of short rainfall the centre of the tank is sometimes cut through. Embankments of small size are frequently thrown across drainage channels by tenants for the benefit of their individual holdings. The Jambor and Sarsutiá nullahs near Machidá are perennial streams and the water is diverted from them by temporary dams and carried into the fields. In certain tracts near the Mahánadí, where water is very close to the surface, temporary wells are also sometimes constructed for the irrigation of rice. Irrigation from permanent wells is insignificant. Several projects for new tanks have been prepared by the Irrigation department.

The cattle of this District are miserably poor, and no care is exercised in breeding. As the soil is light and sandy, however, strong cattle are not so requisite here as elsewhere. For draught purposes larger animals are imported from Berár. Buffaloes are largely used for cultivation. They are not as a rule bred locally, but imported from the northern Districts through Biláspur and Surgujá. Those reared in the District are distinctly inferior in quality. Buffaloes are frequently also used for draught, and for pressing oil and sugar-cane. Only a few small ponies are bred in the District for riding purposes. Goats and sheep are kept by the lower castes for food only. Their manure is also sometimes used but does not command a price. There are no professional shepherds and no use is made of the wool of sheep.

The area of reserved forest is 396 square miles. It is situated on the Bárápahár hills in the north of the Bargarh tahsíl, and on the ranges of the west and south-west of the Sambalpur tahsíl. There are two types of forest, the first consisting of the *sál* tree interspersed with bamboos and other trees, and the second or mixed forest of bamboos and inferior species. *Sál* forest occupies all the hills and valleys of the Sambalpur range, and the principal valleys of the Bárápahár range or an area of about 238 square miles. It thrives best on well-drained slopes of sandy loam. The mixed forest is situated on the rocky dry hills of the Bárápahár range, where *sál* will not grow, and covers 155 square

SAMBALPUR
DISTRICT.Cattle, ponies
and sheep.

Forests.

SAMBALPUR DISTRICT. miles. The revenue for 1903-04 was Rs. 84,000, of which about Rs. 12,000 were realised from sales of bamboos, Rs. 10,000 from timber, Rs. 3,600 from grazing dues, and Rs. 5,000 from firewood.

Minerals. The Rámpur coal field is situated within the District. Recent exploration has resulted in the discovery of one seam of good steam coal and two of rather inferior quality within easy reach of the Bengal-Nággpur Railway. The former is known as the Ib bridge seam and contains coal more than seven feet in thickness. Two samples which have been analysed contained 52 and 55 per cent. respectively of fixed carbon. Iron ores occur in most of the hilly country on the borders of the District, particularly in the Borásámbar, Phul-jhar,* Kolábirá and Rámpur zamindáris. Some of them are of good quality, but they are worked by indigenous methods only. There are 160 native furnaces which produce about 1,120 cwt. of iron annually. When Sambalpur was under native rule diamonds were obtained in the island of Hírakud (Diamond Island) in the Mahánadí. The Jhariá, or diamond seekers were rewarded with grants of land in exchange for the stones found by them. The right to exploit the diamonds, which are of very poor quality, was leased by the British Government for Rs. 200, but the lessee subsequently relinquished it. Gold in minute quantities is obtained by sand-washing in the Ib river. Lead ores have been found in Talpatía, Jhúpan and Padampur, and antimony in Junáni opposite Hírakud. Mica exists, but the plates are too small to be of any commercial value.

Arts and Manufactures. Tasar silk weaving is an important industry in Sambalpur. The cocoons are at present not cultivated locally, but are imported from Chotá Nággpur and the adjoining States. Plain and drilled cloth is woven. Remendá, Barpáli, Chandarpur† and Sambalpur are the principal centres. A little cloth is sent to Ganjáin, but the greater part is sold locally. Cloths of cotton with silk borders, or intermixed with silk, are also largely woven. Bhuliás and Koshtás are the castes

* Now in the Raipur District, Central Provinces.

† Now in the Bilaspur District, Central Provinces.

engaged, the former only weaving the prepared thread, but ^{SAMBALPUR} the latter also spinning it. Cotton cloth of a coarse texture, ^{DISTRICT.} but of considerable taste in colour and variety of pattern, is also woven in large quantities, imported thread being used almost exclusively. It is generally worn by natives of the District in preference to mill-woven cloth. A large bell metal industry exists in Tukrá near Kádobahál, and a number of artisans are also found in Remendá, Barpáli and Bijepur. Cooking and water pots are made of brass and are usually imported from Orissa. The iron obtained locally is used for the manufacture of all agricultural implements except cart-wheel tyres. Smaller industries include the manufacture of metal beads, saddles and drums.

Rice is the staple export of Sambalpur, and is sent principally to Calcutta, but also to Bombay and Berár. Other exports include oilseeds, sleepers, dried meat, and hemp. Salt comes principally from Ganjáma, and is now brought by rail instead of river as formerly. Sugar is obtained from Mirzápur and the Mauritius, and *gur* or unrefined sugar from Bengal. Kerosene oil is brought from Calcutta, and cotton cloth and yarn from Calcutta and the Nágpur mills. Silk is imported from Berhampur. Wheat, gram and the pulse *arhar* are also imported, as they are not grown locally in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. The weekly markets at Sambalpur and Bargarh are the most important in the District. Bhuktá, near Ambábhoná, is the largest cattle bazar, and after it rank those of Bargarh, Saraipáli and Talpatá. Jámurá is a large mart for oilseeds; Dháma is a timber market; and Bhúkhampur and Talpatá are centres for the sale of country iron implements. A certain amount of trade in grain and household utensils is transacted at the annual fairs of Narsinghnáth and Húma.

The main line of the Bengal-Nágpur Railway passes ^{Railways and} for a short distance through the north-east of the District ^{Roads.} with a length of nearly thirty miles and three stations. From Jhársugrá junction a branch line runs to Sambalpur, thirty miles distant, with three intervening stations. The most important trade route is the Raipur-Sambalpur road, which passes through the centre of the Bargarh tahsíl. Next to

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this come the Cuttack road down to Sonpur and the Sambalpur-Biláspur road. None of these is metalled through-out, but the Raipur-Sambalpur road is embanked and gravelled. The District has 27 miles of metalled and 185 of unmetalled roads, and the expenditure on maintenance is Rs. 24,000. The Public Works department is in charge of 115 miles and the District council of 97 miles of road. Avenues exist on 68 miles. The Mahánadí river was formerly the great outlet for the District trade. Boat transport is still carried on as far as Sonpur, but since the opening of the railway, trade with Cuttack by this route has almost entirely ceased. Boats can ascend the Mahánadí as far as Arang in Raipur, but this route is also little used owing to the dangerous character of the navigation.

Famine.

The Sambalpur District is recorded as having suffered from partial failures of crops in 1834, 1845, 1874 and 1877-78, but there was nothing more than slight distress in any of these years. In 1896 the rice crop failed over a small part of the District, principally in the Chandarpur zamíndári, and some relief was administered here. The numbers, however, never rose to 3,000, while in the rest of the District agriculturists made large profits from the high prices prevailing for rice. The year 1900 was the first in which there is any record of serious famine. Owing to the short rain-fall in 1899 a complete failure of the rice crop occurred over large tracts of the District, principally in the north and west. Relief operations extended over a year, the highest numbers being 93,000 in August 1900, or 12 per cent. of the population, and the total expenditure 8 lakhs.

District sub-
divisions and
staff.

The Deputy Commissioner has a staff of three Assistant or Deputy Collectors, and a Sub-Deputy Collector. For administrative purposes the District is divided into two tahsils, Sambalpur and Bargarh, each having a tahsildár and Bargarh also a naib-tahsildár. The Forest Officer is generally a member of the Provincial service.

Civil and
Criminal
Justice.

The civil judicial staff consists of a District and two Subordinate Judges and a Munsiff at each tahsil. Sambalpur is included in the Sessions Division of Cuttack. The civil litigation has greatly increased in recent years

and is now very heavy. Transactions attempting to evade the restrictions of the Central Provinces Tenancy Act on the transfer of immoveable property are a common feature of litigation, as are also easement suits for water. The crime of the District is not usually heavy, but the recent famine produced an organised outbreak of dacoity and house-breaking.

Under native rule the village headmen or *gaontils* were responsible for the payment of a lump sum assessed on the village for a period of years according to a lease which was periodically revised and renewed. The amount of the assessment was recovered from the village cultivators, and the headmen were remunerated by holding part of the village area free of revenue. The headmen were occasionally ejected for default in the payment of revenue, and the grant of a new lease was often made an opportunity for imposing a fine which the *gaontil* paid in great part from his own profits, and did not recover from the cultivators. The cultivators were seldom ejected except for default in the payment of revenue, but they rendered to the *gaontils* a list of miscellaneous services known as *bheli ligari*. Under native rule appears to have been light. When the District escheated to the British Government the land revenue of the *khilsa* was about a lakh of rupees, nearly a quarter of which was alienated. Short-term settlements were made in the years succeeding the annexation, till on the transfer of the District to the Central Provinces in 1862 a proclamation was issued stating that a regular long-term settlement would be made, at which the *gaontils* or hereditary managers and rent-collectors of villages would receive proprietary rights. The protracted disturbances caused by the adherents of Surendra Sâh, however, prevented any real progress being made with the survey, and this gave time for the expression of an opinion by the local officers that the system of settlement followed in other Districts was not suited to the circumstances of Sambalpur. After considerable discussion, the incidents of land tenures were considerably modified in 1872. The *gaontils* or hereditary managers received proprietary rights only in their *bhogra* or home-farm land, which was granted to them free of revenue in

SAMBALPUR
DISTRICT.Land Revenue
administration.

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lien of any share or drawback on the rental paid by tenants. Wastelands and forests remained the property of Government; but the *gaontias* enjoy the rental on lands newly broken up during the currency of settlement. A sufficiency of forest land to meet the necessities of the villagers was allotted for their use, and in cases where the area was in excess of this it was demarcated and set apart as a fuel and fodder reserve. Occupancy right was conferred on all tenants except sub-tenants of *bhogra*. The system was intended to restrict the power of alienation of land, the grant of which had led to the expropriation of the agricultural by the money-lending castes, and the same policy has recently received expression in the Central Provinces Tenancy Act of 1898. A settlement was made for twelve years in 1876, by which the revenue demand was raised to 1.16 lakhs, the net revenue excluding assignments being Rs. 93,000. On the expiry of this settlement, the District was again settled between 1885 and 1889, and the assessment was raised to 1.59 lakhs or by 38 per cent. The revenue incidence per acre was still extremely low, falling at only 3 annas 11 pies (maximum R. 0-8-10, minimum R. 0-2-0) excluding the zamindari. The term of this settlement varied from 14 to 15 years. It expired in 1902 and the District is again under settlement. The collections of revenue have varied as shown below, in thousands of rupees:—

		1890-91.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	1,16	1,59	1,90	1,73
Total revenue	...	2,57	3,73	4,41	4,49

Local Boards
and Municipalities.

The management of local affairs, outside the municipal area of SAMBALPUR, is entrusted to a District council and four local boards, one each for the northern and southern zamindari estates, and one for the remaining area of each tahsil. The income of the District council in 1903-04 was Rs. 55,000, while the expenditure on education was Rs. 24,000.

Police and
Jails.

The police force consists of 492 officers and men including a special reserve of 25 and 3 mounted constables, besides 2,765 watchmen for 2,692 inhabited towns and villages. The

District Superintendent sometimes has an Assistant. Special measures have recently been taken to change the personnel and improve the efficiency of the police force by the importation of subordinate officers from other Districts. Sambalpur has a District jail with accommodation for 187 prisoners including 24 females. The daily average number of prisoners in 1904 was 141. SAMBALPUR DISTRICT.

In respect of education the District is very backward. Only 3.5 per cent. of the male population were able to read and write in 1901, and but 400 females were returned as literate. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is six. Statistics of the number of pupils under instruction are as follows:—1880-81, 3,266; 1890-91, 7,145; 1900-01, 4,244; 1903-04, 3,376. The last figure includes 2,366 female scholars, a most noticeable increase having lately been made in the number of girls under instruction. The educational institutions comprise a high school at Sambalpur, an English middle school, 6 vernacular middle schools and 120 primary schools. Primary classes and masters are attached to two of the middle schools. There are six Government girls' schools in the District. A small school for the depressed tribes has been opened by missionaries. Oriyá is taught in all the schools. The District is now making progress in respect of education, a number of new schools having been recently opened. The total expenditure in 1903-04 was Rs. 40,000, of which Rs. 35,000 were provided from Provincial and local funds and Rs. 4,700 from fees.

The District has seven dispensaries, with accommodation for 62 in-patients. In 1904, 85,840 cases, of which 836 were of indoor patients, were treated in them and 1,999 operations were performed. The total expenditure in 1904 was Rs. 10,700. Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Vaccination is compulsory in the municipal town of Sambalpur. The number of persons successfully vaccinated in 1903-04 was 45 per mille of the District population.

(J. B. Fuller, *Settlement Report*, 1891. A District Gazetteer is being compiled.)

Sambalpur Tahsil.—The eastern tahsil of the Sambalpur District, Bengal, lying between 21° 8' to 21°-57' N. SAMBALPUR TAHSIL.

SAMBALPUR
TAHSIL.

and $83^{\circ} 26'$ and $84^{\circ} 26'$ E., with an area of 1,822 square miles. The population in 1901 was 362,622, and in 1891 was 344,391. In 1905 the Chundarpur-Padampur and Malkhurda estates with an area of 333 square miles and population of 87,320 persons were transferred to the Bilaspur District of the Central Provinces, and the revised figures of area and population of the tahsil are 1,489 square miles and 275,302 persons. The tahsil contains one town SAMBALPUR, the tahsil and District headquarters, population 12,870, and 766 inhabited villages. The density of population is 185 persons per square mile. Excluding 190 square miles of Government forest, 56 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. If the zamindari estates be excluded the percentage is 68. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 351 square miles. The land-revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 63,000 and that for cesses Rs. 14,000. The tahsil consists of a strip of open country along the left or eastern bank of the Mahanadi river, flanked to the east and south by hills. It contains seven zamindari estates with a total area of 314 square miles.

BARGARH.

Bargarh.—The western tahsil of the Sambalpur District, Bengal, lying between $20^{\circ} 45'$ and $21^{\circ} 44'$ N. and $82^{\circ} 38'$ and $83^{\circ} 54'$ E., with an area of 3,126 square miles. The population in 1901 was 467,076, and in 1891 was 452,022. In 1905 the Phuljhar zamindari with an area of 842 square miles and a population of 102,135 persons was transferred to the Raipur District of the Central Provinces, and the adjusted figures of area and population of the tahsil are 2,284 square miles and 364,941 persons. The density of population is 160 persons per square mile. The tahsil contains 1,172 inhabited villages. Bargarh, the headquarters of the tahsil, is a village of 3,609 persons, 29 miles distant from Sambalpur on the Raipur road. Excluding 206 square miles of Government forest, 69 per cent. of the available area is occupied for cultivation. The cultivated area in 1903-04 was 1,403 square miles. The land revenue demand in the same year was Rs. 1,06,000 and that for cesses Rs. 21,100. The tahsil comprises an open tract along the right bank of the Mahanadi flanked by hill and forest

country to the west and north. It contains 9 zamindari ^{BARGARH} estates with a total area of 1,204 square miles.

Sambalpur Town.—The headquarters town of the ^{SAMBALPUR} Sambalpur District, Bengal, situated in 21° 28' N. and 83° ^{TOWN.} 55' E. It is the terminus of a branch line of the Bengal-Nágpur Railway, and is 30 miles from Jharsugrá junction, and 319 from Calcutta. The town lies along the left or north-eastern bank of the Mahánadi, and is very picturesquely situated, commanding a beautiful view of the river for several miles, with wooded hills in the background. In flood-time the width of the Mahánadi is more than a mile, and portions of the town have been submerged on one or two occasions, but for most of the year there is only a stream 40 or 50 yards wide. During the open season a pontoon bridge over the Mahánadi is maintained by the Bengal-Nágpur Railway, giving place to a ferry in the monsoon months. The population in 1901 was 12,870, and has risen by more than 30 per cent. since 1891. The town derives its name from the Samlai Devi, its tutelary deity. There are no buildings of importance, but the Brahmpurá temple of Jagannáth has a great reputation for sanctity, and many civil suits are decided by the oaths of parties taken at this shrine. Sambalpur was constituted a municipality in 1867, and the average municipal receipts and expenditure for the decade ending 1901 were Rs. 28,000 and Rs. 29,000 respectively. In 1903-01 the income had risen to Rs. 48,000, and was mainly derived from octroi. A wing of a native infantry regiment was stationed here until 1902. Sambalpur is an important town and is the commercial centre for most of the Sambalpur District and the States of Sonpur, Patná and Rairákhel. It also contains a depôt for coolie emigrants to Assam. The principal industries are the weaving of tasar silk and cotton cloth by hand. A printing press with Oriyá and English type was established in 1902 to celebrate the restoration of Oriyá as the court language of Sambalpur. Sambalpur possesses a high school with a boarding house and 33 students, a girls' school and Oriyá and Hindí branch schools. It has a main dispensary and police hospital.
