

# GAZETTEER

OF THE

## ORISSA FEUDATORY STATES.

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### PART II.

#### STATES.

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#### CHAPTER I.

#### ATHGARH STATE.

THE State of Athgarh lies between 20° 26' and 20° 41' N., and 84° 32' and 85° 52' E., with an area of 168 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Dhenkānāl State; on the east and south by Cuttack district; on the south the Mahānadi river forms the boundary between the State and the British district of Cuttack; and on the west by the States of Tigiriā and Dhenkānāl. The country is level, low-lying and very subject to inundation. The soil is fertile. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-03 to 1907-08 was 53·50 inches. The headquarters of the State are at Athgarh.

PHYSICAL  
ASPECTS.

This State is alleged to have originally extended on the east as far as *parganas* Cuttack Haveli and Dālijorā; on the west up to Tigiriā; on the north from Kapilās to Gobindpur, Baldiābandh, Nadiāli, Krishnaprasād, and Paschimeshwar temple; and on the south to Bānki, Domparā, Matri, and Patiā. Kakhari and Tapankhand were annexed by the Mughal rulers, and neighbouring Chiefs encroached upon the State from all sides. Parājān and Bajrakot were given away as *Amruta-manohi* (religious) endowments about 106 years ago. The Rājā of Dhenkānāl who married two of the daughters of the Chief of Athgarh obtained possession of most of the *mauzās* or villages of Majkuri Bisa, *i.e.*, from Kapilās temple *via* Krishnaprasād to

HISTORY.

Paschimeshwar temple. The family of the Chief of the Athgarh State belongs to the Karan caste of Orissa, and its recognised title is "Sri Karan Bawārta Patnaik." The founder of the State was Nilādri Bawārta Patnaik: he was the Bawārta or minister of the Puri Rājā, who conferred on him the title of Rājā, and gave him Athgarh as a reward for his services or, according to another account, as a dowry for marrying the Rājā's sister. The State is one of the ten States which entered into treaty engagements in 1803. From the time of the founder of the State up to date, twenty-nine Rājās are said to have held the *gadi*. The present Chief obtained in 1908, as a personal distinction, the title of Rājā Bahādur from the British Government. The emblem of the State is Rādhā Krishna.

THE  
PEOPLE.

The population increased from 36,603 in 1891 to 43,784 in 1901; of the latter number all but 643 are Hindus. The most numerous castes are the Chasās (10,000), Sahars (6,000) and Khandaits and Pāns (5,000 each). The average density of the population is 260 per square mile. It is distributed among 192 villages, of which the principal is Athgarh, the residence of the Rājā and situated on the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, in 20° 31' north latitude, and 85° 38' east longitude. The village of Gobrā lies near the eastern border of the State, in 20° 35' north latitude, and 85° 52' east longitude.

The census report of 1901 returned the population at 43,784 souls, classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 21,701, females, 21,440, total 43,141, or 98·5 per cent. of the total population of the State; proportion of males to total Hindu population, 50·3 per cent. Musalmāns—males, 149, females, 112, total 261, or 0·6 per cent. of the population; proportion of males to total Musalmāns, 57·1 per cent. Christians—males, 200, females, 182, total 382, or 0·8 per cent. of the population. Population of all denominations—males, 22,050, females, 21,734, total population of the State, 43,784: proportion of males to total population, 50·4 per cent. Number of literate persons in the State is 2,100 or 4·8 per cent. of the total population. Averages:—Villages per square mile, 1·14; persons per village, 228; houses per square mile, 52·4; houses per village, 45·9; persons per house, 5. The 192 villages are classified as follows:—171 with less than five hundred inhabitants, 17 with from five hundred to one thousand inhabitants, 3 with from one thousand to two thousand inhabitants and 1 with from two to five thousand inhabitants. Between 1830 and 1840, a number of people in the Athgarh State embraced Christianity, and the Baptist Mission at Cuttack in 1841 obtained a lease of 10 acres of jungle lands from the Rājā of Athgarh near

a village called Chhagān. There are now three Christian villages, Parbatīā, Kapatikiri and Arakhtāngar, with a population of nearly 400 souls, who live by agriculture as ryots of the Rājā, though they have their homesteads on Mission lands. In Parbatīā, there is a chapel and a boys' and girls' school. There are 5 Mission schools in the neighbouring Hindu villages.

The State maintains at the headquarters a charitable dispensary known as the Diamond Jubilee Hospital in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant. The number of indoor patients treated in 1907-08 was 6, and outdoor patients 7,439. Vaccination is making progress in the State and there were 2,089 primary vaccinations and 813 revaccinations in 1907-08. PUBLIC HEALTH.

The soil is fertile, but is liable to inundations from the Mahānadi. The cultivation consists chiefly of rice, sugarcane, of which very valuable crops are raised, pulses and millets. The country is for the most part open, and lends itself readily to cultivation: the villages are prosperous, rents are light and the cultivators are undoubtedly prosperous as a class, and excellent irrigation tanks and embankments are to be found in many of the villages. The Chief has opened an experimental farm and has done much to introduce the better classes of fine rice and the drought-resisting classes of *āus* paddy for high lands. There are no forests of real commercial value: the forest areas have long yielded to the spread of cultivation and cutting for export of fuel for sale in Cuttack. AGRICULTURE.

The average rates of assessment for 1st, 2nd and 3rd class rice lands per acre are Rs. 2-9-1, Rs. 2-4-11 and Rs. 2-0-9, respectively. During the period 1893-1902 the average daily wages of labour was:—superior mason, carpenter and blacksmith  $4\frac{3}{4}$  annas each; common mason, carpenter and blacksmith 4 annas each; and cooly 2 annas. During the same period the average price of wheat, rice, gram and salt was 9 seers 15 chittacks, 18 seers 5 chittacks,  $10\frac{3}{4}$  seers and  $12\frac{3}{4}$  seers, respectively. In 1906 and 1907 a very marked rise in prices occurred owing to advantageous exports to outside areas, where high prices were prevalent: the cultivators of the State benefiting largely from the good prices obtainable for their produce. Prices here have risen about 50 per cent. in the last 15 years with the advent of the railway through Orissa and the facilities thus offered for the ready disposal of surplus stocks. RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES.

The chief occupation of the people is agriculture. In this State there is no manufacture or trade worth mentioning. The principal exported articles are food-grains, oil-seeds, fuel, bamboo, tree cotton and other minor forest produce, and the principal OCCUPATIONS, MANUFACTURES AND TRADE.

imported articles are iron, kerosene oil, piece-goods, spices, salt and thread.

**MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.**

The State is traversed by the old high road from Cuttack to Sambalpur and the newly opened Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road. The Mahānadi river, which runs along the southern boundary, is readily navigable for large-sized boats, and great quantities of surplus grain, fuel and charcoal are thus cheaply and readily exported to Cuttack. There is a branch post office at the headquarters of the State.

**LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.**

The estimated land revenue in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 35,620. No cesses are levied in the State and there are no zamīndaris. The land tenure system is the same as in other States of the group formerly known as the Tributary Mahāls of Orissa: the system is based on the village headman known as the *sarbarāhkār*, who receives a commission on the collection of rents: there are the usual grants to members of the Rāj family in way of maintenance and the usual service *māfi* or free grants to the *paiks* (State militia) and others, together with the ordinary religious *debottar* and *brahmottar* grants.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.**

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the *sanad* granted in 1894, which was revised in 1908 and under which the State pays an annual tribute of Rs. 2,800, which is fixed: the Chief pays no *nazarāna* to Government on succession. The Chief carries on the administration of his State himself without any regular *Diwān* (chief executive officer) though he is assisted by his relations, one of whom practically serves as *Diwān*. The administration is on primitive and patriarchal lines, but is appreciated by the people. The total income in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 53,375: the Chief has recently adopted a regular budget system.

**Finances.**

The forest revenue in 1907-08 yielded Rs. 2,778, and as already noted the forests are of little or no importance in this State. Excise yielded a revenue of Rs. 6,562. The number of civil-suits for disposal was 892, all of a very petty nature, 88.5 per cent. being below the value of Rs. 50. In the year 1907-08 the number of cases reported to the police was 159. The police force consists of one Sub-Inspector, eight Head-Constables and 40 men: besides there are 335 *paiks* (State militia) holding service lands. The jail has accommodation for 10 prisoners and an extension of the jail is being undertaken. The daily average population was 10 in 1907-08. The State spent Rs. 6,340 on account of Public Works in 1907-08.

**Forest.**

**Excise.  
Civil justice.  
Crime.  
Police.**

**Jail.**

**Public Works Department.  
EDUCATION.**

There are 80 schools with 1,264 pupils. The Middle English school, two Upper Primary schools, one Girls' school, one

Sanskrit *tal* and 62 Lower Primary schools are maintained from the State funds, and the remaining 12 Lower Primary schools are private institutions. There is also one Government *Guru-Training* school. The State spent Rs. 1,047 on education and received from Government a grant of Rs. 2,112 in 1907-08; it also enjoys the services of a Government Sub-Inspector and of the Agency Inspector of Schools.