

CHAPTER XX.

RAIRAKHOL STATE.

PHYSICAL
ASPECTS.

THE State of Rairakhhol lies between 20° 56' and 21° 24' N., and between 83° 59' and 84° 53' E. It is bounded on the north by Bāmra State; on the east by Athmallik State and Angul district; on the west by the Sambalpur *khālsa*; and on the south by Sonpur State. It is of irregular formation, the extreme length, east and west, being some fifty miles, and the extreme breadth thirty miles. The total area is 833 square miles, of which some three-fifths are cultivated, the rest being forest and hills. The soil is light and sandy. There are *sāl* (*Shorea robusta*) forests in the State, and plenty of other useful timber for building purposes. There are no rivers; the principal streams are the Champāli and the Tikkirā, but they are insignificant. The State consists of a series of low hill ranges trending to the valley of the Mahānadi. Here and there higher isolated ridges are encountered; but, except towards the Bāmra border, there are no regular uplands. The country is for the most part covered with forest, which in the valleys is mostly of the nature of scrub-jungle. The hill-sides are, however, reserved and there is some fine timber on them. The commonest tree is *rengāl* or *sāl* (*Shorea robusta*); there is also a considerable quantity of *kendu* (ebony—*Diospyros melanoxylon*), *bijā* (*Pterocarpus Marsupium*) and some *sisū* (*Dalbergia Sissoo*). In many of the villages regular groves of mangoes are to be met with, and *mahuā* (*Bassia latifolia*) and *chār* (*Buchanania latifolia*) trees are common. The *harirā* (*Terminalia chebula*) or myrobalan, however, is comparatively scarce, and does not flourish here so well as in the Gāngpur and Bonai States. The valleys have all been cleared for rice lands, and the forests on the uplands rising from the valleys are cultivated as *gorā* or uplands (here known as *āt*). The area available for regular rice cultivation is small, and this, no doubt, accounts for the extensive cultivation of *gorā* or uplands. Between the boundaries of the different villages small patches of forest have been reserved. Iron ore of excellent quality is found in many places. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-03 to 1907-08 was 61.5 inches. The headquarters of

the State are at Rāmpur situated at a distance of 42 miles from the town of Sambalpur.

The State of Rairākhol is attached to the Sambalpur district. HISTORY. It was formerly a zamindāri, subordinate to Bāmra, but was made into an independent State, and constituted one of the Garhjat cluster, by the Patnā Chiefs, about a century and a half ago. The Chief is by caste a Chauhān Rājput. The State was not at first included in the list of Feudatory States in the Central Provinces. The Chief, however, was conspicuous for his loyalty in 1857, and in 1866 an adoption *sanad* was granted and in 1867 the State was recognised as a Feudatory State by the British Government and received a *sanad* accordingly. The State was transferred in October 1905 from the Central Provinces to the Orissa Division in Bengal. The late Chief Rājā Gaur Chandra Deva died in July 1906 and adopted the brother of the Chief of the Bonai State as his heir : the Chief is a minor and the State accordingly is under the administration of Government. The emblem of the State is *Sankha Padma* (conch shell and lotus).

The population in 1866 was returned at 25,000, and according THE to the census of 1901 it was 26,888. There has been but little PEOPLE. increase in population, the land being poor and unsuitable for any large agricultural population. The non-agricultural castes are Brāhmans, Rājputs, and Mahāntis. The main agricultural castes are Chasās (7,188), and Dumāls (1,026). The population of the State is classified as follows :—Hindus—males, 12,487, females, 11,877, total 24,364 or 90·6 per cent. of the total population ; proportion of males in total Hindus 51·2. Musalmāns—males, 52, females, 40, total 92 or 0·34 per cent. of the total population ; proportion of males in total Musalmāns, 56·5. Animists—males, 1,381, females, 1,044, total 2,425 or 9·02 per cent. of the total population ; proportion of males in total Animists, 56·9. Christian—*nil*. Sikhs, 7. The number of persons able to read and write is 281 or 1·05 per cent. of the total population. Averages :—Villages per square mile, 0·38 ; persons per village, 84 ; houses per square mile, 6·7 ; houses per village, 17·0 ; persons per house, 5. The State contains 319 villages which are classified as follows :—316 with less than five hundred inhabitants, 2 with from five hundred to one thousand inhabitants, and one with from one thousand to two thousand inhabitants.

This is the most sparsely populated State, except Bonai, amongst the States of Orissa, there being only 32 persons to the square mile.

There is a sprinkling of the cloth-manufacturing and artisan classes, chiefly iron-smelters and manufacturers of iron

implements. The principal castes are Gonds (2,653), Gandās (2,328), Sudhas (2,199), Khonds (1,757), Rāuts (1,633), and Kudās (1,383). Of these, Sudhas are amongst the wildest of the inhabitants of this State; they fell the forest on the hill-sides and burn it (*dāhi* cultivation); in the ashes they bury their seeds just at the break of the rain; they live in no regular villages, but each family lives separately over its own cultivation in small huts perched on stakes and from this coign of vantage they guard their crops from the ravages of wild animals. The Butkā Sudhas of this State are a very prominent race and they are supposed to have played a prominent part in the history of the Rairākhol State: they have several villages allotted to them and perform sacrifices for the Rāj family.

The people are naturally wild and jungly. They are a sturdy and well set up race. They obtain much in the way of supplies from the forests and eat the fruit of the *kendu*, *chār* and *mahuā* trees in considerable quantities. The country is very poorly watered, and there is little opportunity for irrigation. The people are well clad in home-spun raiment. They appear to be superior in material condition to the people of the Bonai State, which in natural features is not unlike Rairākhol, except that in the former State the valley of the Brāhmanī river where it flows through the State affords an area of good culturable land. Rairākhol, however, is shut off from the Mahānadi by the State of Sonpur. The rental is light, and the people cultivate also large areas of uplands.

PUBLIC
HEALTH

The State being covered for the most part with dense forest, it is malarious and new settlers suffer greatly from fever: the regular residents of the State, however, are fairly healthy. The people are particularly averse to vaccination and outbreaks of small-pox are frequent: visitations of cholera are also not uncommon. There is a dispensary at Rāmpur, the headquarters of the State, in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant: there is accommodation for indoor patients: the number of patients treated in 1907-08 was 8,845. Vaccination work is performed by the State free of cost to the people: the work is supervised by a Vaccination Inspector: revaccination was until recently practically unknown, but the prejudice against vaccination is being gradually overcome. In 1907-08 the number of primary vaccinations was 662 and that of revaccinations, 1,999.

AGRICUL-
TURE.

Soil.

The soil is not very fertile and the State carries a small population of only 32 persons to the square mile. Rice is the staple crop: pulses, cotton, oil-seeds and sugarcane are also cultivated. Nothing so far has been done to improve the varieties of crops grown or to introduce new crops. The kinds of soil found in the

State are:—(1) *Barmatā*—This is a soil which in ploughing is very adhesive, but in the hot weather quickly becomes dried and baked and will not retain its moisture. (2) *Khalā*—A greyish slippery soil which retains moisture. (3) *Baliā*—A sandy soil of poor value. (4) *Ruguriā*—This is a light sandy soil containing a great deal of *muram* or disintegrated laterite. It is mostly found on the upland cultivation. (5) *Pathariā*—An inferior stony soil. (6) *Pāluā*—This is a good clayey soil found mostly by the banks of streams.

The lands have been regularly measured by the chain for settlement purposes and recorded in acres and decimals. The people, however, still speak of so many *khandis* of land, *i.e.*, the quantity of seed required for sowing the lands, a *khandi* here being equal to about 20 seers. In this way a piece of land sown by one *khandi* (20 seers) is called *khandi-kut*.

The crops grown are as follows:—

Crops.

At *dhān* (upland paddy) viz.: (1) *Bāunsabūtā*, (2) *Sariā*, (3) *Kuliā*, (4) *Chāulamānji*; these are sown in the month of *Ashādha*, *i.e.*, from the 15th June and reaped in the month of *Dasharā*, *i.e.*, from the 15th September. *Gulji*, *rendo*, and *kāngosuān* are also grown on *āt* land and sown in the beginning of the rainy-season, and reaped in the month of *Ashwin*, *i.e.*, by the 15th September.

Dhān (paddy) of inferior quality. (1) *Mālkanhāi*, (2) *Bāunsanakhi*, (3) *Hiran*, (4) *Dholmātiā*, (5) *Kusumapunār*, (6) *Kharakoili*, (7) *Champā*, (8) *Mānkiri*, (9) *Mālguthi*, (10) *Badyarāj*, (11) *Baniākonti*, (12) *Bātharāj*, (13) *Mugdhi*. All these varieties are sown in the months of *Jyaishtha* and *Ashādha*, *i.e.*, in June and July. The sowing of *dhān* (rice) during these months is known as *kharadi* sowing and *batari* sowing. They are reaped in the months of *Dasharā* and *Kārttik*, that is, by the 15th September.

Dhān (paddy) of superior quality. (1) *Sunāpāni*, (2) *Jhalakākeri*, (3) *Chināmāl*, (4) *Pipalbāsh*, (5) *Rādihābhog*, (6) *Krishnakalā*, (7) *Makarkām*, (8) *Jhiliparāgi*, (9) *Lakshmibhog*, (10) *Sagaradhuli*, (11) *Nāgpuri*, (12) *Gandmāl*, (13) *Rādihābullabh*. These varieties are sown in the months of *Jyaishtha*, *Ashādha* and *Shrābana*, *i.e.*, in the months of June and July, and are transplanted. The transplantation is known as *achharā*. The harvest is reaped in the month of *Mārgashira*, *i.e.*, by the 15th November.

Mustard seed (1) *Bhadoi* mustard: the variety sown in the beginning of the month of *Ashādha*, *i.e.*, so soon as the rain falls, is called *bhadoi* mustard, and is reaped in the month of *Bhādraba*, *i.e.*, August. (2) *Māghi* mustard: this variety which is sown in the month of *Bhādraba*, *i.e.*, in the month of

August, is called *māghi*; mustard being reaped in the month of Māgh. *Birhi*, *kulthi*, *mūga* (pulse), *barāi* (pulse). Sugar-cane is planted in the month of Phālguna, *i.e.*, in February, and *gur* (molasses) is prepared in the month of Paush, *i.e.*, in December.

RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.

The assessment is very light and the average rates paid per acre for regular rice or lowlands are, first class (*bāhāl*) Re. 1-4-6, second class (*bernā*) Re. 1-2-0, third class (*māl*) Re. 0-9-9: uplands are assessed at an average rate of Re. 0-7-9. There are special rates for sugarcane lands (*barchhā*), *viz.*, Rs. 3-2. The three divisions of lowlands are each subdivided into four classes according as they are favourably situated for irrigation or naturally retain the rainfall: the uplands are similarly divided into four classes. Uplands, on which catch-crops are raised every second or third year by burning the scrub-jungle, pay at the rate of two annas per acre.

The labouring classes in this State are divided as follows:— (1) *Gutis*.—These receive a monthly wage in kind and after the harvest they receive from 2 *purugs* (8 maunds) to 2 *purugs* 4 *khandis* (10 maunds) according to the character of the harvest; this is known as their *nistār* (yearly reward) or *bartan*. They also receive three pieces of cloth annually. Their engagements date from 1st Māgh (January-February). (2) *Kuthiās*.—These people are given no monthly wage, but feed in their master's house; they get as their *nistār* or yearly reward after the harvest from 1 *purug* (4 maunds) to 1 *purug* 2 *khandis* (5 maunds) of unhusked rice, and they also receive three pieces of cloth. Their duties mainly are to act as herdsmen and assist the *gutis*. They are also engaged from 1st Māgh. (3) *Khamāris*.—This is a superior class and they act as head labourers or foremen in charge of the classes mentioned above; they receive monthly wages in kind and a yearly *nistār* or reward of 3 *purugs* (12 maunds) of paddy and 4 pieces of cloth.

Average wages given in late years to different kinds of workmen are:—Superior mason and carpenter, 10 annas each; common mason and carpenter, 4 annas each; superior blacksmith, 6 annas; common blacksmith, 3 annas; and ordinary cooly, 1½ anna. There has been a steady tendency to a rise in the wages of superior workmen. The average price during late years of rice, *mūga*, *urid*, *kulthi* and salt has been 20 seers, 12 seers, 24 seers, 60 seers and 10 seers respectively.

A measure called *bhuti tāmbi* containing about 1½ seer when rice is measured and about 1 seer when unhusked rice (*dhān*) is measured is in use here.

The scale is as follows:—

20 <i>Tāmbis</i> = 1 <i>Khandi</i> (=about 20 seers)	} Paddy (unhusked rice) is measured by this standard.
8 <i>Khandis</i> = 1 <i>Purug</i> (=about 160 seers)	
8 <i>Tāmbis</i> = 1 <i>Kutā</i> (=10 seers)	} This is the measurement for <i>chāul</i> (rice).
8 <i>Kutās</i> = 1 <i>Pastamā</i> (=80 seers)	

The principal occupation of the people is agriculture. Of the total population 60 per cent. live on agriculture; 30 per cent. follow professions; 0·50 per cent. live on iron smelting; 0·50 per cent. live on trade; 1 per cent. are engaged on sleeper and timber works and the balance work as field-labourers, State servants, etc.

OCCUPA-
TIONS,
MANUFAC-
TURES AND
TRADE.

There is a very considerable manufacture of iron in this State. Notwithstanding that iron ore is so plentiful throughout the Sambalpur district, this is the only part of it where smelting is carried on to any extent. Here there are some eight or ten villages, the inhabitants of which are constantly thus employed. Traders from Cuttack come up periodically and carry off the iron on pack-bullocks. The State derives no income from the trade; the smelters used merely to give to the State a very trifling tax for the right to work up the ore, but this tax has recently been abolished in order to encourage the industry. It is said that the iron is of very good quality, and that traders make a large profit by its sale. The smelters receive considerable advances from the traders. The rearing of tussler silk cocoons in the State forests is a local industry, as is also the extraction of catechu. There is little or no export of food-grains from the State: but there is a small trade in oil-seeds, forest products, and labour is employed in working for the sleeper contractors. The principal imported articles are spices, salt, tobacco and kerosene oil.

There is an excellent road from Sambalpur to Rāmpur, the headquarters of the State, and then on to the borders of the Athmallik State. This is the main Sambalpur-Cuttack road. There are good surface roads from Rāmpur to Bāmra and to the Sonpur border near the Mahānadī, giving communication with Sonpur. The main road of the State passes across the watershed and is naturally of steep gradients. This road is largely used for the export of sleepers from the State and the neighbouring State of Athmallik. There is a small rest-house at Mochibāhāl on the road at the border of the State and the Sambalpur district and a good inspection bungalow is under construction at the headquarters. The Imperial post plies daily between Sambalpur and Rāmpur, there being a branch post office at Rāmpur, the headquarters of the State.

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The land revenue administration is similar in many respects to that of the Sambalpur district: the rules for the administration of revenue affairs framed by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces in 1889 for the States are in force. The last settlement was made by the late Chief in 1905 for a period of ten years and the current demand is Rs. 21,354. There are no zamindaris in the State.

The land revenue is collected with moderation; remission is granted where land has deteriorated or gone out of cultivation; *taccavi* loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act are given at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to struggling villages, and if they cannot pull round the rental is revised. The cesses (dispensary and school) are assessed together at 2 annas per rupee of rent. The payments of *tika*, a voluntary offering of one rupee are made on two occasions, viz., in Shrabana at the Rakhi Purnima and in Paush.

In this State the villages are leased out to—(1) *garhatiās*, (2) *pradhāns* and *gaontiās*, who are chiefly found in the eastern area of the State. These have no right to mortgage or sell their villages; they are not ousted so long as they do not misconduct themselves or fall into arrears. The *bhogrā* lands assigned to them as village headmen and collectors of the State revenue are lands equivalent in value to one-fifth of the total rental of the village. The difference between the status of the two classes is that the former, *garhatiās*, do not pay *tika* which the *pradhāns* and *gaontiās* have to pay; the former, however, have to come with their men to guard the Chief's palace when he is away and furnish the Chief when travelling with escorts and are the heads of the villages which furnish the State militia (*paiks*). There are the usual maintenance, service and religious grants in the State. It is usual to assess *māfi* (free) grants to a small *tanki* or quit-rent at each settlement until the lands are gradually resumed.

GENERAL
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

Powers.

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the provision of the *sanad* of 1867. The State pays a tribute liable to revision and which in 1909 was fixed at Rs. 2,000 for thirty years: the State is also liable to pay *nazarāna* (succession fees) under the rules. The Chief has full criminal and civil powers, but capital sentences require confirmation by the Commissioner of the Orissa Division. The State is now under administration of Government with a Superintendent in direct charge under the control of the Political Agent: he is assisted by a *Tahsildār* who has magisterial powers as well as being a revenue and executive officer. The administration is conducted to suit

the conditions of the people and though not on advanced lines it is run on modern systems. The total estimated revenue of the State in 1907-08 was Rs. 69,744: excluding land revenue the principal sources of income are forests, from which in 1907-08 the revenue was Rs. 27,970: sleeper operations are carried on by a contractor: firewood, thatching grass, bamboos, *lodh*, lac, tusser cocoons, catechu, resin, wax and honey yield a small income. The tenants pay the usual commutation fee, here called *nistār*, for the right to cut third class timber for their agricultural and domestic needs, including *sāl* for use for ploughs. The State is, for the most part of its area, thickly covered with forests. At one time apparently it contained a considerable quantity of valuable *sāl*; with the advance of the railway much of this has now been cut, and practically sleeper operations are now confined to the timber to be found on the hill sides, all trees fit for sleepers having been cut away from the valleys and uplands. The value of the forests as a source of revenue has been recognised and a distinction has been made between the forests falling within and without the village boundaries. In the former area the people can obtain wood for agricultural and domestic purposes on payment of the usual *nistār* levied at 4 annas and 2 annas respectively on cultivators and artisans as the case may be. If wood is taken from the reserved area, the regular forest rates have to be paid and passes obtained and the rates prevailing in Angul have been adopted. There is no regular excise staff in the State. The arrangements and conditions under which opium is supplied from Sambalpur are the same as in the case of the other Feudatory States attached to the Sambalpur district. *Ganja* is obtained from Nimār. The number of liquor shops in the State is not excessive and only averages one to every 36 square miles. There is no restriction on the brewing of *hāndā* (rice-beer) for home consumption. The excise revenue in the year 1907-08 amounted to Rs 7,492. The *habbān pattī* or marriage tax is levied on the occasion of marriages in the family of the Chief; there is no demand however on the occasion of deaths in the family. The hide lease is given out as a monopoly: the tenants' interests are protected by their being allowed to keep such skins as they need for domestic and agricultural purposes: the rates fixed for payment for the hides by the contractor are reasonable and cattle-killing for the sake of the hide is rare. There was formerly a monopoly for the purchase of iron; but in the interest of the industry this has been abolished. The number of civil suits for disposal during the year 1907-08 was 314: these were generally of a petty nature. Crime is light.

Finances.

Forests.

Excise.

Taxes.

Mono-
polies.Civil
justice.
Crime.

Police.

but effectively dealt with. There is a regular police force, consisting of 7 Head-Constables and 28 constables in charge of an officer from the British police force. The jail is not quite suitable for present requirements and is being rebuilt. There are good public offices and buildings at the headquarters, and the public works are locally in charge of a Sub-Overseer under the Agency Executive Engineer.

Jail.

Public
Works
Depart-
ment.EDUCA-
TION.

Education is very backward in the State and endeavours are being made to open more schools, the number of schools in 1907-08 being 5: in 1907-08 only 282 pupils were on the rolls: a separate girls' school has recently been opened at the headquarters and there are signs of a growing interest among the better class of agriculturists in education, and during the year 1908-09 the number of schools has increased to 13. There is a good school house at Rāmpur. A Sub-Inspector of Schools has been recently appointed to promote the cause of education. The State enjoys the services of the Agency Inspector of Schools and contributes towards the cost of that officer's establishment.