

## CHAPTER XXIV.

## TIGIRIA STATE.

THE State of Tigiriā lies between 20° 24' and 20° 32' N., and 85° 26' and 85° 35' E. It is the smallest of the Orissa States, having an area of only 46 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Dhenkānāl State; on the east by Athgarh State; on the south by the Mahānadi river; and on the west by the Barāmbā State. The country for the most part is open and level and well cultivated except among the small area of hills and forests to the north. The climate is healthy: no record exists of the rainfall, but it is approximately the same as that of the neighbouring State of Barāmbā. The Mahānadi flows along the entire length of the southern border. The headquarters of the State are at Tigiriā.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

According to tradition the founder of this State, Nityānanda Tunga, and his younger brother are said to have come originally on a pilgrimage to Purī, where they remained in the hope of receiving some favour from the God. The elder brother was one day advised in a dream to hold the kingdom of Trigruhiyā to the west on the bank of the river Chitrotpalā in Purī by expelling its Chief who was an infidel. Nityānanda Tunga accordingly went there, and founded the State in the year 1246 A.D. It is alleged that the area of the State was gradually contracted by maintenance and dowry grants: the maintenance-holders eventually placing their grants within the jurisdiction of neighbouring Chiefs.

HISTORY.

It is stated that the Chief of Tigiriā assisted the Marāthā *Sūbahdār*, Chimnaji, against the Chief of Dhenkānāl. In recognition of this good service the Marāthās are said to have granted to Rājā Sankarsan a *sanad* conferring on him the title of *Mahā-pātra* and declaring that the tribute then paid by him should remain unchanged. They further declared that the Rājā whenever he went on a journey should be accompanied by men and elephants with a black flag, drum, bugle, &c., and the Chief observes this custom to the present day. The Chief of Tigiriā assisted the Rājā of Orissa in defeating the rebellious Chief of Bānpur.

One of the Chiefs, Jagannāth Champati Singh, assisted the Rājā of Orissa against the Rājā of Domparā and was rewarded with the service of *Bara Parichhā* in the temple of Jagannāth at Puri, a privilege which the family enjoys in perpetuity. The name Tigiriā is apparently a corruption of *Tigiri* or "three hills": another derivation assigns the name of the State from the fact of its having consisted of three divisions defended by three forts (*tri garh*). Extensive domains were carved out of this State by neighbouring Chiefs in the time of the Marāthās. The Chief claims to be of the Kshatriya caste; his emblem of signature is the Five Weapons (*śastra pancha*).

THE  
PEOPLE.

The population increased from 20,546 in 1891 to 22,625 in 1901; it is contained in 102 villages. Tigiriā, though the smallest, is the most densely peopled of the Orissa States, supporting a population of 492 to the square mile. Hindus number 22,184. The most numerous caste is the Chasā (7,000); and next to them rank the Pāns (1,694). The total population is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 10,971, females, 11,213, the Hindus thus form 98·05 per cent. of the population, proportion of males in total Hindus, 49·5 per cent.: Musalmāns—males, 218, females, 223, forming 1·9 per cent. of the population, proportion of males in total Musalmāns 49·4 per cent. There are no Christians in the State. The percentage of literates to the total population is 4·8. Averages—the number of villages per square mile, is 2·2; houses per village, 46·95; persons per village, 221; houses per square mile, 104; persons per house, 4·7. The 102 villages in the State are classified as follows:—94 with less than five hundred inhabitants, 5 with from five hundred to a thousand, 2 with from one to two thousand, and 1 with from two to five thousand. The people are well-to-do.

PUBLIC  
HEALTH.

There is no charitable dispensary in the State and the people attend at the Government dispensary at Bānki on the opposite bank of the Mahānadi to which the Chief makes a small subscription. There is, however, a medical hall at the headquarters for the supply of country medicines. Vaccination is carried on by licensed vaccinators trained at the Cuttack Medical School: vaccination is very backward, and in 1907-08 there were only 129 cases of primary vaccination and no case of revaccination.

AGRICUL-  
TURE.

The State is highly cultivated and besides the usual coarse rice and grains, produces excellent crops of oil-seeds, sugarcane, tobacco and cotton: the State has, however, made no attempt to introduce improved seed grain or new varieties of crops.

RENTS,  
WAGES,  
AND  
PRICES.

Rents are very low as compared with those prevailing in the neighbourhood. The average rate per acre for first, second

and third class lands is Re. 0-15-7½, Re. 0-8-10¼ and Re. 0-4-7¼ respectively and for uplands, Re. 0-4-7. During the ten years from 1893 to 1902 there has been a general tendency to a rise in the rates of wages. The average daily wage during that period for a common carpenter has been 3½ annas, for common blacksmith, 4½ annas, and for a cooly, 1½ annas respectively. During the same period the average rate for wheat and rice has been 8½ seers and 14⅞ seers respectively.

The principal occupation of the people is agriculture. There is a considerable manufacture of cotton cloth of superior quality, which is largely exported to the neighbouring States. There is also a large trade in sugarcane, cotton, oil-seeds and tobacco.

OCCUPA-  
TIONS,  
MANUFAC-  
TURES AND  
TRADE.

The Mahānadi affords ample facilities for transport: the main road from Cuttaek to Narsinghpur and Barāmbā passes within half a mile of the headquarters. Postal communications are carried on *via* Bānki, but there is no post office in the State.

MEANS OF  
COMMUNI-  
CATION.

No settlement has been made in this State for a great number of years. The current land revenue demand amounts to Rs. 7,405 and is readily collected. No cesses are levied in the State and there are no zamindāris. Transfers, sales and mortgages of holdings are supposed not to be allowed.

LAND  
REVENUE  
ADMINIS-  
TRATION.

The *sanad* of 1894, which was revised in 1908, regulates the relations between the State and the British Government and an annual tribute of Rs. 882 is paid. The administration of the State is far less advanced than that of the other States in Orissa and the income of the State is very limited. The Chief, assisted by a *Divān*, administers the State on old fashioned lines and the development of the State is very backward. The estimated revenue of the State is Rs. 10,000: forest yielded in 1907-08 Rs. 360 and excise Rs. 2,276. The number of civil suits instituted during the year 1907-08 was 70; crime is light in the State; in 1907-08 56 cases were reported to the police. The police force consists of one Sub-Inspector, one Chief Constable, one Head-Constable and nine constables. There is a very small jail.

GENERAL  
ADMINIS-  
TRATION.  
Finances.

Forests  
and  
Excise.  
Civil  
justice.  
Crime.  
Police  
and Jail.

The State maintains an Upper Primary and 25 Lower Primary schools: there are also three private elementary schools and a Sanskrit *tal* in the State. Education is exceedingly backward: in 1907-08 there were only 494 pupils on the rolls. The State receives a grant from Government towards primary education.

EDUCA-  
TION.