

## CHAPTER IV.

## BARAMBA STATE.

## PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

THE State of Barāmbā lies between 20° 21' and 20° 31' N., and 85° 12' and 85° 31' E., with an area of 134 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Hindol State; on the east by the Tigiriā State; on the south by Cuttack district and Khandparā State (the boundary line being formed by the Mahānadi river); and on the west by the Narsinghpur State. Kanakā peak (2,038 feet), the highest point of a hill range of the same name, is situated on the northern border of the State.

The country for the most part is open and flat and the soil is very fertile: the tract along the Mahānadi river is constantly liable to inundation and the riverain villages are frequently damaged by large deposits of sand and silt. The only hills of any importance are those on the northern border of the State. The average rainfall for the six years—from 1902-03 to 1907-08—was 53.43 inches. The headquarters of the State are at Barāmbā.

## HISTORY.

The history of the Barāmbā State is alleged according to the family tradition to commence from the year 1305 A.D. with Hatakeswar Raut, a famous wrestler who served Kishor Narsingh, the Rājā of Orissa, and in recognition of his valour was presented with two Khond villages by name Sankha (conch shell) and Mohuri (pipe) on the north bank of the Mahānadi river, three miles south of the present headquarters. These two villages were then owned and inhabited by Khonds. Hatakeswar drove them away and settled in Barāmbā, which has since been the residence of all the Chiefs of the State. The area of the two villages when they were presented by the Orissa Rājā in all probability never exceeded four square miles. The founder, however, extended the limit of his possession to about eight square miles before he died, leaving his younger brother Malakeswar Raut to succeed him.

The second Chief, Malakeswar Raut, who held his *gadi* for 18 years, extended the limit of the State to Ogalpur, about three miles west and five miles south-west of Barāmbā. He discovered the temple of the goddess Vattārikā or Bruhadamba or Baramā at

Ogālpur, and out of respect for this goddess named the State after her. Jambeswar Rāut, the fourth Chief, who held his *gadi* from A.D. 1375 to 1416, conquered the Khond Chief of Khāroth, eight miles north-west of Barāmbā, and annexed his lands (about 20 square miles), thus raising the area of the State to about 26 square miles. The fifth Chief, Bholeswar Raut, conquered the Khandait or Chief of Amātia, six miles west of Barāmbā, and extended the limit of the State to Ratāpāt, eight miles west of the headquarters, and the present boundary between the Barāmbā and Narsinghpur States. It was during the time of this Chief, who held his *gadi* for 43 years (from A.D. 1416 to 1459) that the farthest western limit of the State was reached. His successors increased their possessions to the east of the headquarters, but made no attempt to extend the State further on the west. Kānha Rāut, the sixth Chief, held his *gadi* for 55 years (from A.D. 1459 to 1514), and extended the limit of the State to Mahuliā, about five miles east of Barāmbā. Nabin Rāut, the ninth Chief, held his *gadi* for 23 years (from A.D. 1537 to 1560). During his time the State attained its largest limit from Ratāpāt in the west, to Bidhārpur in the east, 18 miles, and from the range of hills separating Hindol from Barāmbā to the banks of the Mahānadi, about eight-and-a-half miles, the present limit of the State. During the time of the twelfth Chief, Krishna Chandra Mangrāj, who held the *gadi* from A.D. 1635 to 1650, the Marāthās invaded the country; the Chief acknowledging their supremacy was required to pay a tribute of 6,335 *kāśā* of cowries per annum. Padmanāva Birabar Mangrāj Mahāpātra, the seventeenth Chief of the State, was a weak ruler; he held the *gadi* from A.D. 1748 to 1793. During the first part of the period during which he held his *gadi* the Rājā of Khandparā invaded the State, drove out the Chief, and remained in possession of the State for nearly 13 months. Rājā Padmanāva sought for and obtained the assistance of the Rājā of Khairā, and recovered possession of the State. In the year 1175, the Rājā of Narsinghpur invaded the State and took possession of two of its important forts, Khāroth and Ratāpāt. The Rājā was powerless to expel the invaders, so he appealed to the Marāthās, and with their assistance and intercession was able to regain possession of the forts. This account is taken from the family traditions, but there are no authentic records.

It seems that the Mughals never exercised direct supremacy over the Chiefs of this State. The Marāthās however did so, and there are letters extant which show that they fixed the annual tribute of the State from the year 1776 to 1778 A.D. and

collected the same directly from the Chief. There are also three other old letters of interest in the records. In one of these the Marāthās intimated their having recovered the Ratāpāt *garh* (fort) from the Narsinghpur Rājā; in another they required the presence of the Barāmbā Rājā to settle a boundary dispute between Barāmbā and Narsinghpur; the third is addressed to the Rājā of Narsinghpur, and contains the decision of the Marāthā Government regarding the possession of Khārodh and Ratāpāt. The State has no *farmān* either from the Mughals or from the Marāthā Government. The emblem of signature is a dog metamorphosed into a lion, a heraldic monster that took its origin in a story belonging to the time of the first founder, when a dog killed a tiger.

THE  
PEOPLE.

The population increased from 32,526 in 1891 to 38,260 in 1901, of whom 37,441 are Hindus. A few Buddhists are still found in one or two villages. The most numerous castes are Chasās (11,000) and Pāns (4,600). The population is contained in 181 villages, and there are 285 persons to the square mile.

The population is classified as follows:—Hindus—males, 18,393, females, 19,048, total of Hindus 37,441, or 97·8 per cent. of the population; proportion of males in total Hindus, 49·0 per cent. Musalmāns—males, 60, females, 56, total of Musalmāns, 116 or 0·3 per cent. of the population; proportion of males in total Musalmāns, 51·7 per cent. Christians, *nil*. Other denominations—Buddhist—males, 360, females, 343, total, 703 or 1·8 per cent. of the population; proportion of males in total others, 51·2 per cent. Total population of the State 38,260; proportion of males in total population, 49·1 per cent. The number of persons able to read and write is 1,675 or 4·4 per cent. of the total population. Averages—villages per square mile, 0·74; persons per village, 211; houses per village, 43·8; houses per square mile, 59·1; persons per house, 4·8. The census report of 1901 returns 167 villages, with less than five hundred inhabitants, 13 with from five hundred to a thousand, and one with from one to two thousand.

PUBLIC  
HEALTH.

There is a dispensary at headquarters in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant: 2,926 patients were treated in 1907-08: this figure includes 2 indoor patients: besides this the Vaccination Sub-Inspector treated 1,298 patients. Vaccination work is in charge of a special Civil Hospital Assistant, who renders medical aid in the interior, and attends to village sanitation. In the year 1907-08 the number of primary vaccinations was 756 and re-vaccinations, 588.

The soil is very fertile, and the lands are well cultivated. The principal crop is paddy, of which several good varieties are grown : in most of the villages, there are fine mango groves : sugarcane is extensively cultivated, and is a very valuable and paying crop to the people of the State.

The assessment of rent is light. The average rate per acre for uplands being Re. 0-11-4 for *padar* land and Re. 0-3-1 for *toila* land and for the three classes of rice land, Rs. 2-12-11, Rs. 2-2-6 and Re. 1-2-8. The rate of daily wages during the ten years from 1893 to 1902 has averaged as follows: superior mason, 5½ annas, common mason, 3¾ annas; superior carpenter, 6 annas, common carpenter, 3 annas; cooly, 1¾ annas; superior blacksmith, 6 annas, common blacksmith, 2¾ annas: the rate of wages has remained practically stationary during this period. The average price of wheat, rice, gram and salt during the same period has averaged respectively 12½, 22½, 21¾ and 10 seers per rupee.

Nearly 75 per cent. of the total population live on agriculture, and of the remainder nearly 10 per cent. follow commerce. The State possesses no particular manufactures or trade. A colony of Buddhists inhabiting the village of Māniābandha weave silk *sāris* and silk cloth of fine texture and artistic patterns: the cloth is well dyed. The trade consists in the export of grain, pulses, molasses, oil-seeds, timber, bamboos, firewood, and other forest produce to Cuttack. The principal imported articles are spices, mill-cloths, salt, kerosene oil, iron, brass and bell-metal utensils. Bi-weekly trading fair is held at Māniābandha which is situated on the Mahānadi.

The Mahanadi affords excellent water carriage, and logs of timber and bamboos are floated down the river to Cuttack and Purī districts. A good fair-weather road connects Barāmbā with Narsinghpur on one side and Tigiriā on the other, and joins the old Cuttack-Sambalpur road above Sankarpur in the Dhenkānāl State.

There are four branch roads, viz.: Sasāng road towards Khandparā, 3 miles in length; Abhimanpur-Bhāupur road towards Dhenkānāl, 3 miles; the Bāngarsingā road, 6 miles in length, towards Bānki in the Cuttack district and the Gopināthpur road to Baideswar in Cuttack, 3 miles in length. There is a branch post office at the headquarters.

The land revenue administration follows the same system as the other States of Orissa. The village headmen, known as *sarbarāhkārs*, hold their villages for the period of settlement and are remunerated by a cash commission on the village rental. The *sarbarāhkārs* formerly enjoyed service lands for their duties as

AGRICULTURE.

RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES.

OCCUPATIONS, MANUFACTURES AND TRADE.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

headmen and collectors of rent. The headman is responsible for the rent of the village and he cannot obtain from the State a certificate against defaulting tenants until he has paid in all the dues. The last settlement was concluded in 1906-07 during the period the State was under the administration of Government. The land revenue demand in 1907-08 was Rs. 30,469.

GENERAL  
ADMINIS-  
TRATION.

The relations between the State and the British Government are governed by the *sanads* of 1894 and of 1908. For several years the State was under Government management owing to the minority of the Chief, but the administration has recently been handed over to him. The State yielded a revenue of Rs. 41,149 in 1907-08 and pays a tribute of Rs. 1,397 to the British Government. A regular Forest Department has been organised under a trained Forester: wasteful felling has been controlled and regular forest rules introduced together with a fuel cess levied at one anna per acre of cultivated lands. The forest income in 1907-08 was Rs. 3,537. The revenue from excise amounted in 1907-08 to Rs. 1,524.

Finances.

Forests.

Excise.

Civil  
justice.

Crime.

Police.

Jails.

The number of suits instituted during the year 1907-08 was 136. There were 242 cases reported to the police in 1907-08: and there is practically no heinous crime. The police force consists of one Sub-Inspector, three Head-Constables and 16 constables besides *paiks* (State militia) and *chaukidars* (village watchmen). The State possesses a suitable masonry jail with accommodation for 24 prisoners: the daily average population in 1907-08 was 11.57.

Public  
Works  
Depart-  
ment.

A considerable expenditure on public works was incurred in 1906-07, viz., Rs. 17,932; the expenditure was chiefly on irrigation embankments, tanks and the upkeep of the roads: the department is under the charge of a qualified Overseer. In 1907-08 the expenditure on public works was Rs. 6,264.

Educa-  
tion.

The schools in the State consist of one Middle Vernacular, three Upper Primary, including one girls' school, fifty-five Lower Primary and one Sanskrit *tal*. There are also three private schools. The number of pupils attending was 977 in 1907-08: there has been a steady improvement in the popularity of education throughout the State. The State receives a grant-in-aid for primary education from Government.