

CHAPTER XVI.

NAYAGARH STATE.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS. THE Nayāgarh State is situated between $19^{\circ} 53'$ and $20^{\circ} 20'$ N., and $84^{\circ} 48'$ and $85^{\circ} 15'$ E., with an area of 588 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Khandparā State and Puri district; on the east by Ranpur State; on the south by Puri district; and on the west by Daspallā State and the Madras district of Ganjām. A splendid range of hills, varying from 2,000 to 2,500 feet in height, runs through the centre of the State. The south and south-eastern portions of the State are very hilly and incapable of tillage, but elsewhere there are wide-spread tracts of highly cultivated lands. A chain of hills rising abruptly surrounds the southern and eastern boundaries of the State in the form of a semi-circle. The hill ranges are at places alternated by small peaks but the chain is nowhere broken: on the lower slopes thick forests of bamboos are found. In the valleys there are rich forests of timber. *Sāl* (*Shorea robusta*), *piāsāl* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) and *sisu* (*Dalbergia Sissoo*) abound with *kendu* (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) and *gamlār* (*Gmelina arborea*). The silt from the hills is deposited annually with the setting in of the monsoon and furnishes rich material for the luxuriant growth of valuable trees. In the plain country the lands are all undulating and readily lend themselves to irrigation. The average rainfall for the six years from 1902-03 to 1907-08, was 56.47 inches. The State is traversed by numerous streams taking their rise in the hill tracts: these streams eventually discharge into the Kusumi which flows from west to east and thence to the north, meeting the Mahānadi in the Khandparā State. The streams are all fordable throughout the year except immediately after a heavy downpour when they come into sudden spate but fall again in the brief space of an hour or two. There are numerous natural springs in the northern part of the State, which protect this area from scarcity. The headquarters of the State are at Nayāgarh.

HISTORY. According to tradition the founder of the family was one Sūryamani Singh from Rewah in the Central Provinces. He established a *garh* (fort) at a place called Gunānati in Nayāgarh.

He was elected by the people of the country as their Chief and received from them in marriage a daughter of a Māli, *i.e.*, a gardener, who was the priest of the village goddess. On her death he married again, a Kshattriya bride, whose descendants have since held the *gadi* of the two States of Nayāgarh and Khandparā. Two or three generations afterwards the limits of the State were extended from Gunānati to the present capital of Nayāgarh. The fourth Chief established a *garh* (fort) at Nayāgarh, and still further extended his dominions. The twelfth Chief extended his boundaries by waging war with the Chiefs of Bauā, Ranpur, Bānpur and Gumsur. He gave Nayāgarh to his eldest son, Khandparā to his second son, Lakshmīprasād to his third son: the third son dying heirless, Lakshmīprasād was again included in Nayāgarh, and the boundaries of Nayāgarh and Khandparā as then fixed have remained unchanged. The twenty-third Chief was the last of the lineal descendants of Sūryamani Singh. He held the *gadi* for 12 months, and was succeeded by Rājā Raghunāth Singh, a blood relation, who died without heirs in 1897, and on his death-bed authorized his younger Rāni to adopt a son. The present Chief was accordingly adopted from a family related by marriage. None of the Chiefs appear to have received any *farmān* from the Mughals or Marāthās. Raghujī Bhonslā, Mahārājā of Nāgpur, bestowed the gift of a flag on the Chief, and after the conquest of Orissa, the Chief, for the assistance rendered by him, received an elephant and a cannon. The emblem of the State is a tiger's head.

The total population of the State according to the census of 1901 is 140,779, or a density of 239 persons per square mile. Hindus constitute 95·18 per cent., Animists 4·40 per cent., and Musalmāns 0·42 per cent., of the total population: there are 9 Christians. Proportion of males of all classes in total population is 49·58 per cent. Hindus—males, 66,341, females, 67,654, total 133,995; proportion of males in total Hindus, 49·51 per cent. Musalmān—males, 356, females, 229, total 585; proportion of males in total Musalmāns, 60·85 per cent. Animists—males, 3,094, females, 3,096, total 6,190. The number of persons able to read and write is 12,013 or 8·5 per cent of the total population. Averages—villages per square mile, 1·3; persons per village, 181·6; houses per square mile, 49·3; houses per village, 37·4; persons per square mile, 239; persons per house, 4·9. The State contains 775 villages which are classified as follows:—734 villages with less than five hundred inhabitants, 32 with from five hundred to one thousand inhabitants, 7 with from

THE
PEOPLE.

sone thousand to two thousand inhabitants and 2 with two thousand to five thousand inhabitants. The people may be divided into the following general groups according to their occupations :—

(1) Agricultural (85,447), including Chasās, Sudhas, Golās, Telingās, Rājus, Bauris, Khadāls, and Pāns. They represent 60·7 per cent. of the total population. (2) Religious, Literary and Titular including Brāhmans, Ksuattriyas, Karans, Khandaits, Rājputs, Mālis and Vaishnavas. They represent 12 per cent. of the total population. (3) Traders (14,077), including Vaisya, Guriās, Kumutis, Telis, Sunris (or Sundis), Pātrās, Thorias, Gandha Baniks and Baniyās. They form 10 per cent. of the total population. (4) Village servants (8,446), including Bhandāris, Kāmārs, Kumhārs and Dhobās. They constitute 6 per cent. of the total population. (5) General artisans (4,223), including Kānsāris, Tāntis, Kharurās and Khairās. They constitute 3 per cent. of the total population. (6) Miscellaneous (11,685) about 9 per cent. of the population follow minor occupations. All the castes, except the Brāhmans, Karans, Khandaits and Kshattriyas, have their respective caste committees which sit once or twice a year and decide all social and religious questions. The penalties inflicted by the committees are in the shape of fines, or corporal punishment. Widow-marriage obtains among all castes except the Brāhmans, Karans and Kshattriyas. The younger brother, if any, of a deceased husband has preference over others for the re-marriage of the widow, and disparity of age is no bar to such re-marriage. A Khond widow will not however re-marry if she has got a son. The Kumutis and Telingās will only marry the daughters of their maternal uncles, failing which the latter's permission to any other marriage relationship has to be purchased at considerable cost.

The Khonds worship their village goddesses known as Suliās Brāhmandei, Sitalā and Tarkei. In the event of a villager being killed by a tiger or a leopard, the idol is, however, thrown away and replaced by another and the priest also is dismissed.

The people are by character exceedingly given over to litigation and intrigue. The condition of the people is, on the whole, good. The soil is very fertile, and yields to the cultivator a good income annually. The people are well off and gold earrings and necklaces are worn by many.

The State is hilly and the climate dry. The headquarters Nayāgarh, are, however, badly situated in a hollow, closely surrounded by hills and are in consequence very malarious. The rest of the State is more salubrious, but malaria is more or less universal. The people are ignorant of the elementary principles of

sanitation. Houses are built with no arrangements for ventilation. The tank which provides drinking water is indifferently used for all purposes. Fever with enlargement of spleen, dysentery, and diarrhoea are the most common form of disease. Diseases of the lungs very seldom occur. Cholera breaks out in an epidemic form once in 3 or 4 years. Small-pox has been successfully combated by the introduction of vaccination. The hot months are the healthiest part of the year. With the setting in of the rains people suffer from dysentery and malaria. There are two dispensaries in the State with indoor accommodation, one at the headquarters and the other at Odgaon. In 1907-08 the number of patients treated was 18,637: this figure includes 24 indoor patients treated during the year. Vaccination is now general, and the practice of revaccination was recently successfully instituted: the total number of primary vaccinations and revaccinations was 5,516 and 5,148 respectively in the year 1907-08.

The total area under cultivation is 123,402 acres, which is AGRICUL-
TURE. about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total area of the State. The area under cultivation is very much in excess of the actual requirements of the population. There is no likelihood of the pressure of the population being felt on agriculture in the near future. Nearly half the produce of the paddy (unhusked rice), if not more, is available for export in an ordinary year. Rice occupies 68 per cent. of the total cultivated area, and the soil is admirably suited for its cultivation. Of the miscellaneous crops *mūga*, gram, sugarcane, cotton and *kulthi* are the most important. *Mūga* is extensively sown on rice lands if there is a good rain in December. Sugarcane is mostly grown on lands in the immediate vicinity of village sites. Cotton is grown on high lands, but of poor quality. *Kulthi* is extensively grown by the Khonds and is one of their staple food stuffs. During recent years the intelligent tenants have taken to the cultivation of jute, wheat, potato, *burhi* cotton and ground nut: these crops promise to have a future before them. The State experimental farm has been successful in introducing these new crops to the tenants. Of the oil-seeds, *rāshi* (sesamum) is the most important, and of the millets, *māndiā*, *suān*, and *kuhuri*. *Suān* (*sāwān*) and *kuhuri* are grown on high lands and do not require much labour. They ripen in the course of six weeks from the time of sowing and stand the tenants in good stead in years of scarcity. They are easily digestible in the form of cakes and are a good substitute for rice, and are sown in May and reaped in July.

Sugarcane is the most paying of all the crops grown in the State. The heavy initial outlay and the want of permanent

sources of irrigation stand in the way of extension of cultivation of this valuable crop. Cow-dung stored in open places exposed to the sun and rains is the principal manure used. It is used at the rate of 40 to 60 maunds per acre. Sixty per cent. of the population own plough-cattle. The cattle are small but sturdy, getting an abundance of fodder from the jungles and waste lands. Several irrigation works have been constructed by the State and a regular programme is being undertaken and rapidly pushed on.

RENTS,
WAGES
AND
PRICES.

Rents.

Prior to the recent settlement there were 45 rates of rent per acre ranging from Rs. 6-4 to 0-1-0. They were too numerous and unworkable, and were reduced to 9 in the recent settlement. The highest rate per acre is Rs. 3-2-0 and the lowest Re. 0-6-3. The rates have been applied according to the produce of the land. An acre of double-cropped land yielding on an average 36 to 40 maunds of rice per annum has been assessed at the highest rate (Rs. 3-2-0) while an acre of land yielding not more than 8 maunds of rice has been assessed at the lowest rate (Re. 0-6-3). The average class of land of which the annual produce of rice was 20 to 24 maunds has been assessed at the rate of Re. 1-9-0. The rates of rent for lands growing miscellaneous crops only are three, viz., Re. 0-10-5, Re. 0-8-4 and Re. 0-6-3. The proportion which the rent of an acre of 1st class land bears to its gross produce is as 1 to 16, of the average class 1 to 21, and of the inferior class 1 to 26. The rents are light.

Wages.

There are five kinds of agricultural labourers:—(1) *Bursakiā* (one who serves throughout the year). He gets from his employer Rs. 20 in cash, a coarse country cloth valued at 8 annas, and a loan of 4 maunds of unhusked rice and Rs. 2 free of interest. He is not fed by his employer. (2) *Chhamāsīā* (one who serves his employer on every alternate day). He receives Rs. 10 in cash, one cloth valued at 8 annas, a loan of 2 maunds of unhusked rice and one rupee free of interest, and 8 seers of unhusked rice per diem when the rice crop is reaped. (3) *Chāri-māsīā* (one who serves his employer on every 3rd day). He receives Rs. 7 in cash, one napkin valued at 4 annas, and 8 seers of unhusked rice per diem when the rice crop is reaped. (4) *Timāsīā* (one who serves his employer on every 4th day). He receives Rs. 5 in cash, one napkin valued at 4 annas and 8 seers of unhusked rice on every day the paddy is reaped. (5) The daily labourer earns 2 annas per diem. The first two classes are the most numerous.

Although the price of rice, the principal agricultural produce, has risen considerably by a brisk export yielding a substantial

profit to the land-owners the wages of agricultural labour remain stationary. During the ten years from 1893 to 1902 wages for skilled labour have shown no tendency to rise and the daily wage has averaged as follows:— Superior mason, 8 annas; common mason and superior carpenter, 6 annas each; common carpenter and superior blacksmith, 4 annas each; common blacksmith, 3 annas. The reason is, that the supply of labour is much in excess of the demand, the labourers as a class remain contented with a subsistence allowance. The labouring class constitutes 22 per cent. of the total population.

The chief agricultural produce of the State is rice. The average price of unhusked rice during the decade (1887-1896) was 51 seers per rupee but rose to 36 seers during the last decade (1897-1906). During the ten years from 1893 to 1902 the average price of wheat, rice and gram has been $10\frac{7}{8}$ seers, $19\frac{9}{8}$ seers, and $15\frac{3}{8}$ seers respectively. The year in which the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was opened in Orissa marks an epoch in the economical history of the State. A brisk export trade of rice with different parts of India dawned upon the State and the prices of rice have risen 70 per cent. in one decade. The rise of prices of the principal produce has contributed materially to the prosperity of the State by ensuring handsome profits to the tenants and increasing the value of the land.

The religious and literary classes consisting of Brāhmans, Karans and Kshattriyas, who constitute 12 per cent. of the total population, do not as a rule turn their attention to agriculture and trade. Agriculture is the chief occupation of 60 per cent. of the total population, who have little or no secondary occupation to supplement their income from the land. The agricultural classes are all hardworking and show signs of increased prosperity. They are, however, very conservative and do not readily welcome any departure from their old system of cultivation. Ten per cent. of the population follow trade. Only 2 per cent. of the population follow fishing as their occupation, and 6 per cent. is represented by washermen, potters, blacksmiths and menial servants.

The principal commodities of local manufacture are cotton fabrics, tusser, brass and bell-metal utensils, saltpetre, and catechu. The Tāntis who number 3,497 in the whole State and some of the Pāns manufacture coarse cotton fabrics by hand-weaving. Only a very small number of Tāntis turn out tusser cloth. The cotton fabrics are very much in demand in the local markets specially by the low-caste people. The tusser cloths are exported to Puri and Cuttack. Kānsāris and Kharurās who number 724 turn out brass and bell-metal

Prices.

OCCUPATIONS,
MANUFACTURES
AND
TRADE.

Occupations.

Manufactures

utensils. They are not of very fine polish, but still they command a large sale in the State. Khadāls manufacture saltpetre. The outturn is small and it is consumed in the State. Catechu is manufactured in the forest by the Khairās. Chains, buttons, sticks and statues of fine workmanship—all of ivory—are manufactured by a few families at the headquarters of the State. The ivory work has won admiration from all quarters.

Trade.

The principal commodities of export are: (1) rice, (2) timber, (3) cotton, (4) oil-seeds, (5) hide, (6) horns of deer and buffaloes, and (7) minor forest produce. Rice occupies the foremost place in the export trade of the State. Trade in timber is carried on by local men and some merchants from Cuttack. The *sāl* (*Shorea robusta*) of Nayāgarh is considered the best in Orissa. Cotton is exported chiefly to Ganjām in the Madras Presidency. It is mostly grown by Khonds in the western part of the State bordering on Ganjām. Hides are exported to Calcutta. Among minor forest produce are included *Nux vomica* and *gundi* (*Mallotus philippinensis*) dye. They are chiefly exported to the Ganjām district. The import trade consists of cotton piece-goods, salt, kerosene oil, iron and fancy goods. They command a very good market in the State.

MEANS OF
COMMUNI-
CATION.

There is no railway. There is a metalled road from the headquarters to Khurdā railway station on the East Coast Section of the Bengal-Nāgpur Railway. It is in good condition. Another metalled road ten miles in length to the Ranpur border is in course of construction. This road will connect with the line at Kāluṣarāghāt railway station. There are no navigable rivers in the State. There is an Imperial sub-post office at the headquarters of the State and the imperial post plies *viā* Khurdā.

LAND
REVENUE
ADMINIS-
TRATION.

The land revenue of the State rose from Rs. 43,673 to Rs. 74,937 in the last settlement. The revenue is realised by the *sarbarāhkārs* of whom there are 885 in the State. They pay the revenue direct into the treasury. They receive ten per cent. commission or *mālikānā* and enjoy *jāgir* (service) lands varying from 1 to 108 acres of land. The *sarbarāhkār* is held responsible for realisation of land revenue. There are four *kists*, viz., 15th November, 15th December, 15th January, and 15th February, and the revenue is paid in four equal instalments. If there are any defaulters the *sarbarāhkār* files a list of them after the *kist*, and steps are taken against them under the certificate procedure. The Superintendent of the State, the Assistant Superintendent and the *Kānungos* make periodical tours in the interior to check any illegal cesses or *abwābs* being realised by the *sarbarāhkārs*. There is no road or public works cess on the land. Printed cheque receipts are granted for

the payment of rent, the counterfoils are kept by the *sarbarāhkār*; *sihā* (daily receipts), and *wāsil-bāki* (rent-roll) are also kept by the *sarbarāhkār* and every precaution is taken to prevent the *sarbarāhkār* defrauding the ignorant tenants.

The relations between the State and the British Government are regulated by the provisions of the *sanad* of 1908, and the State pays a tribute of Rs. 5,525. The State is now under the administration of Government owing to the minority of the Chief. The administration of the State rests with the Superintendent who is guided by the instructions of the Political Agent; there is also an Assistant Superintendent. All important civil and criminal and rent cases are tried by the Superintendent, who is in immediate charge of the Public Works Department, Forest, Police, Jail, Dispensary, and Education. The Chief and the Assistant Superintendent help in the disposal of criminal, civil, rent and miscellaneous cases. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

In 1907-08 the income of the State was Rs. 1,40,473 and the expenditure Rs. 1,35,105: the State has been cleared of debt and the finances are on a sound footing. FINANCES.

The forest staff consists of one Ranger, one Forester, one Assistant Forester and 23 guards: the receipts under this head in 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 20,308. The excise revenue amounted to Rs. 9,563 in 1907-08. FORESTS. EXCISE.

The number of civil suits for disposal during the year 1907-08 was 951, most of which were of a petty nature, 65 per cent. of the total number being for sums below Rs. 50 in value. CIVIL JUSTICE.

The number of cases reported to the police in 1907-08 was 73, of which more than 50 per cent. were petty theft. CRIME.

The police staff consists of 1 Sub-Inspector, 10 Head-Constables, 10 writer-constables, and 35 men. There is besides a staff of reserve police officers consisting of one *Jamādār* (Head-Constable) and 20 men. POLICE.

There is a good masonry jail recently constructed on modern and sanitary lines affording accommodation for 46 prisoners. In 1907-08 the average daily population was 24.4. For the Public Works Department there is a Sub-Overseer, the work being under the control of a Joint Supervisor of the Wards States: during the year 1907-08 Rs. 45,668 was spent on public works. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

There are one Middle English, three Upper Primary, two Model Lower Primary schools for aborigines only, maintained entirely from State funds. Besides the above there are 71 Lower Primary schools which receive annual aid from the State funds. There is one separate girls' school at headquarters and one in the mufassil. There is an Ayurvedic institution and a *guru* EDUCATION.

training school. The total number of boys and girls attending all the schools in 1907-08 was 1,427 and 79 respectively : thus 2·04 per cent. of the total male population attended the schools in 1907-08. Education is backward, but is making steady progress, and the intelligent section of the population are anxious to give a high English education to their boys. The total annual expenditure in 1907-08 on education was Rs. 9,369. In 1907-08 the State received a grant of Rs. 2,113 from Government for primary education.